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OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-FIFTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2005 - 06

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Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Friday 26 May and Thursday 1 June 2006.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Action Team for Jobs

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what results were achieved by the action team for jobs based in Leytonstone; what the cost was of the action team's work; and if he will make a statement. [72616]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Since its inception in October 2000, the Waltham Forest action team, which is based in Leytonstone, has engaged with 12,592 disadvantaged customers and has helped 3,424 people into work. The total cost, for the period April 2002 to March 2006, was £2,034,306.

Many of the practices and ideas developed by action teams have been integrated into Jobcentre Plus mainstream programmes and services. Examples include outreach work in local communities and the greater discretionary funding that is available to advisers.

Our future strategy will build on the success of action teams, and other community-based initiatives; including the introduction of a Deprived Areas Fund (DAF) from October 2006 and the Cities strategy proposed in our recent Green Paper.

Benefit Simplification Unit

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the work of the Benefit Simplification Unit, with particular reference to *(a)* cost, *(b)* staffing and *(c)* performance to date. [72252]

Mr. Plaskitt: When fully staffed, the Benefit Simplification Unit will have five full-time staff with additional input from senior officials. Gross costs during 2006-07 are estimated to be around £290,000. A secondee from Citizens Advice will also be joining the unit in June 2006 for six months, looking in particular at the customer interface.

Simplifying the benefits system requires action on many fronts, particularly among those developing and maintaining benefit policy and procedures. The Benefit Simplification Unit's role will be to act as a catalyst in driving forward simplification, challenging existing complexity and ensuring that the need to bear down on complexity is at the heart of future benefit design and delivery.

The unit published "Simplification: Guide to Best Practice" on 4 May 2006. A copy has been placed in the Library. The unit is now working to raise awareness of the simplification agenda across DWP and to embed best practice. Progress will be reported on annually in the departmental report.

Council Tax Benefit

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to raise the applicable amount of single person's income that is deemed eligible for council tax benefit. [68312]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have already increased the applicable amount for all pensioners, whether single or couples.

This took place when pension credit was introduced in October 2003. From then we committed almost £0.5 billion a year to increasing the amounts on which council tax benefit (and housing benefit) are based. This meant that around 2 million pensioner households either became entitled to council tax benefit for the first time or qualified for more help.

We will continue to keep applicable amounts under review. They are subject to annual uprating.

Council Tenants

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many council tenants there were in each year since 1997; how many of those tenants were on housing benefit; what the cost of council tenants' housing benefit was in each year; and from what source the cost of such housing benefits has been met since it ceased to be a charge on housing revenue accounts. [61725]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following tables. Since 2004-05, when responsibility for payment of rent rebate subsidy passed from the then ODPM to DWP, the cost of rent rebates has been a charge to local authorities; general funds. DWP pays subsidy to local authorities for expenditure incurred on rent rebates.

Number of households in local authority rented accommodation

	Thousand *Number*
1997	3,263
1998	3,209
1999	3,093
2000	2,904
2001	2,879
2002	2,735
2003	2,542
2004	2,469
2005	2,250

Notes:

1. Figures come from the Survey of English Housing, and are for England only. They can be accessed at www.odpm.gov.uk.
2. They relate to the number of households in local authority rented accommodation, not the number of people in local authority rented accommodation.

Percentage of households in local authority rented properties that are receiving housing benefit

	Thousand Percentage
1996-97	66
1997-98	65
1998-99	63
1999-2000	62
2000-01	62
2001-02	61
2002-03	64
2003-04	64

Notes:
1. This information is taken from the Survey of English Housing, and is for England only. It is available at www.odpm.gov.uk.
2. As with table 1, figures relate to households, not people in local authority rented accommodation. The figures refer to financial years, rather than calendar years as in table 1.

Level of housing benefit paid to local authority tenants

	£ million Amount
1996-97	5,569
1997-98	5,495
1998-99	5,405
1999-2000	5,345
2000-01	5,259
2001-02	5,283
2002-03	5,405
2003-04	5,033
2004-05	5,208

Notes:
1. The figures presented are in £ million and reflect nominal costs for the whole of Great Britain. Figures relate to financial years.
2. They are total amounts paid to beneficiaries, irrespective of the source of funding, and include benefit spending reimbursed by DWP, spending on rent rebates financed within local authorities' housing revenue accounts, and benefit spending financed from local authorities' general funds.
3. They reflect the latest benefit-by-benefit estimate of out-turn, and not the amounts voted by Parliament.
4. Figures for 1999-2000 onwards are on a resource accounting and budgeting basis. There may be differences between figures quoted in these tables and those quoted in Department for Work and Pensions accounts.
5. Some figures for past years may have changed since previous publications owing to the incorporation of more up-to-date information. Also please note that from April 2003 responsibility for child benefit, guardians allowance and child's special allowance has been transferred to Inland Revenue.
6. Figures exclude asylum seekers from April 1999, since when the National Asylum Support Service has reimbursed DWP for benefits paid to asylum seekers.
7. This information is taken from the latest published housing benefit forecasts, available at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/Table8.xls

Customer Management System Call Centres

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Government make a profit from the operation of customer management system call centres. [68457]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government do not make any profit from the operation of customer management system call centres.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether young people under the age of 25 will receive a lower basic rate of the proposed employment and support allowance than those over the age of 25; and if he will make a statement. [73351]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* The formal consultation exercise for the Green Paper "A new deal for welfare: Empowering people to work" finished on 21 April. We are currently considering the responses and will publish a report in the early summer.

Error Task Force

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in reducing levels of official error in the benefit system, with particular reference to the work of the Error Task Force. [72348]

Mr. Plaskitt: The latest available estimates for the value of official error in the benefits system as a whole cover the year to March 2005 and total £0.9 billion. These were published in the Departmental Resource Account in January 2006.

A task force was established in January 2006 to address the top value official errors in the main income-related benefits. The task force has identified a number of improvement measures which are now in the process of being implemented. The first set of official error figures covering the period of the task force are due to be published in summer 2007.

Gershon Efficiency Targets

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department is making towards achieving compliance with Gershon efficiency targets; and if he will list the *(a)* reallocations of savings targets between different sections of the Department and its agencies, *(b)* arrangements for securing and monitoring service quality and *(c)* external audit of compliance with the targets which have taken place in pursuit of those targets. [69278]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Department is on track to meet its Gershon review efficiency targets. Progress against the targets has been reported in the Department's Departmental Report 2006 which was laid before Parliament on 11 May 2006.

Indicative year-end headcount milestones by DWP business are set out as follows. DWP SR2004 financial settlement was funded net of required financial efficiency savings. The Department for Work and Pensions spending plans for the SR2004 period are set out in the Department's Departmental Report 2006.

The Department's Efficiency Technical Note sets out how the Department will measure achievement of the efficiency targets from the Spending Review 2004 and departmental performance, including assurance arrangements for those measures. The Efficiency Technical Note is published on the Department's website.

FTE

Business	Actual Headcount 1 March 2004	Actual Headcount 31 March 2006	Headcount Milestones (ONS) 2005-06 Headcount Milestone 31 March 2006	2006-07 Headcount Milestone 31 March 2007	2007-08 Headcount Milestone 31 March 2008
Jobcentre Plus	82,067	71,222	71,100	68,550	66,700
Child Support Agency	10,928	11,034	11,350	10,650	9,600
Disability Carers Service	7,263	6,398	6,500	6,050	5,600
The Rent Service	0	674	750	650	200
The Pension Service	19,890	13,846	14,650	13,800	9,600
Appeals Service	850	759	800	0	0
Corporate Human Resources	1,681	1,563	1,450	1,300	1,100
Group Finance	5,814	5,745	6,000	5,500	5,000
PSD	1,207	446	500	450	450
Other Corporate and Shared Services	1,279	1,402	1,300	1,400	1,300
WWEG	1,204	1,180	1,150	1,050	1,000
Pensions Client Directorate	360	498	550	550	550
Contingency	n/a	n/a	0	0	1,450
DWP totals	132,543	114,767	116,300	109,950	102,550

Notes:
1. These profiles are indicative and subject to review.
2. Profiles rounded to nearest 50 FTEs.
3. Other Corporate and Shared Services include—ID, CCSAD, LGSPG, Private Office, Communications and the ISBs.
4. The milestone figures do not include additional headcount (approx. 850) for new work (relating to Incapacity Benefits Reform, New Deal Plus Pilots, Administration of the Growth and 50/50/50 Funds and the Affordable Credit Deduction Scheme) that is outside of the Department's efficiency challenge. *Glossary:* FTE—full time equivalent WWEG—Work, Welfare and Equality Group PSD—Programme and System Delivery ID—Information Directorate ISBs—Independent Statutory Bodies CCSAD—Cross Cutting Strategy Analysis Directorate LSPG—Law, Governance and Special Policy Group *Version:* ? rev

Housing Benefit

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of housing benefit claimants who are *(a)* private tenants, *(b)* housing association tenants and *(c)* local authority tenants receive housing benefit payments which equate to less than 100 per cent. of their rent. [73460]

Mr. Plaskitt: The most recent available information is in the table.

Percentage of housing benefit claimants whose benefit entitlement is less than their eligible rent, by tenure: Great Britain, May 2004

	Percentage
Private tenants	23.3
Registered social landlord tenants	21.2
Local authority tenants	21.6

Notes:
1. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Figures exclude any housing benefit extended-payment cases.
3. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
4. Registered social landlords include housing associations (Housing Act 1996, section 2(1)).
5. A claimant's eligible rent may be less than their contractual rent.
Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2004.

Income Support

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information he collates on the accuracy of income support calculations. [69276]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what information he collates on the accuracy of Income Support calculations. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus carries out accuracy checks on Income Support calculations at national and at local site level.

Data is collected nationally to measure progress towards our benefit delivery target. This target supports Jobcentre Plus in delivering our key business processes efficiently, accurately and to agreed standards. Performance is measured in five key Jobcentre Plus processes, including the accurate processing of Income Support claims. We currently have a target of 90 per cent accuracy. The latest performance figure for Income Support accuracy to the end of March 2006 is 89.39 per cent. Full claims checks of a sample of cases are made by a specialist external team 3 times a year.

Data is also collected internally at a local level. The data collected includes random accuracy checks of staff work, with 100 per cent accuracy checks of the work of new staff after they have been trained. An accuracy database has been designed for the simple and accurate recording of the checks detailing any errors found.

I hope this is helpful.

Job Vacancies

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average number of job vacancies recorded at job centres in each ward in Doncaster North was in *(a)* 1984, *(b)* 1994, *(c)* 2004 and *(d)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [68295]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on Jobcentre Plus vacancy data at ward level is only available from April 2004 and is set out in the following table.

Doncaster North Parliamentary Constituency

Ward	*Average number of 'live' unfilled vacancies on the register on any given day* 2004	2006
Adwick	130	30
Askern	50	20
Bentley Central	100	60
Bentley North Road	70	60
Stainforth	170	60
Thorne	240	70

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Labour Statistics

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were on the register on average at job centres in Tamworth constituency in each year between 2001 and 2005; and if he will make a statement. [71229]

Mrs. McGuire: Jobcentre Plus vacancy data by parliamentary constituency is only available from April 2004 and is set out in the table.

Tamworth Parliamentary Constituency

	Average number of 'live' unfilled vacancies on the register on any given day
2004	1,740
2005	1,130

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action his Department is taking to increase the numbers of people in work aged 50 years and over in Hartlepool constituency. [72614]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Like all other customers, people aged 50 and over can benefit from the range of services provided by Jobcentre Plus, including access to jobs and help and support to find work.

Additional help is provided to older people who do not find work quickly. New Deal 50 plus is a voluntary programme that provides people with advice and guidance from personal advisers, and access to in-work financial help through the 50 plus element of the working tax credit. Since April 2000, the programme has been successful in helping more than 150,000 older workers into employment, including 320 people in Hartlepool. Once in work, New Deal 50 plus customers can claim a training grant of up to £1,500 for training of which up to £300 can be used for life-long learning.

People aged 50 and over, including those in Hartlepool, are also eligible for help from New Deal 25 plus. People who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for 18 months and who have not previously participated in New Deal 25 plus are already required to attend the Gateway stage of the New Deal 25 plus programme. This is a period of up to four months of intensive job search and specialist help and support to improve job prospects. This is followed by the intensive activity period (IAP) which is currently voluntary for people aged 50 and over. The IAP provides further support and pre-work training to help people return to work.

Since April 2004, we have been piloting mandatory participation in the New Deal 25 plus IAP for people aged 50 to 59 who have been claiming JSA for 18 months. The pilot has offered people in this age group more extensive help back to work. Hartlepool was not part of the pilot. However, interim pilot data has yielded positive results and, as announced in our Welfare Reform Green Paper, we will be commencing a phased national rollout.

New Deal 50 plus is a voluntary programme for those who have been claiming benefits, including those claiming the pension credit, for six months. However, our Green Paper also announced our intention to pilot mandatory participation in New Deal 50 plus activities for people aged 50 to 59 who have been claiming JSA for six months. This will involve attendance at work-focused interviews and the development of action plans to help participants move into employment. Pilot locations have not yet been confirmed.

In spring 2005 there were 3 million people claiming incapacity benefits in Great Britain, of whom 1.3 million were aged 50 or over. As nearly half of all benefit claimants aged 50 or over are on IB, they will be able to benefit from the rollout of the successful Pathways to Work service across the whole country which will be completed by 2008. Pathways offers new IB customers early support from skilled personal advisers and direct access to a "Choices Package" of employment programmes and clear financial incentives to make work pay. Any IB customer will be able to access the support and help available on a voluntary basis. Pathways has already begun helping people in the Hartlepool area, having rolled out there last year.

Our Age Positive campaign works with employers and others to promote the business benefits of an age diverse workforce and best practice on age in recruitment, training and promotion. In May 2005 we launched the 'Be Ready' national information campaign to raise employer awareness of, and ability to adopt, flexible employment and retirement opportunities to support the recruitment and retention of older workers in advance of age legislation due in October 2006.

Pension Credit

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have received back payments of pension credit of *(a)* £1,000 to £1,999 and *(b)* £2,000 or more in each year since 2001. [70767]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the pension credit caseload handled by the Pensions Service was during *(a)* January, *(b)* February, *(c)* March and *(d)* April 2006. [71723]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available; caseload figures are published on a quarterly basis each year.

The most recent early caseload estimates available are for February 2006. As at February 2006, there were 2,706,200 pension credit claimants in Great Britain.

Notes:

1. These figures are early estimates. Caseload figures are taken from the CMS scan at 17 February 2006, rated up to give end-month estimates. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.

2. Caseload figures are a count of the number of pension credit claims in payment at a given time.

3. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest hundred.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (QMS).

Women Pensioners

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women who are eligible to claim state retirement pension at 60 have not done so. [71846]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the format requested. However, it is estimated that approximately 15,000 women each year are eligible to but do not claim their state pension at age 60, but do so subsequently.

Note:

Estimates pre-date the introduction of more general deferral arrangement from April 2005 which may encourage more women to defer claiming their state pension.

Source:

GAD estimates based on DWP five per cent. administrative data.

Work (Over-50s)

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action his Department is taking to increase the number of people in work aged 50 years and over in Denton and Reddish constituency. [73132]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Like all other customers, people aged 50 and over can benefit from the range of services provided by Jobcentre Plus, including access to jobs and help and support to find work.

Additional help is provided to older people who do not find work quickly. New Deal 50 plus is a voluntary programme that provides people with advice and guidance from personal advisers, and access to in-work financial help through the 50 plus element of the working tax credit. Since April 2000, the programme has been successful in helping more than 150,000 older workers into employment, including 240 people in Denton and Reddish. Once in work, New Deal 50 plus customers can claim a training grant of up to £1,500 for training of which up to £300 can be used for life-long learning.

People aged 50 and over, including those in Denton and Reddish, are also eligible for help from New Deal 25 plus. People who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for 18 months and who have not previously participated on New Deal 25 plus are already required to attend the Gateway stage of the New Deal 25 plus programme. This is a period of up to four months of intensive job search and specialist help and support to improve job prospects. This is followed by the intensive activity period (IAP) which is currently voluntary for people aged 50 and over. The IAP provides further support and pre-work training to help people return to work.

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New Deal 50 plus is a voluntary programme for those who have been claiming benefits, including those claiming the pension credit, for six months. However, our Green Paper also announced our intention to pilot mandatory participation in New Deal 50 plus activities for people aged 50-59 who have been claiming JSA for six months. This will involve attendance at work-focused interviews and the development of action plans to help participants move into employment. Pilot locations have not yet been confirmed.

In spring 2005 there were 3 million people claiming incapacity benefits in Great Britain, of whom 1.3 million were aged 50 or over. As nearly half of all benefit claimants aged 50 or over are on IB, they will be able to benefit from the rollout of the successful Pathways to Work service across the whole country which will be completed by 2008. Pathways offers new IB customers early support from skilled personal advisers and direct access to a 'Choices Package' of employment programmes and clear financial incentives to make work pay. Any IB customer will be able to access the support and help available on a voluntary basis. Pathways is due to roll out in the Denton and Reddish area in the future.

Our Age Positive Campaign works with employers and others to promote the business benefits of an age diverse workforce and best practice on age in recruitment, training and promotion. In May 2005 we launched the 'Be Ready' national information campaign to raise employer awareness of, and ability to adopt, flexible employment and retirement opportunities to support the recruitment and retention of older workers in advance of age legislation due in October 2006.

Work Incentives

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to review the structure of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit in order to improve work incentives; and if he will make a statement. [64015]

Mr. Plaskitt: We continue to keep work incentives in both benefits under review. For example, since April 2004 a move into work has no longer required a fresh claim for either housing benefit or council tax benefit for the vast majority of people. Also, from April 2004 the extended payment scheme in housing benefit and council tax benefit has been widened to include people moving off incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance because they are starting work.

As outlined in the Green Paper "A New Deal for Welfare: Empowering People to Work" published in February, we propose to roll out the new local housing allowance to tenants in the private rented sector. The local housing allowance would be a major simplification of the housing benefit system which would make it easier for people to understand what in-work support they could receive. Our proposal to pay the local housing allowance directly to tenants, rather than to landlords, is also designed to promote financial inclusion and, where appropriate, help tenants develop financial and budgeting skills as they move towards work.

TREASURY

Birds

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many birds were imported into the *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU in each year between 2000 and 2005; and how many were of (i) wild-caught, (ii) captive-bred, (iii) ranched and (iv) farmed origin in each year. [67041]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

I will write to my hon. Friend and place a copy of my letter in the Library.

HEALTH

Abortions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the number of women who died following complications from a legal abortion; when her Department last undertook an evidence review of the number of women who died following complications from a legal abortion that drew on (i) UK and (ii) international research; and if she will make a statement. [70407]

Caroline Flint: The confidential inquiry into maternal and child health (CEMACH) investigates all maternal deaths, including those following a legal abortion, and publishes an evidence-based report, for the United Kingdom (UK), every three years. The latest report, "Why Mothers Die 2000-02", is available on its website at:

www.cemach.org.uk

The next report for 2003-05 will be published in late summer 2007. CEMACH continues to draw on all relevant UK and international research and the report's findings inform clinical guidelines on abortion care.

Acute Hospitals

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has commissioned into single-bed room provision in acute hospitals with particular reference to *(a)* additional capital costs, *(b)* patient stays and *(c)* patient safety. [72847]

Andy Burnham: The Department has commissioned research into single bedroom provision in acute hospitals, which includes references to additional capital costs, patient stays and patient safety.

Details of this research commissioned by the Department are shown in the table.

Project	*Status*
"Architectural Environment and Patient Health Outcomes Database"—a comprehensive literature review which includes specific references to single bedroom provision.	Available on the Department's knowledge and information portal (KIP) at www.dh.gov.uk
"Independent validation of isolation room design, commissioning and operation"—research to examine the performance of a new isolation room design in relation to patient safety specifically addressing the control of airflow and accordingly airborne infections.	Due for completion September 2006
"What is the size and nature of the current need for single room isolation in hospital and how does success or failure to isolate patients affect the control of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)?"—assessment of a national health service facility.	Subject to peer review
"Providing single rooms for patients—a Study of the benefits to patients & staff within NHS in England"—specifically addresses flexibility, infection control and patient focus in three NHS facilities.	Available on the Department's KIP at www.dh.gov.uk
"One patient one room—Theory and Practice. An evaluation of Leeds Nuffield Hospital"—discusses the case for single bedroom accommodation including costs, occupancy, staffing and reduction of infections.	Available on the Department's KIP at www.dh.gov.uk
"Ward layouts with single rooms and space for flexibility"—an examination of the benefits of single rooms in acute hospital accommodation, establishing the minimum space requirements around the hospital bed.	Available on the Department's KIP at www.dh.gov.uk
"The Cost Effectiveness of Hospital Design: Options to improve patient safety and well-being"—includes an evaluation of single rooms.	Commenced 1 April 2006—due for completion 31 March 2006

Alcohol Treatment Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the scheme to establish alcohol health workers in accident and emergency departments, general practitioner surgeries and some criminal justice settings announced in November 2005 will begin. [72356]

Caroline Flint: This scheme is an aspect of a series of trailblazer pilot sites to be implemented in 24 dedicated sites. We are in discussion with strategic health authorities as to how they can be delivered and when they will begin.

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the recent Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project report, what steps she is taking *(a)* to address the gap identified between the provision of alcohol treatment and demand and *(b)* to increase access to and capacity of specialist alcohol treatment services. [70164]

Caroline Flint: Responsibility to improve services and fund service improvements rests with local primary care trusts.

In order to assist local commissioners the Department published the Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project (ANARP) in November 2005. This is the first comprehensive study of the need for and provision of alcohol services in England.

The Department has launched "Alcohol Misuse Interventions: Guidance on developing a local programme of improvement", for commissioners developing a local programme of improvement for local alcohol treatment services. We have also sponsored a series of regional conferences to highlight the need for improved focus on alcohol interventions.

A comprehensive review of the evidence base for the effectiveness of alcohol treatment interventions will be published shortly, alongside guidance on "Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers", which will lay out how best to combine treatment approaches into an effective local alcohol treatment system.

Ambulance Service

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average response time for ambulances in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* the Tees Valley was in each year since 1997. [71081]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department collects ambulance response time data by ambulance trust rather than by geographical area, and in relation to response time requirements rather than by average response time. Therefore, the information requested is not centrally collected in the required format.

The data that the Department does collect on ambulance response times has been published on an annual basis in the statistical bulletin, "Ambulance services, England". These documents are all available in the Library and from 1998-99. The latest data is available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/36/79/04113679.pdf.

These publications include ambulance response time data for the Tees, East and North Yorkshire Ambulance Trust, which covers Tees Valley, and for the whole of England.

Bone Marrow Donors

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to increase the *(a)* number and *(b)* diversity of bone marrow donors. [72936]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1163-64W.

Childhood Immunisation

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to improve childhood vaccination take up for families living in the most disadvantaged primary care trust areas. [72768]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since November 2004, the Department has taken forward a wide-ranging assessment to investigate how best to support the improvement of child and adult immunisation services through commissioning including:

an examination of the systems and commissioning routes needed to improve access and increase low uptake; and

a review of the way services could deliver more effectively for the people currently missing out.

Primary care trusts' (PCTs) experience of the new commissioning routes for immunisation is still growing and there is an opportunity to share good practice on planning and service delivery using these mechanisms. In support of this, the Department has:

prepared guidance for the wave two national purchasing pilots of alternative providers for immunisation services (referred to as the alternative personal medical services (ARMS) wave two pilots);

developed a series of targets for local use as part of the Better Metrics project in conjunction with the London Health Observatory to allow service managers to monitor the performance of services targeted at deprived or disadvantaged groups;

held two national events with national health service primary care contracting to share good practice and facilitate learning networks; and

in the recent White Paper, announced measures to free up the target payment funds and allow them to be carried across into other contract forms. It also highlighted a recent example of a nurse-led personal medical services that successfully increase immunisation uptake rates among poor and deprived groups who were planning to apply for ARMS status.

The Department is working in partnership across policy teams, NHS employers, other Government Departments (including the Department for Education and Skills, Social Exclusion Unit and Neighbourhood Renewal Unit) and a range of NHS implementing agencies in order to improve childhood immunisation take up for families. Specifically:

continue collaboration with our stakeholder to examine the systems and commissioning routes that have worked to improve access and increase low uptake;

requiring the Health Protection Agency to promote the benefit of opportunistic immunisation, in order to reach disadvantaged groups more effectively;

continue to deliver a series of reports and seminars and generate concrete recommendations for PCTs and commissioners; and

issued joint guidance with neighbourhood renewal unit on local partnerships that led to a number of PCTs and councils to submit and secure a local area agreement for immunisation among disadvantaged groups.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the childhood immunisation take-up rate is in primary care trusts where GPs have opted out of providing this service. [72770]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information in the form requested is not available.

There is currently no nationally available analysis of the impact of those general practitioners opting out on immunisation uptake rates.

Recent analysis of the proportion of general medical services partnerships in England opting out of childhood immunisation schemes as at 30 September 2004 showed that though the majority of partnerships (93.7 per cent.) had not opted out, some had. The practices opting out are disproportionately likely to be in deprived areas.

Children's Hospices

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have visited children's hospices on official business in each of the last five years; and which hospices were visited on each occasion. [62753]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since May 2005, no Departmental Minister has yet visited a children's hospice on official business. In a series of meetings with doctors and other representatives from hospices, the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne), met with doctors and representatives of Butterwick Hospice on 14 February and Little Havens Children's Hospice on 9 May.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent commitment the Government have made to support the work of specialist services for *(a)* myalgic encephalomyelitis and encephalopathy and *(b)* chronic fatigue syndrome; and if she will make a statement. [74158]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2003, the Department announced £8.5 million central funding to stimulate improvements in care and access to treatment and to ensure the long-term continuing provision of services for people with myalgic encephalomyelitis/encephalopathy and chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS/ME) across England. This resulted in the development of 13 clinical network co-ordinating centres and 36 local multi-disciplinary teams, as well as 11 specialist children and young people teams to support the development of multi-disciplinary CFS/ME services in their designated area.

Funding of these services from 2006-07 is included within the resource allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs), to facilitate the continuation of services following the end of the ring-fenced period of funding. CFS/ME services are therefore considered as part of the future local planning of services and PCTs can take steps to ensure the establishment of further CFS/ME services, where there is local need.

National health service organisations are expected to demonstrate that they are making progress towards achieving the level of service quality described in the national service framework (NSF) for long-term conditions. The NSF sets out a clear vision of how health and social care organisations can improve the quality of care, consistency and responsiveness of their services and help improve the lives of people with neurological conditions, including CFS/ME. The Healthcare Commission and the Commission for Social Care Inspection can undertake performance reviews to assess progress on local implementation of the NSF.

Community Nursing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts are operating a freeze on community nursing vacancies. [72266]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Consultations

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many public consultations her Department undertook in 2005; and what the cost was *(a)* in total and *(b)* of each consultation. [72856]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: During the year 2005 the Department launched 47 formal public consultations in order to inform the Department's policy development.

Information on the cost of each consultation and the total cost of all consultations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Report

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake into the reasons for the slippage of targets (i) 3 and (ii) 4 set out on page 13 of the Departmental Report 2006; and if she will make a statement. [71976]

Caroline Flint: The "Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation" White Paper (1999) set out targets to reduce rates of death and serious injury from accidents by

2010. Analysis of the data suggests that the 65 and over age group accounts for the main part of the increase in the death rate from accidents, and in hospital admissions for serious accidental injury. Falls account for the main part of the increase in death rates in this group, and are the major contributor to the increase in admissions for serious accidental injury in this group. The Department is keeping the targets under review to ensure that areas of slippage are dealt with as appropriate.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is responsible for progress on each of the targets set out on pages 13 and 14 of the Departmental Report 2006; to whom each person reports; what recent discussions she has had about implementation of each target; and if she will make a statement. [71977]

Andy Burnham: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has overall responsibility for delivering the targets set out in the Department's public service agreement. She is supported in delivering her functions through the Department. The Secretary of State has regular meetings with the Permanent Secretary, the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Executive, to apprise her of progress against targets and other matters.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many copies of the Departmental Report 2006 were printed; at what cost; how many were purchased for *(a)* internal departmental use, *(b)* NHS primary care trusts and *(c)* interested bodies and organisations; and if she will make a statement. [71979]

Andy Burnham: 1,200 copies of the 2006 Departmental Report were printed, at a total cost of £23,551. Half were for internal departmental use and the remainder were for The Stationery Office. None were sent to national health service bodies.

Drug Strategy

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government have spent on the Drug Strategy in each year since it was introduced; and how much of that sum was spent on *(a)* purchasing programmes of treatment and *(b)* staff systems and other costs relating to overseeing its expenditure in each year. [71993]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Annual direct expenditure for tackling drugs for the last five years for which figures are available is shown in the second column of table 1. We are unable to provide information regarding monies spent on purchasing programmes of treatment and staff systems in the format requested. However, the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB) since 2001, including yearly local mainstream spend, is shown in total in table 1. This money is spent directly on delivery treatment, as well as improving access to treatment, for example for offenders via drug intervention programmes, and supporting drug misusers after they come out of treatment.

Table 1

	PTB and local funding	*£ million Annual direct expenditure for tackling drugs*
2001-02	287	932
2002-03	322	1,026
2003-04	436	1,244
2004-05	457	1,344
2005-06	508	1,483

Emergency Treatment

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what working definitions are used for *(a)* accident and emergency departments, *(b)* walk-in centres and *(c)* minor injuries units for the purposes of determining which procedures are carried out in each. [68791]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Accident and emergency (A&E) departments are officially classified into three types. The types include major departments (type one), single-specialty departments (type two) and non consultant-led services (type three). Type three services are mainly minor injury and illness and include minor injury units (MIUs) and walk-in centres (WiCs).

The services which it is clinically appropriate for any individual A&E department, MIU or WiC to provide are a matter for local clinical judgement according to local skills and competencies.

Enzyme Replacement Therapy

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 217W, on enzyme replacement therapy, when she expects a decision to be made on whether the funding of enzyme replacement therapies for lysosomal storage diseases will continue under the present National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group arrangements after 31 May 2007. [72351]

Andy Burnham: It has not yet been decided when a decision will be made on whether the funding of enzyme replacement therapies for lysosomal storage disorders will continue under the present national specialist commissioning advisory group arrangements after 31 May 2007.

Fairer Charging Policy

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make a statement on the implementation of the Fairer Charging Policy for care payments; [73765]

(2) what mechanisms exist to ensure that social care charges to individuals do not exceed the income they receive. [73766]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for councils to decide how to set charges for non-residential social services. The legal basis is that charges generally should be 'reasonable' and that no one should be asked to pay more than they

reasonably can. The position contrasts with that on charges for residential care, where regulations prescribe a national means test, which councils must follow.

The Department of Health issued statutory guidance, "Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other Non-residential Social Services—Guidance for Councils with Social Services Responsibilities", which is available in the Library, to all local councils in November 2001. It was amended in September 2003 to reflect the introduction of pension credits. It does not seek to change councils' power to charge, or not, for these services.

The guidance aims to ensure in particular that service users on low incomes are protected from charging and that any charges levied on disability benefits are subject to an assessment of disability costs, to ensure their reasonableness. Councils are required to ensure that charges do not put any users' incomes below basic income support levels or the guarantee credit of pension credit, plus a buffer of 25 per cent. This can lead to real improvements in the position of many users, who will cease to pay charges or pay a smaller charge.

Folic Acid

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of high levels of folic acid on the incidence of twins following in vitro fertilisation; and if she will make a statement. [71975]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The effects of folic acid on multiple births, including effects following in vitro fertilisation, is currently being considered by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition as part of its report on "Folate and Disease Prevention". The report is expected to be published later this year.

Food Supplements Directive

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether officials in her Department have held discussions with the Better Regulation Task Force on a regulatory impact assessment in relation to setting maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals under the food supplements directive; and if she will make a statement; [70011]

(2) when she last met the EU Commissioner responsible for implementation of the food supplements directive to discuss its potential impact on the choice of products available to British consumers; and what progress was made at the meeting; [70012]

(3) what progress is being made by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in meeting counterparts from competent authorities in each other member state of the EU to discuss the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals under the food supplements directive; and what further action the FSA is planning to promote her objectives; [70013]

(4) when she expects member states to receive from the European Commission the consultation document on setting the maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals under the food supplements directive; [70014]

(5) with which other EU member states she has held recent meetings to discuss setting the maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals under the food supplements directive; and with which other member states she plans to hold discussions. [70015]

Caroline Flint: The issue of obtaining data for a regulatory impact assessment in relation to setting maximum levels for vitamin and minerals under the food supplements directive has been discussed with the Better Regulation Task Force (BRTF). The BRTF has agreed in principle to this and officials will discuss this further with the BRTF.

I spoke with the European Union Commissioner responsible for implementation of the food supplements directive to discuss its potential impact on the choice of products available to British consumers on 7 and 12 July 2005.

To date, Food Standards Agency (FSA) officials have met counterparts from other competent authorities in the Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, Finland, France and Italy. These meetings have provided an opportunity for an exchange of views on the setting of maximum safe levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements. The FSA will seek further opportunities for meetings with officials from other member states and interested parties.

The European Commission has indicated that it will present discussion documents in autumn 2006 to gain views from member states about the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements.

The Public Health Minister has written to her counterparts in other member states and members of the European Parliament informing them of the United Kingdom's position on setting maximum permitted levels, and that FSA officials will be visiting certain member states to discuss this issue and vitamins and vitamins and minerals in food supplements.

General Practitioners

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners per 100,000 population there were in *(a)* the Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust area and *(b)* England in each year since 2003. [71390]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The requested information is shown in the table.

General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population, for England and Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust, at 30 September 2003-2005

England			*numbers (headcount)*
	2003	*2004*	*2005*
All Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	30,358	31,523	32,738
All Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population	60.9	62.9	64.9
of which:			
5M7 Sutton and Merton PCT			
All Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	212	234	241

General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population, for England and Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust, at 30 September 2003-2005

England			*numbers (headcount)*
	2003	*2004*	*2005*
All Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of pop	57.3	63.3	65.2

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs , CMS others and PMS others. Prior to September 2004 this group included GMS unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, salaried doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.

Note:
2004 population figures from the 2001 ONS resident estimates have been used for 2005 organisation calculations, as population figures for 2005 at organisation level are not yet available, this figure is therefore subject to change.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics 2001 ONS Population Census

Health Services (Cornwall)

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nursing and *(b)* residential care beds there are in Cornwall; and how many there were in (i) 1996, (ii) 2001 and (iii) 2005. [72799]

Caroline Flint: Table 1 shows the number of residential and nursing care home places in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, as at 31 March in 1996 and 2001.

Table 1: Numbers of residential and nursing care home places in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

		Rounded data
	At 31 March:	
	1996	*2001*
Residential places[1]	5,400	4,800
Nursing places[2, 3]	2,600	3,200
Total places[4]	8,000	8,000

[1] Residential data are for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly unitary authorities.
[2] Nursing data are for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly health authority.
[3] Nursing data include places in general nursing homes, mental nursing homes and private hospitals and clinics.
[4] Totals may not equal the sum of parts due to rounding.

I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), which took over the responsibility for the regulation and inspection of care homes in England on 1 April 2004, that the number of nursing and residential care homes and beds in Cornwall Local Authority, as at 31 March 2005, was as shown in Table 2. There are some definitional differences between these data and those for years up to 2001.

Table 2: Numbers of care homes and places for Cornwall Local Authority at 31 March 2005

Care home type	*Homes*	*Places*
Nursing	51	1,945
Residential	216	3,683
Total	267	5,628

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database.

Hospital Alerts

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will define *(a)* red, *(b)* black and *(c)* all other hospital alerts. [68042]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is aware that some national health service trusts and ambulance trusts operate local bed capacity management systems which incorporate coloured alerts. However, these are local arrangements and there is no national definition of particular colour alerts.

Hospital Cleanliness

Ann Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in improving hospital cleanliness. [73565]

Andy Burnham: Hospital cleanliness is measured annually as part of the patient environment action team (PEAT) assessment. The first inspections in 2000 found around one-third of trusts to have poor or unacceptable standards. Since then there has been a steady improvement and in 2004-05, fewer than 5 per cent. were classified as poor or unacceptable. The latest PEAT inspections have recently been completed, and the results will be published in due course.

The Department has a comprehensive and multi-faceted programme of work on cleaner hospitals covering a wide range of issues, including:

setting standards that are monitored by the Healthcare Commission;

increased investment;

involving ward sisters and charge nurses;

inspecting hospitals;

issuing guidance;

raising awareness; and

research into alternative cleaning and monitoring technologies.

Hospital Transportation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to her answer of 13 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2029W, if she will collect data in respect of the frequency of transportation between hospitals of infants requiring treatment in special care baby units; and if she will make a statement. [73209]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No. In line with the principles of shifting the balance of power to local national health service organisations, we wish to minimise the burden of all central information requirements on the health service.

It is for local neonatal networks and hospital trusts to determine the appropriate number of special care baby cots to ensure there is provision for babies requiring such care. Strategic health authority areas will increase or decrease cots to reflect demand.

Hospitals

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* NHS trusts and *(b)* foundation hospitals in England recorded unsafe staffing levels in 2005. [72257]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All national health service organisations are required to ensure that they have sufficient appropriately trained staff to deliver high quality care in safe environments. Their performance in terms of safety and care environments is reviewed by the Healthcare Commission. The Department does not collect the information requested.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals were failing to meet Government targets in *(a)* England and *(b)* the boroughs of the Tees Valley sub-region in the latest month for which figures are available. [32766]

Andy Burnham: In line with the principles of devolution, the Department monitors progress against local delivery plans that strategic health authorities agree with primary care trusts. These plans are based on current Government priorities set out in "National Standards, Local Action: Health and Social Care Standards and Planning Framework 2005/06-2007/08" at SHA level.

Individual national health service trust performance against national priorities is assessed by the independent regulator, the Healthcare Commission, through its annual performance ratings process. The latest performance ratings are available on the Healthcare Commission's website at ratings2005.healthcarecommission.org.uk/.

Human Embryos

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department last undertook a review of the scientific evidence of when human life begins that drew on *(a)* UK and *(b)* international research; and if she will make a statement. [70406]

Caroline Flint: Under English law, a foetus is not recognised as being a separate person from its mother. It has no rights independent of its mother until it is born alive and has an independent existence.

Imported Blood Products

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department became aware of the higher risk of hepatitis C contamination from imported blood products; and if she will make a statement. [64128]

Caroline Flint: The issues around the risk of haemophilia patients acquiring infection with hepatitis C through contaminated blood products are complex. We understand that there has been concern that plasma imported from the United States may have carried a higher risk of transmitting hepatitis C. However, knowledge of the viral risks associated with both domestically produced and imported blood products evolved over time.

Blood products contain plasma pooled from many thousands of donors, and only one donation needs to carry the virus to infect the whole batch. Regardless of the source, or of the manufacturer of the plasma used, all products were potentially contaminated with the hepatitis C virus as a result of the need for pooling and the prevalence of the virus in blood donor populations around the world.

Methadone

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what alternatives to methadone are used by the NHS. [69409]

Caroline Flint: Methadone remains the main treatment of the national health service for the management of opiate dependence. The main alternative drug for management of opiate dependence is buprenorphine[1], used increasingly in the NHS since the Department amended regulations in April 2001 to enable practitioners to prescribe the drug for opiate dependence safely through instalment dispensing.

Patients may also be prescribed pharmaceutical diamorphine, and in a small number of cases alternative opiates such as clonidine and lofexidine to substitute for illicit opiate use, with decisions based on clinical judgement for each particular case.

As part of the Government's ongoing commitment to ensuring drug treatment is delivered in a way that maximises the potential for a successful outcome, the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence is currently conducting a review of the effectiveness of methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone in the treatment of drug misusers, due for publication in March 2007.

Although outcomes generally are better for those who remain on opiate substitution treatment, there has been an increase in focus on commissioning effective support for patients who are ready to benefit from abstinence-based approaches to optimise such treatment pathways. Rehabilitation services or aftercare support are available for those opiate-dependent drug users who can successfully become drug-free and who no longer require treatments such as methadone.

[1] Marketing Authorisation, Subutex

Milk Tokens

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the level of take up of milk tokens by pregnant women. [72884]

Caroline Flint: Data are not collected on the number of pregnant women who may be eligible for free milk under the welfare food scheme. There are approximately 25,500 pregnant women currently in receipt of milk tokens. Promotion of the new Healthy Start scheme planned for late autumn this year is expected at least to maintain the current claim volumes.

Ministerial Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for Ministers of State in her Department on foreign visits in each of the last three years; [69209]

(2) on how many occasions Ministers of State in her Department stayed overnight in *(a)* five star, *(b)* four star and *(c)* three star hotels on foreign visits in each of the last three years. [69210]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information cannot be supplied without disproportionate costs.

Under the terms of the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers", when travelling on official business Ministers are expected to make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. This information includes accommodation costs. Copies are available in the Library.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Department is taking to ensure effective medical education in the diagnosis and treatment of myalgic *(a)* encephalomyelitis and *(b)* encephalopathy. [71469]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Medical schools develop their own undergraduate medical curriculum in the light of recommendations from the General Medical Council's Education Committee, which has statutory responsibility to determine the extent of knowledge and skill required for the granting of primary medical qualifications in the United Kingdom (UK). The Department does not provide direction on the content of medical school courses. Medical schools are autonomous bodies and Ministers are precluded by legislation from intervening in their internal affairs, including curriculum content.

The content and standard of postgraduate medical training is the responsibility of the postgraduate medical education and training board, which is the competent authority for postgraduate medical training in the UK.

NHS Commissioning

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department's taskforce will publish its review of NHS commissioning of specialised services. [71916]

Andy Burnham: The report of the review of commissioning arrangements for specialised services was published on the Department's website and is available at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/52/16/04135216.pdf.

Copies are being placed in the Library.

NHS Finance

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure consistent standards of patient care in hospital trusts seeking to recover from financial deficit. [72725]

Andy Burnham: All areas of the country have received record increases in their level of funding for the national health service. Funding of the NHS has increased from £34.7 billion in 1997-98 to £69.7 billion in 2004-05. By 2007-08, spending on the NHS will have increased to over £92 billion. This level of investment should enable NHS organisations to deliver key national and financial targets.

Priorities for the NHS are set out in "National Standards, Local Action: Health and Social Care Standards and Planning Framework 2005/06-2007/08", which is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/08/60/58/04086058.pdf

These include details of health care standards, existing commitments and new national targets. All NHS organisations are expected to meet these priorities and achieve financial balance. The independent regulator, the Healthcare Commission, assesses health care organisations' performance against these priorities, including financial balance.

NHS Management

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the turnover rate for NHS trust *(a)* chief executives, *(b)* chairmen and *(c)* senior managers was in each year for which records are available. [70156]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

NHS Trusts

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the NHS trusts that have funded visits abroad for staff in the last 12 months; and in each case what was the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost of each trip. [71402]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many chief executives were recruited to NHS trusts in 2005; [71411]

(2) how many of the chief executives recruited to NHS trusts in 2005 *(a)* were head hunted and *(b)* applied for advertised vacancies; [71412]

(3) how many of the chief executives recruited to NHS trusts in 2005 came from a background predominantly in the private sector. [71413]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Pharmaceutical Wholesalers

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will take steps to amend the Medicines Act 1969 to require the Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to inspect the warehouses and operations of companies which self-distribute medicines and drugs; [73160]

(2) if she will require the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to extend its inspection role to cover companies which self-distribute medicines and drugs and which are not covered by the requirement of the Medicines Act 1968. [73161]

Andy Burnham: The Medicines Act 1968, as amended, and orders and regulations under that Act, regulate the distribution of medicinal products in the United Kingdom. These provisions transpose into the United Kingdom's law the relevant requirements of Directive 2001/83/EC relating to medicinal products for human use.

Companies wishing to wholesale distribute medicines for human use are required, under the Act and related regulations, to be licensed and inspected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) unless an exemption applies.

The term self-distribute, in relation to medicines for human use, is not a term used or defined in Directive 2001/83/EC or the United Kingdom medicines legislation, or in official guidance published by the MHRA.

The supply of medicines from a company's central distribution warehouse to its own retail outlets is not considered to be wholesale distribution as the supply is within the same legal entity.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain is therefore responsible for the inspection of retail pharmacy businesses in England and Wales at which medicinal products are sold by retail or supplied in circumstances corresponding to retail.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what percentage of pharmaceutical wholesaler dealer licence holders have been inspected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency within the target period of three years; [73164]

(2) how many inspectors the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has available to inspect pharmaceutical wholesaler licence holders; and how many inspections each inspector has carried out in each of the last three years. [73169]

Andy Burnham: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the Government body responsible for the safety and licensing of medicines in the United Kingdom, employs six full-time good distribution practice inspectors. These inspectors inspect the facilities of licensed wholesale dealers of medicines to confirm compliance with the European Commission's guideline on good distribution practice and UK medicines regulations.

The current level of resource enables a regular and repeated inspection programme (at specified frequencies) of all (100 per cent.) of the facilities from where licensed wholesale distributors of medicinal products conduct their wholesale business to be maintained.

Details for the last three years of the numbers of inspections performed by good distribution practice inspectors is shown in the table:

	Number of inspections		
Inspector	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
1	36	82	73
2	63	85	80
3	65	85	82
4	61	83	87
5	61	79	81
6	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—
Total	302	414	403

[1] Not in post
[2] Training

For the year 2003-04 an additional GDP inspector was employed. This inspector performed 16 site inspections which are included in the totals for that year.

Prescription Charges

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate the annual increase in revenue if prescription charges had been increased in line with the rise in the retail price index since the present level of charges was established. [71973]

Andy Burnham: The information available in respect of England is shown in the table.

Estimated change in revenue from prescription charges and pre-payment certificate fees if these had been increase in line with inflation.

	Change in revenue (£ million)
1971	-6.0
1972	1.5
1973	2.1
1974	3.8
1975	5.7
1976	3.1
1977	3.4
1978	1.8
1979	-15.8
1980	-17.9
1981	-16.7
1982	-15.4
1983	-2.3
1984	-8.7
1985	-17.5
1986	-8.0
1987	-6.1
1988	-3.4
1989	-0.1
1990	3.1
1991	-12.4
1992	-12.3
1993	-22.4

Estimated change in revenue from prescription charges and pre-payment certificate fees if these had been increased in line with inflation.

	Change in revenue (£ million)
1994	-20.1
1995	-15.0
1996	-6.2
1997	2.7
1998	1.8
1999	-2.2
2000	6.1
2001	0.1
2002	0.2

Primary Care Trusts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many public responses there were to proposals for primary care trust reorganisation in *(a)* Trent, *(b)* South Yorkshire and *(c)* England; [69751]

(2) how many members of the general public attended each primary care trust reorganisation meeting in *(a)* Trent and *(b)* South Yorkshire. [69806]

Andy Burnham: The information regarding responses to local consultations on primary care trust reconfiguration and attendance at public meetings is as follows.

	PCTs		
	Trent	*South Yorkshire*	*England*
Stakeholder meetings	29	42	830
Public attendance	860	69	11,785
Responses	5,479	200	17,104
Consultation documents	17,000	2,529	121,819
Consultation document download	0	839	22,533
Leaflet drops	0	0	152,300
Petition	7,351	11,271	29,556

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any financial surplus of the Bedford Primary Care Trust will be used to subsidise the financial deficit of the Bedfordshire Heartlands Primary Care Trust following the implementation of the new configuration of primary care trusts in Bedfordshire; and if she will make a statement. [72956]

Andy Burnham: It will be for strategic health authorities and the newly formed primary care trusts to manage, and continue to use, the funding available to them in the best possible way to deliver government targets and make service improvements.

The reconfiguration exercise should not be used locally to move resources from high performing areas to under-performing areas and vice versa. Local managers should be ensuring that the quality of financial management in all organisations is raised to the level of the best.

Private Finance Initiative Projects

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list reviews the Department is undertaking of private finance initiative projects; and whether she expects the review to affect the timescale for the project in each case. [64592]

Andy Burnham: Departmental officials will be reviewing all private finance initiative schemes yet to reach financial close and with an expected capital value of more than £75 million. The current list of such schemes is as follows:

University Hospital North Staffordshire National Health Service Trust

Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust

Peterborough and Stamford Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust

North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust

Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust

Tameside and Glossop NHS Trust

Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust

Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust

The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust

North West London Hospitals NHS Trust

North Bristol NHS Trust

Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust

Mersey Care NHS Trust

Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust

Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust

Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Southend Hospital NHS Trust

Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospital NHS Trust

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trusts

Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust

Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital NHS Trust

Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust

Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust

Northampton General NHS Trust

Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust

The purpose of the review process is to deliver schemes that are financially viable and sustainable over the long term. It may be that in pursuit of achieving these objectives certain schemes experience limited delays.

Promotion Boards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what promotion boards have been held in her Department in each of the last five years. [72857]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: None. The Department assesses the suitability of employees for promotion on a job specific basis.

Small Change Big Difference

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department and its agencies have taken following the launch of the Government's Small Change Big Difference campaign. [72012]

Caroline Flint: We have followed up with "small change, big difference" event guests to explore tailored options for the initiative's roll-out. A series of further seminars is being planned. They will include the development of the logo and brand, investigating possible joint campaign work, the integration of the initiative into the wider public health framework and the work of all our key stakeholders.

A partnership programme will begin aligning key commercial and public sector partners with existing and new programme delivery, the aim being to create a number of dedicated, dynamic partnership programmes between government, commercial partners and non-governmental organisations in direct support of "Choosing Health" objectives. These partnerships will define routes to communicate with people through, for example, their place of work, as well as their local shops and during their leisure activities about making healthier choices in their lives.

Strategic Health Authorities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many strategic health authority *(a)* chief executives, *(b)* chairmen and *(c)* senior managers have (i) medical, (ii) dental, (iii) nursing and (iv) other qualifications and previous experience of working in the (A) private sector and (B) NHS. [71465]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information in respect of chief executives and senior managers is not collected centrally. The NHS Appointments Commission is responsible for appointing the chairmen of NHS organisations, a number of whom are retired clinicians. I have asked the NHS Appointments Commission to write to the right hon. Gentleman direct with the information he seeks.

Telephone Advice Lines

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many telephone advice lines her Department and its non-departmental public bodies support; how many telephone advisers each employs; and how much funding is provided to each by *(a)* her Department and its non-departmental public bodies, *(b)* other Government Departments, *(c)* the private sector and *(d)* the voluntary sector. [66586]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's call centre provides information of a general nature to members of the public about the work of the Department. It responds to about 120,000 telephone calls a year and most of the emails sent through the Department's website. The annual cost is £505,715.

There would be a disproportionate cost in identifying advice lines and funding by the Department in external bodies, since this is not ringfenced in funding given to those organisations.

Tuberculosis

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the 20 local authority areas with the highest incidence of tuberculosis; and if she will make a statement. [67434]

Caroline Flint: The 20 local authorities with the highest rates of notified cases of tuberculosis in England in the last year for which data is available are shown in the following table:

Local authority	*2004*
Hackney	95.1
Newham	92.0
Slough Unitary Authority (UA)	68.0
Brent	60.9
Tower Hamlets	57.8
Harrow	57.1
Leicester UA	56.5
Luton UA	47.3
Hillingdon	47.0
Islington	46.7
Greenwich	45.6
Blackburn with Darwen UA	42.1
Wolverhampton	41.0
Birmingham	40.1
Ealing	38.9
Manchester	38.9
Waltham Forest	38.3
Southwark	38.1
City of Westminster	37.4
Enfield	35.7

Note:
Data as at 3 May 2006.
Source:
Statutory notifications of infectious diseases, Health Protection Agency. Rates shown are per 100,000 population.

United Health Europe

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times *(a)* she, *(b)* her predecessor as Secretary of State and *(c)* another Health Minister met representatives of United Health Europe in 2005; and what the dates were of these meetings. [53685]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Neither the current nor the former Secretary of State for Health met representatives of United Health Europe in 2005.

The President of United Health Europe attended a meeting where Lord Warner made a speech at the Adam Smith Institute on 4 October 2005.

Liam Byrne met the President of United Health Europe on 27 July 2005.

Work Permit Regulations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department conducted a race equality impact assessment concerning changes to the work permit regulations as they affect medical staff. [65676]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A partial race equality impact assessment was carried out on the proposed points-based system, which had the effect of ending permit-free training. A full one will be undertaken when the system is fully implemented.

On advice, an REIA has not been carried out on the recent changes to the immigration rules for postgraduate doctors and dentists which brought the immigration provisions for non-European Economic Area (EEA) junior doctors and dentists into line with the immigration provisions for non-EEA nationals wanting to work in any other sector of the United Kingdom labour market.

Wound Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on training and endorsements for wound care nurses in 2005; and what assessment her Department has undertaken of the value for money obtained from the expenditure. [71584]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for national health service trusts to decide on the skills and knowledge needed by their nursing work force in order to meet the needs of patients.

DEFENCE

Air Miles

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many free air miles have been accrued by senior civil servants in his Department on official business in each of the last three years; and how they were used. [70621]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence has no central record of air miles accrued by senior civil servants and is therefore unable to provide details of how they were used. Guidance for officials requires that air miles accrued on official business are not used for private purposes.

Armed Forces (Foreign Citizens)

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of members of each of the armed forces are not British citizens, broken down by nationality. [72550]

Mr. Watson: The number and percentage of service personnel who are not British citizens in each of HM armed forces are shown by country in the following table:

UK Regular Forces[1] with Nationality other than British at 1 April 2006

Country	Naval service	Percentage of total strength	Army	Percentage of total strength	Royal Air Force[2]	Percentage of total strength
Total non-British service personnel	465	1.2	6,670	6.2	210	0.4
Antigua	[3]	[3]	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
Australia	10	[3]	75	0.1	10	[3]
Bangladesh	[4]	[4]	5	[3]	[3]	[3]
Barbados	[4]	[4]	10	[3]	[4]	[3]
Belize	[3]	[3]	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
Botswana	[3]	[3]	5	[3]	[3]	[3]
Cameroon	[3]	[3]	20	[3]	[3]	[3]
Canada	15	[3]	60	0.1	20	[3]
Cyprus	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	—	[3]
Dominican Republic	[4]	[4]	10	[3]	[3]	[3]
Egypt	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Eire	50	0.1	215	0.2	60	0.1
Falkland Islands	[3]	[3]	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
Fiji	75	0.2	1,995	1.8	5	[3]
France	[3]	[3]	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
Gambia	[4]	[4]	80	0.1	[4]	[3]
Germany[5]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
Ghana	[4]	[4]	660	0.6	[4]	[3]
Gibraltar	—	—	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
Grenada	[4]	[4]	50	[3]	[3]	[3]
Guyana	[3]	[3]	15	[3]	[3]	[3]
India	5	[3]	45	[3]	[4]	[3]
Jamaica	25	0.1	975	0.9	25	0.1
Kenya	5	[3]	105	0.1	5	[3]
Malawi	[4]	[4]	95	0.1	[4]	[3]
Malaysia	[4]	[4]	5	[3]	[4]	[3]
Malta	[4]	[4]	5	[3]	[4]	[3]

UK Regular Forces[1] with Nationality other than British at 1 April 2006

Country	Naval service	Percentage of total strength	Army	Percentage of total strength	Royal Air Force[2]	Percentage of total strength
Mauritius	[4]	[4]	25	[3]	[4]	[3]
Montserrat	[3]	[3]	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
Namibia	[3]	[3]	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
Nepal	[3]	[3]	30	[3]	[3]	[3]
New Zealand	5	[3]	65	0.1	5	[3]
Nigeria	[4]	[4]	65	0.1	[3]	[3]
Other West Indies	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
Pakistan	[4]	[4]	10	[3]	[4]	[3]
Papua New Guinea	[3]	[3]	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
Seychelles	[3]	[3]	10	[3]	[3]	[3]
Sierra Leone	[3]	[3]	45	[3]	[3]	[3]
Singapore	[3]	[3]	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
South Africa	45	0.1	720	0.7	10	[3]
Sri Lanka	[3]	[3]	15	[3]	[3]	[3]
St. Helena	[4]	[4]	20	[3]	5	[3]
St. Kitts and Nevis	[3]	[3]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[3]
St. Lucia	5	[3]	225	0.2	[4]	[3]
St. Vincent	130	0.3	280	0.3	[4]	[3]
Swaziland	[3]	[3]	50	[3]	[3]	[3]
Switzerland	[3]	[3]	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
Tanzania	[3]	[3]	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
Tonga	[3]	[3]	5	[3]	[3]	[3]
Trinidad	20	—	70	0.1	10	[3]
Uganda	—	—	40	[3]	[3]	[3]
Ukraine	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
United Arab Emirates	10	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
USA	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[3]
Zambia	[4]	[4]	20	[3]	[3]	[3]
Zimbabwe[6]	15	—	565	0.5	5	[3]
Other West Indies	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[3]	[3]
Other Non-British[7]	[3]	[3]	20	[3]	10	[3]
Not known/stateless	505	1.3	25	[3]	[8]75	0.2

[1] Data are for UK regular forces (trained and untrained), including nursing services and excluding full time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.
[2] Royal Air Force data are for personnel serving at 6 March 2006. They include personnel who at that date had attested but have not begun basic training.
[3] Denotes zero or rounded to zero.
[4] Denotes fewer than five or percentage based on a figure fewer than five. Data are rounded to five to prevent disclosure of sensitive information.
[5] Includes personnel with nationality recorded as West German.
[6] Includes personnel with nationality recorded as Rhodesian [7] Includes personnel with nationality recorded as British Commonwealth/Foreign, Foreign/Foreign, Other African Country and Other Asiatic country.
[8] Includes 75 personnel recorded as Commonwealth by birth, but with no nationality recorded.

Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether officials at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston are involved in designing a new warhead for the use in Trident missiles; and if he will make a statement. [73237]

Des Browne: I have nothing to add to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Airdrie and Shotts (John Reid) to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis) on 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 364W.

Bills

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the occasions when an amendment has been moved by *(a)* a Labour back bencher, *(b)* an Opposition back bencher and *(c)* an Opposition Front Bench spokesman to a Bill sponsored by his Department which has been accepted by his Department during the 2005-06 Session; and if he will make a statement. [72480]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence has sponsored the Armed Forces Bill during this session. Information on amendments moved and accepted during the Select Committee and Committee of the Whole House stages of the Bill is published in the *Official Report*.

Combat Stress

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding was allocated by his Department to the ex-services mental welfare society Combat Stress in each of the past five years. [58183]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 13 March 2006]:* The information requested is set out in the following table:

Income received by Combat Stress to defray individual treatment expenses

	£ million
2000-01	1.5
2001-02	2.1
2002-03	2.4
2003-04	2.6
2004-05	2.8

Source:
Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society ("Combat Stress").

Article 21 of the Naval, Military and Air Forces Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 2006 provides that the Secretary of State for Defence may defray necessary expenses in respect of the medical, surgical or rehabilitative treatment of a former member of the armed forces which arise from a disablement due to service, provided they are not provided for under other UK legislation. Under this discretionary power, MOD defrays the individual costs of war pensioners undergoing "remedial treatment" at the Combat Stress homes for conditions related to their individual pensioned disablement and of related expenses, such as travel costs. The table shows the funding received by Combat Stress under this provision.

Conscientious Objectors

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many soldiers have been discharged on the grounds of conscientious objection over the last five years; [71509]

(2) how many applications to leave the Army on the grounds of conscientious objection have been considered by his Department over the last five years. [71510]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence has no record of any applications to leave the Regular Army on the grounds of conscientious objection in the last five years.

However, the Army cannot identify from its records those applications that may start as requests to leave the Army on the grounds of conscientious objection but result in an individual leaving for different reasons.

Departmental Plans

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the delivery of his Department's revised policy of providing industry with a better and longer-term understanding of the Department's future plans. [71478]

Mr. Ingram: We have started a series of briefings to various sectors of industry to set out more details of our forward plans—which have been welcomed by industry. We have also been reinforcing existing partnering agreements by providing industry with a clear view of our planning assumptions, recognising that these are subject to final investment decisions by Ministers and the Department.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made in its discussion with industry on alternatives to competition as a means of delivering value for money; when he expects to complete his Department's action plan on this; and if he will make a statement. [71481]

Mr. Ingram: We have begun discussions on alternative approaches to competition in a joint MOD/industry working group established under the auspices of the National Defence Industries Council. By the end of 2006 we intend to have in place top level policy, working level guidance and revised training packages which ensure the selection of an appropriate commercial approach which continues to deliver demonstrable value for money for the Department.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the creation of a joint plan between his Department and industry for embedding defence acquisition values throughout the acquisition community. [71490]

Mr. Ingram: We are continuing to work with the National Defence Industries Council to ensure the defence acquisition values are the foundation upon which working relations within the MOD, and between the Department and industry are based. Within the Department's acquisition community, the values will be reflected in individuals' personal objectives and reward arrangements. Individual companies are already using the defence acquisition values to inform their in-house corporate values and behaviours.

The Defence Academy will be working to bring in joint training courses with industry to embed the values, and we are also ensuring that partnering agreements with industry reflect the values explicitly.

We shall be making a joint announcement with industry later this year to set out the totality of the work, and our achievements.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list those *(a)* Acts and *(b)* parts of Acts which received Royal Assent between 1976 and 2006 for which his Department has policy responsibility and which remain in force. [70394]

Mr. Watson: With respect to part *(a)* of the question, the Ministry of Defence has policy responsibility for the following Acts which remain in force:

The Armed Forces Acts 1976; 1981; 1986; 1991; 1996 and 2001

The Armed Forces Discipline Act 2000

The Armed Forces (Pension and Compensation) Act 2004

The Army Act 1992

The Atomic Weapons Establishment Act 1991

The Crown Proceedings Act 1987

The Greenwich Hospital Act 1990

The Ministry of Defence Police Act 1987

The Reserve Forces Acts 1980 and 1996

The Protection of Military Remains Act 1986.

No Acts have been identified in respect of part *(b)* of the question.

Eid-Ul-Adha

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff from his Department attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event in London in 2005; and what the total cost to his Department was of their attendance. [73090]

Mr. Watson: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will write to the hon. Member with details of the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event. Copies of her letter will be placed in the Library.

Eurofighter

Mr. Cranuby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for delivery of future tranches of Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft, with particular reference to those *(a)* with and *(b)* without full air-to-ground strike capability. [73554]

Mr. Ingram: The United Kingdom has, to date, contracted for two tranches of Eurofighter-Typhoon, providing 144 aircraft for use by the Royal Air Force. A decision by the Eurofighter Typhoon Partner Nations on the third production buy of the aircraft, and thus on the delivery timetable for this future tranche, has still to be taken. Integration of air-to-ground capabilities is being considered for Eurofighter Typhoon as part of a programme of future enhancements.

Gurkhas

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the number of widows of Gurkha servicemen who would receive pension payments if Gurkha servicemen were eligible for the British soldier's preserved pension at the age of 60 after more than two years of service; [72134]

(2) how many Gurkha ex-servicemen there are who retired prior to 1 July 1997; [72137]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost of up-rating the pensions of Gurkha ex-servicemen who retired prior to 1 July 1997 to the amount received by their British soldier equivalents. [72139]

Mr. Watson: On 11 January 2005, the then Secretary of State announced to the House that he had commissioned a comprehensive review of the Terms and Conditions of Service under which Gurkhas serve in the British Army.

As part of this review, the Department is looking at the pension position of Gurkhas back to 1 July 1997. Prior to 1 July 1997 Gurkhas were members of an overseas-based force and had no comparable British soldier equivalents. Gurkha soldiers are members of the Gurkha pension scheme which does not provide for preserved pensions; there are therefore no Gurkha widows who would be eligible. The Department does not hold records of individuals (or of their widows) who do not have an entitlement to a pension, so cannot make reliable estimates of either the numbers involved or the cost of hypothetical pension entitlements.

However there are currently 26,699 Gurkha service pensioners (of which 1,900 have retired since 1 July 1997) and the Gurkha Welfare Trust has reported that last year it paid 10,246 welfare pensions. Of the 26,699, there are about 5,000 Gurkha widows' or family dependants' pensions in payment.

Helicopter Searches

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions a helicopter from RAF Benson was used to assist a police search for a missing person in each of the last five years; [74199]

(2) if he will identify the helicopter from RAF Benson used to search for Dr. David Kelly on 18 July 2003; whether the helicopter in question was equipped with *(a)* an infra-red camera and *(b)* heat-seeking equipment; how long the helicopter was in the air; what areas it covered in its search; and if he will make a statement; [74200]

(3) how many *(a)* military, *(b)* civilian and *(c)* other personnel from (i) the United Kingdom, (ii) the United States and (iii) other nations were based at RAF Benson on 17 July 2003. [74201]

Mr. Ingram: No RAF helicopters from RAF Benson have been used to assist police searches for missing persons in the last five years.

No RAF helicopters from RAF Benson were used in the search for Dr. David Kelly on 18 July 2003. However, I understand that a Chiltern Air Support Unit police helicopter which is based at RAF Benson was on standby but not used. I am informed that a police helicopter from the Chiltern Air Support Unit based at Luton was used in the search.

Details of the personnel based at RAF Benson on the 17 July 2003 were as follows:

	Number of personnel
RAF personnel	1,379
Army personnel	18
Navy personnel	2
MOD civilian personnel	166
Non-MOD (contractors)	150
Foreign	2 (exchange aircrew from Canada and the United States)

Hercules Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of fitting reticulated foam devices to Mk1 Hercules aircraft. [71527]

Mr. Ingram: I am withholding information regarding which of our Hercules aircraft will be fitted as the release of this information may prejudice the security of our armed forces.

There is an initial programme, however, to fit Explosion Suppressant Foam to a number of them that will cost some £600,000 per aircraft.

Iran

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the military capability of the Iranian armed forces. [72958]

Des Browne: As a matter of routine we assess the military capability of other nations' armed forces, including that of Iran. I am withholding this information on the grounds that to release it would prejudice the capability, effectiveness, and security of the armed forces.

Iraq

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the quality of the Iraqi *(a)* armed forces and *(b)* police force based in Multi-National Division (South-East). [65442]

Des Browne: Regular assessments of the capability of Iraq's security forces are made as part of the process of considering the preparedness of each province for transition to Iraqi security control, including the four provinces of Multi-National Division (South-East).

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department plans to take to make helicopters in Iraq safer for flight personnel. [71728]

Mr. Ingram: We are continually reviewing ways of providing greater protection for all our personnel deployed on operations. For helicopters, we have identified a number of improvements to meet the specific operational conditions in Iraq; these have been, or are being, implemented through urgent operational requirement procedures. They include improvements to countermeasures, self protection, and crew and aircraft armour.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 181-84W, on Iraq, if he will place a copy of the eligibility criteria for the Operation TELIC medal in the Library. [73426]

Mr. Watson: Command Paper 6135 was presented to Parliament in February 2004 by my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for Defence and laid down the qualifying criteria for the Iraq medal for service on Operation TELIC from 20 January 2003. In accordance with standard procedures, a copy was placed in the Library of the House.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of why the two Britons rescued from Basra Prison by British forces were *(a)* dressed as Arabs and *(b)* in possession of explosives at the time of their detention; and if he will make a statement. [73589]

Des Browne: An internal review was carried out in the wake of the events of 19 September 2005. I am withholding further details as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role UK forces have played in the *(a)* training and *(b)* operations of the Facilities Protection Service in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [73598]

Des Browne *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* Coalition forces have trained some 6,650 members of the Facilities Protection Service (FPS) based in Multi-National Division (South-East). The basic training course provides FPS guards with the skills that allow them to act as static security. The advanced course content varies, being structured at the discretion of FPS commanders, but frequently includes such areas as combat life support, Quick Reaction Forces, and logistics. At present, the FPS are operating at over 800 sites in Multi-National Division (South-East) on behalf of 22 Ministries.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers prescribed medication for psychological problems have been posted back to active service in Iraq. [73741]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* We are aware of a very small number of cases where service personnel deployed to Iraq have been prescribed medication for a psychological illness; however, precise figures are not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Joint Personnel Administration

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much has been spent on the Joint Personnel Administration computer system; [72639]

(2) when he expects to introduce the Joint Personnel Administration computer system fully for *(a)* the Royal Air Force, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Army; [72640]

(3) what assessment has been made of the suitability of the Joint Personnel Administration system for defence services; [72641]

(4) what reports Ministers have received about the operation of the Joint Personnel Administration system; [72642]

(5) how many complaints have been received about the operation of the Joint Personnel Administration computer system; and what changes have been made to the timetable for its introduction since the system was originally planned. [72643]

Mr. Watson: On 20 March 2006, the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency (AFPAA) rolled out Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) to all 48,000 RAF service personnel throughout the world on time and on budget. The event marked the culmination of five years of system design, development, integration and testing and bears testimony to a very strong

partnering agreement between MOD and EDS. The total cost to date of JPA is £116 million.

The suitability of JPA was considered in July 2004 by the Defence Investment Approvals Board in approving the Main Gate Business Case. Prior to rollout, the readiness for service was assessed by an independent Office of Government Commerce Gateway review.

On JPA rollout to the RAF there were a small number of technical issues which had not manifested themselves in the extensive testing carried out prior to its launch. This resulted in the system operating much more slowly than anticipated which greatly restricted the number of self-service users at any one time. Over the course of the last six weeks these early problems have been overcome and all users now have full access to the system. JPA has performed satisfactorily on rollout to RAF professional HR administrators and has delivered pay to the RAF with only a relatively few discrepancies caused by the migration of data from the legacy systems to JPA. Although the first few weeks following rollout have generated a significant number of enquiries, no formal complaints have been received.

Following RAF rollout, the related provisional JPA dates for the RN and Army were June and November 2006 respectively. However, in order to more closely align JPA with Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) programme requirements, current plans are that JPA will be rolled out to the RN from October 2006 and to the Army from March 2007 respectively.

Low Flying Aircraft

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the locations are of each tactical training area in the UK in which low flying aircraft are permitted to fly to a minimum height of 100 feet. [73291]

Mr. Watson: There are three Tactical Training Areas (TTA) in the UK Military Low Flying System, within which fixed wing aircraft and military Helicopters are permitted to operate down to 100 feet, and sometimes below, throughout the Low Flying System.

The three areas are located in mid-Wales; in the Highlands of Scotland to the north-west of the Great Glen; and, in south-west Scotland and the Anglo Scottish border area, from Dumfries and Galloway across to the Cheviot hills. Maps showing the location of the Tactical Training Areas are included in The Pattern of Military Low Flying, which is published annually, and placed in the Library of the House.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have stayed overnight in (i) five-star, (ii) four-star and (iii) three-star hotels in each of the last three years; [69111]

(2) what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in each of the last three years; [69112]

(3) what discounts are available in relation to hotel accommodation used by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department. [69113]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence has an Enabling Arrangement with Expotel Hotel Reservations Ltd. for booking hotel accommodation which staff can access through the Central Hotel Booking Service (CHBS). The MOD does not directly receive discounts for hotel accommodation but CHBS is required to secure the lowest possible rates available for accommodation, generally of three-star quality, throughout Great Britain and overseas. Northern Ireland is not included in this agreement.

This enabling arrangement is not mandated and individuals can choose to make their own bookings, providing they do so within a financial limit of £53 per night. There is no central record of bookings arranged outside CHBS and an attempt to collect such information could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

CHBS does not record information on the star rating of the hotel, the choice of hotel being determined by value for money. Nor does CHBS hold information differentiating between civil servants and special advisers.

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions a local authority safety plan for visiting nuclear submarines has been declared fit for purpose within 24 hours of a submarine docking at a UK port in each of the last five years. [73795]

Mr. Ingram: Local authority off-site emergency plans in respect of nuclear submarine berths are maintained in accordance with the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 (REPPIR). These regulations are enforced by the Health and Safety Executive, Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (HSE NII). Any questions relating to the fitness for purpose of the off-site plan should be referred to the HSE NII.

Nuclear Weapons Testing

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent research he has assessed on the possible association between witnessing atomic and nuclear weapons testing and ill health. [74119]

Mr. Watson: Ministry of Defence officials are currently studying the report of New Zealand research which used gene analysis techniques to identify minute changes in DNA which may correlate with radiation exposure. The report of this study was recently presented to the New Zealand War Pensions Research Trust Board but has not been peer-reviewed or published in the scientific press.

Racial Abuse

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints of racial abuse have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in his Department in each of the last five years. [70618]

Mr. Watson: Records are not kept centrally in the form requested and it is not possible to identify complaints citing racial harassment separately from those citing racial discrimination. Changes to record-keeping will lead to improvements for the future. The available information is as follows:

Royal Navy

The number of formal redresses of complaint which cited racial discrimination and/or harassment in each of the last five years were:

	Number
2001-02	1
2002-03	2
2003-04	0
2004-05	3
2005-06[1]	5

[1] Figures for 1 April to 31 December 2005

It has not been possible from the data available to identify those redresses of complaint which were upheld and those complaints which were resolved locally through the chain of command.

Army

The number of formal redresses of complaint which cited racial discrimination and/or harassment investigated and upheld in each year were:

	Investigated	*Upheld*
2001-02	9	1
2002-03	4	1
2003-04	6	1
2004-05	10	0
2005-06	9	0

Records of racial harassment complaints resolved locally through the chain of command are not held centrally.

RAF

The number of formal redresses of complaint which cited racial discrimination and/or harassment investigated and upheld in each year were:

	Investigated	*Upheld*
2001-02	4	1
2002-03	2	0
2003-04	2	0
2004-05	1	0
2005-06	4	1

The number of informal complaints which cited racial discrimination and/or harassment and were resolved through chain of command or line management action were:

	Number
2001-02	n/a[1]
2002-03	3
2003-04	0
2004-05	2
2005-06[1]	1

[1] Records of informal complaints of racial harassment began in 2002-03.

Ministry of Defence Civil Service

There is no requirement to report centrally bullying and harassment cases (including racial abuse) that are resolved at local unit level. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs. The figures provided as follows are for the last five calendar years, and record civilian harassment cases, involving racial abuse, where MOD units have requested a formal harassment investigation be carried out by a trained departmental civilian harassment investigation officer. Records are not held centrally on whether these investigated complaints were then subsequently upheld.

	Number
2001	1
2002	0
2003	1
2004	1
2005	1

RAF Heavy Lift

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the heavy lift capability of the Royal Air Force. [72938]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Scarborough and Whitby (Mr. Goodwill) on 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1188.

Regimental Bands

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many regimental bands there are in the Army; where they are located; and what the strength is of each regiment which has retained a regimental band. [70340]

Mr. Watson: As at 1 May there were 29 bands in the Regular Army and 14 in the Territorial Army (TA). Under the Future Army Structure (FAS), the number of Regular Army bands will reduce to 23 and the TA bands will increase to 19.

It has only been possible to show a breakdown of strengths by regiment for regular infantry units. All other figures are for the appropriate arm/service. Details are shown in the following tables for Regular and Territorial Army units respectively.

Regular Army

[illegible] service strength	*Location*	*Current band*	*Representing*	*Regimental/corps strength*
Household Cavalry/RAC:				
5,530	Bovington	Hussars and Light Dragoon Band	Kings' Royal Hussars Queens Royal Hussars	n/a
	Munster, Germany	Royal Lancers Band	9/12 L Queens Royal Lancers	n/a
	Fallingbostel, Germany	Dragoon Guards Band	1st Queens Dragoon Guards Royal Scots Dragoon Guards	n/a
	Fallingbostel, Germany	Royal Tank Regiment Band	Royal Tank Regiment	n/a
	Windsor	Life Guards Band	Life Guards	n/a
	Knightsbridge	Royal Horse Guards Dragoon Band	Royal Horse Guards	n/a
Infantry:				
24,080	Edinburgh	Lowland Band	Royal Regt of Scotland	3,440
	Edinburgh	Highlanders Band		
	Catterick	Queens Lancashire Regt Normandy Band	Queens Lancashire Regiment	670
	London	Scots Guards Band	Scots Guards	680
	London	Irish Guards Band	Irish Guards	600
	London	Welsh Guards Band	Welsh Guards	580
	London	Grenadier Guards Band	Grenadier Guards	730
	London	Coldstream Guards Band	Coldstream Guards	780
	Bassingbourn	Queens Minden Band	Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	1,290
			Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	1,240
			Royal Anglian Regiment	1,320
	Weeton	Kings Normandy Band	Kings Own Royal Border Regiment	590
	Catterick	Kings Waterloo Band	KINGS	580
			Prince of Wales Own Regiment of Yorkshire	620
			Queens Lancashire Regiment	670
			Duke of Wellington's Regiment	630
			Green Howards	580
		Prince of Wales Clive Band	Devon and Dorset Light Infantry	590
		Prince of Wales Lucknow Band	Royal Welsh Regt	1,200
			Cheshire Regt	540
			Royal Gloucester Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment	610
			Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment	600
			Staffordshire Regiment	580
	Colchester	Parachute Regiment Band	Parachute Regiment	1,980
	Winchester	Light Division Band	Light Infantry	1,290
			Royal Green Jackets	1,230
	Ballymena	Royal Irish Band	Royal Irish	630
Royal Artillery:				
7,350	Woolwich	Royal Artillery Band	Royal Artillery	7,350
Corps of Army Music:				
930	Chatham	Royal Engineers	Royal Engineers	8,820
	Blandford	Royal Signals	Royal Signals	8,560
	Arborfield	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	9,770
	Middle Wallop	Army Air Corps	Army Air Corps	1,990
	Deepcut	Royal Logistics Corps	Royal Logistics Corps	13,650
	Worthy Down	Adjutant General's Corps	Adjutant General's Corps	6,880

[1] The personnel of the regimental bands are included in the Corps of Army Music strengths.

Territorial Army

Arm/service—strength	*Location*	*Current band*	*Regimental/corps strength*
Household Cavalry/Royal Armoured Corps:			
1,240	London	Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Band Royal Yeomanry	n/a
Royal Regiment of Artillery:			
2,240	Bolton	Lancashire Artillery Band	n/a
		Honourable Artillery Company	n/a
The Infantry:			
7,480	Edinburgh	52 Lowland Band	n/a
	Perth	Highland Band	n/a
	Canterbury	Kohima Band of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	n/a
	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Northumbria Band	n/a
	Peterborough	Royal Anglian Band	n/a
	Liverpool	North West Infantry Band	n/a
	Exeter	Devonshire and Dorset Band	n/a
	Newport	Royal Welsh Regiment (V) Band	n/a
	Wolverhampton	West Midlands Regiment Volunteer Band	n/a
	Headington	The Waterloo Band Royal Green Jackets Volunteers	n/a
	Kinnegar	North Irish TA Band	n/a
The Royal Logistics Corps:			
5,920	Hull	150 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps Band	n/a

As explained in the written statement made to the House on 9 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 69-70WS the North Irish band will be re-titled The Royal Irish Regiment Band (TA) and its performance capacity will be enhanced to ensure continued provision of military music in Northern Ireland, in combination with programmed visits by Regular Army bands based in Great Britain.

Small Change Big Difference Campaign

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department and its agencies have taken following the launch of the Government's Small Change Big Difference Campaign. [72002]

Mr. Watson: A key element of the Ministry of Defence's 'People Programme' concerns the health, welfare and sickness absence of our civilian staff. From 1 June 2006, guidance will be included on the Defence Intranet to encourage staff to consider healthy choices in relation to lifestyle and diet. Guidance will be available on giving up smoking, diet and maintaining a healthy weight, alcohol consumption and exercise. Links will be provided to specialist websites and Government initiatives including 'Small Change, Big Difference'.

As part of the launch of these services, the Department is to hold a 'Health Awareness Week' in early July. A series of events will be held around MOD sites to promote a healthy lifestyle. MOD already has a thriving Sports and Social Association and a number of workplace sports clubs and gyms which staff can join at their own cost and in their own time. MOD restaurants also provide healthy choices.

Health is vital to operational effectiveness and the armed forces have always had policies for health promotion. A Health Promotion Action Plan was published last year prior to the production of the Choosing Health White Paper covering issues such as diet, tobacco and alcohol consumption and sexual health. There is an expert panel on armed forces feeding which advises on diet and has published "Recruits' and Commanders' Guides to Nutrition". These offer advice on diets and eating patterns which are compatible with military requirements and health.

Somme Anniversary

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme; and if he will make a statement. [73268]

Mr. Watson: It is assumed that the hon. Member is referring to the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, which occurs on 1 July 2006. An Anglo-French commemoration will take place at Thiepval on that day, the details of which have not been finalised. The main feature of the commemoration will be a Service of Remembrance organised by the Royal British Legion. It is expected that regimental associations and cadets will be present. A British military band is being provided.

Vehicle Sharing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what incentives his Department offers to encourage staff to share vehicles when travelling to work. [73092]

Mr. Watson: Encouraging staff to share vehicles when travelling to work is dependent on the circumstances of each site. For example, at Abbey Wood in Bristol, there is a scheme offering 300 car-sharing priority parking spaces. There are also informal schemes established on an individual basis. The Royal Navy also encourages the practice through its intranet sites with schemes in place at Royal Navy Fleet HQ, and at Portsmouth and Devonport Naval Bases.

Vehicle-sharing is one of a number of measures that the Ministry of Defence encourages as part of its work on sustainable development and travel. These include the use of both telephone- and video-conference facilities for business meetings, and offering staff a pay advance to purchase bicycles and public transport season tickets for commuting to their place of work.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Industrial Injuries

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* vibration white finger claims have been submitted from Tamworth constituency, broken down by district electoral ward. [71226]

Malcolm Wicks: Although I cannot provide statistics by electoral ward, I have broken down the claims submitted from Tamworth constituents by postcode[1]. The figures are as follows:

[1] The postcodes listed include areas beyond the Tamworth constituency boundary.

Postcode	*Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease*	*Vibration white finger*
B77	1,022	289
B78	1,155	396
B79	571	141
WS14	33	5
Total	2,781	831

The figures for Tamworth constituency are 1,700 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims and 437 vibration white finger claims submitted.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Adults with Learning Difficulties

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he has taken to ensure that adults with learning difficulties report crimes to the police; and how this action has been communicated to people with learning difficulties. [71987]

Mr. McNulty: In November 2005, the Home Office hosted a workshop attended by representatives of organisations who work with people who have learning disabilities. Since then, an Action Plan has been developed specifically to tackle low reporting rates amongst people in this vulnerable group. Among other things, the Action Plan identifies the need to raise awareness of sexual abuse with vulnerable adults and we are working to take these actions forward.

The Home Office has also worked with Respond, Mencap, the Down's Syndrome Association and the National Forum for People with Learning Difficulties to produce an easy-access booklet called "Protecting You from Sexual Abuse", and this can be found on the Home Office website. The booklet has been written for people with learning disabilities to provide information and guidance on the law in relation to sexual offences.

Amendments to Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the occasions when an amendment has been moved by *(a)* a Labour back bencher, *(b)* an Opposition back bencher and *(c)* an Opposition front bench spokesman to a Bill sponsored by his Department that has been accepted by his Department during the current session; and if he will make a statement. [72097]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Department has sponsored the following Bills/Acts during the current session:

Racial and Religious Hatred Act
Identity Cards Act
Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act
Terrorism Act
Charities Bill
Fraud Bill
Police and Justice Bill
Violent Crime Reduction Bill.

Information on amendments moved and accepted during the Committee and Report Stages of these Acts/Bills is published in the *Official Report*.

Animal Experimentation

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what ways his Department plans to contribute to the review of European Directive 86/609, on animal experimentation; and if he will make a statement. [72391]

Joan Ryan: The European Commission is currently reviewing Directive 86/609 to take account of technical progress since it was first adopted almost 20 years ago. The directive is transposed into United Kingdom legislation by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Four technical expert working groups have already provided preliminary advice to the Commission on scope and definitions; severity/cost/benefit; ethical review; and authorisation of procedures. These groups had a strong United Kingdom representation, one of which was chaired by a Home Office official.

Four more detailed technical issues were subsequently referred to the Animal Welfare Committee of the European Food Standards Agency (EFSA) for consideration and advice. The Commission is now considering the EFSA advice, and has commissioned a regulatory impact assessment to which the Home Office has recently responded.

The Commission has indicated that it will next produce a consultation document in the summer of 2006. This is expected to take the form of a draft revised directive. The Home Office will respond once it has had the opportunity to consider its content and consult scientific community stakeholders.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is given to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the police about how and in what circumstances antisocial behaviour orders are issued to children under 18 years. [72281]

Mr. McNulty: There is a range of sources of guidance for local authorities and the police on issuing antisocial behaviour orders to children and young people. The Home Office's comprehensive "Guidance on ASBOs" issued jointly with the Youth Justice Board and the Association of Chief Police Officers is currently being updated and will be issued shortly. In addition joint guidance issued by the Home Office, Youth Justice Board and the Association of Chief Police Officers, issued in March 2005, provides youth offending teams with advice on their role in preventing and reducing antisocial behaviour. Practitioners can also access information provided by the Together campaign in the form of a website, an extensive range of leaflets and a telephone action line offering advice on all aspects of antisocial behaviour.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in each local authority area in the County of Durham since 2001, broken down by age. [72460]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the following table.

Number of ASBOs, as reported to the Home Office, by all courts and where restrictions are imposed within local authority areas in Durham, by age at date of decision, 1 January 2001 to 30 September 2005

	Age groups		
Area	*10 to 17*	*18+*	*Total*
Durham	38	41	79
Chester-le-Street DC	1	5	6
Darlington BC	4	5	9
Derwentside DC	6	11	17
Durham CC	9	9	18
Easington DC	8	4	12
Sedgefield BC	5	4	9
Teesdale DC	1	0	1
Wear Valley DC	4	3	7

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applicants whose applications have been refused and whose appeal rights have been exhausted have had their claims reconsidered on the basis of further representations in each year since 1997; what criteria are used in deciding whether to allow claims to be reconsidered; what estimate has been made of the number of such applicants eligible to have their claims reconsidered; what the average time taken to conduct such reconsideration has been in each year; when such reconsiderations commenced; what the effect is on the status of applicants of having their claims reconsidered; and how many such reconsiderations in each year have resulted in the grant of asylum status or other permission which results in the applicant being able legally to remain in the UK. [73787]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Nigerian, *(b)* Bangladeshi, *(c)* Pakistani, *(d)* Turkish and *(e)* Somali asylum seekers are living in the UK. [72907]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

The following table shows the number of asylum seekers from Bangladesh, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia and Turkey supported by NASS in the UK as at the end of March 2006.

Asylum seekers[1,2,3] (including dependants) from Bangladesh, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia and Turkey supported by NASS in the UK as at the end of March 2006

	In NASS accommodation	*Receipt of subsistence only support*	*Total*
Bangladesh	145	95	235
Nigeria	695	150	840
Pakistan	3,670	1,700	5,400
Somalia	2,415	1,245	3,660
Turkey	1,835	1,220	3,050

[1] Provisional figures rounded to the nearest 5 with * = 1 or 2. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

[2] Excludes unaccompanied asylum seeking children supported by local authorities and cases that pre-date the establishment of NASS in April 2000, administered by local authorities under the Interim Provisions.

[3] Excludes those in initial accommodation.

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his Department's press office. [74351]

Mr. Byrne: The numbers employed in the press office are as follows:

	Number
Black	2
Asian	0
Other	44

Community Support Officers

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what has been the retention rate of community support officers in *(a)* Gwent, *(b)* South Wales, *(c)* Dyfed Powys and *(d)* North Wales police force areas in each year since they were first employed. [71372]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the retention rate of community support officers is not collected centrally. However, the available information regarding the number of community support officers leaving the Welsh police force areas is given in the table.

The number of PCSOs leaving (FTE)[1] by each police force area in Wales, in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05[2]

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Dyfed Powys	0	0	0
Gwent	[3]—	10	5
North Wales	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
South Wales	0	4	11

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] These figures have been calculated from the quarterly leaving figures submitted by police forces.
[3] Data is not available for this period.

Correspondence

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the immigration and nationality directorate will reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Warley of 17 January on behalf of Mrs. McLeish, Meadow Road, Oldbury. [67205]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the right hon. Member to the written answer given on 2 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1407W.

Crime Statistics

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the level of crime in *(a)* Cornwall and *(b)* England and Wales in 2005-06. [72777]

Mr. McNulty: The latest crime statistics for England and Wales were published in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 06/06 entitled 'Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to December 2005'. The publication gives recorded crime statistics for the first three quarters of financial year 2005-06 and is available at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb0606.pdf

Detailed statistics at police force area level for 2005-06 will be published on 20 July.

Deportation

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deportees have returned to the UK because their destination country refused them entry in each of the last five years. [73337]

Mr. Byrne: Such information on returned cases could only be obtained through examination of individual Home Office case files and this would be at disproportionate cost.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum issues are available on the Home Office research Development and statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response he has made to the Sentencing Guidelines Council recommendations on domestic violence. [72505]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The guidelines prepared by the Sentencing Guidelines Council are currently out for consultation and it would be inappropriate to make any comment at this stage.

EU Criminal Proceedings

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of whether the current proposals for a framework decision on certain procedural rights in criminal proceedings throughout the European Union would grant new rights to persons arrested in the United Kingdom; and what his policy is on the proposal. [73225]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Member states have not been able to reach agreement on the original text proposed for this framework decision, and a revised text is now being considered. If a revised text were to be formally tabled for discussion it would be subject to negotiation in the usual way. Intimations received as to the contents of a revised text suggest that it will be shorter and less ambitious.

We will lodge an explanatory memorandum on any new text that is referred to the relevant council working group.

IND (Marriage Visas)

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long he expects it will take to clear the backlog at the immigration and nationality directorate for those awaiting marriage visas. [71269]

Mr. Byrne: Certificate of Approval applications are being considered in line with our published service standards (70 per cent. of cases within 20 working days and 90 per cent. within 70 working days). At present these standards are being exceeded.

Intermediate Custodial Sentences

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many defendants received immediate custodial sentences from *(a)* Wrexham magistrates court and *(b)* Crown courts to which defendants were committed from Wrexham magistrates court in the last five years for which records are available. [71314]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is shown in the table.

Defendants sentenced and those receiving immediate custody at Wrexham magistrates court and at the Crown court having been committed from Wrexham magistrates court

	Wrexham magistrates court		*The Crown court (having been committed from Wrexham MC)*	
	Total defendants sentenced	*Number given immediate custody*	*Total defendants sentenced*	*Number given immediate custody*
2000	4,061	190	200	146
2001	3,778	161	138	107
2002	4,780	202	141	98
2003	4,826	171	208	166
2004	5,818	199	159	119

Source:
RDS-NOMS 16 May 2006

Mandatory Sentences

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mandatory life sentences for offenders convicted of violent offences for the second time have been handed down in each of the last five years. [69746]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is published in Table 2.7 of 'Sentencing Statistics, England and Wales, 2004 (page 28). This publication can be found in the Library and also on the Home Office website, as follows:http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1505.pdf .

Migrant Workers

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who are likely to come to work in the UK when Bulgaria and Romania accede to the European Union. [68532]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 May 2006]*: The Home Office is reviewing relevant data and research in the area. The final decision on what kind of labour access should be granted to Bulgaria and Romania will be taken once the date of their accession to the European Union is known.

National Asylum Support Service

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he intends to publish details of the recent review by the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate of the operation of the National Asylum Support Service; and if he will make a statement. [70563]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1276W.

Non-Emergency Crime Line

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost will be to callers of using the new 101 non-emergency crime line. [69368]

Mr. McNulty: The cost of calls to the new 101 single non-emergency number has been set at 10p per call following consultation with a wide group of stakeholders and research with the public. The research showed that a small fixed charge would not put people off calling the service but would reduce the likelihood of the service being abused. The Government, police and local authorities will not profit in any way from the 10p fixed charge for calls to the single non-emergency number. The charge will be retained by telecom providers to offset the substantial cost of carrying calls.

This fixed rate charge compares favourably with existing police and local authority non-emergency numbers many of which are charged at 0845 call rates which can cost as much as 10p per minute or more. Calls to 101 will be 10p per call regardless of length which means that callers are protected against additional cost if their call is longer and more complex.

The tariff will be reviewed once the service is in operation and has been evaluated with the aim of making it free to call the number in the future.

Open Prisons (Absconded Prisoners)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the level of absconds by prisoners from open prisons in England. [73501]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There were 702 absconds from open prisons in the financial year 2005-06. This represents the lowest figure for absconds in the last 10 years. However, the Prison Service recognises that this abscond rate needs to be reduced further and continues to drive forward work to meet this aim.

Parole Boards

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have appealed against parole board decisions in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many were granted legal aid to do so. [69735]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no right of appeal as such against a decision of the parole board. The only legal remedy available to a prisoner wishing to challenge such a decision is to apply to the courts for judicial review. The following table, taken from the parole board's annual report for 2004-05, gives a breakdown of the number of judicial reviews for each of the previous five years. The number of cases granted legal aid is not held centrally and to provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Judicial reviews of parole board decisions

	Number
2000-01	71
2001-02	52
2002-03	59
2003-04	56
2004-05	56

Passports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to offer pensioners a special rate for the purchase of *(a)* a new biometric passport and *(b)* an identity card; and what plans he has for arrangements for those already entitled to free passports. [71691]

Joan Ryan: There are no plans to discount biometric passports for pensioners. Those born prior to 2 September 1929 who are already entitled to free passports will continue to be eligible for free biometric passports.

The final schedule of fees for identity and passport service products after the introduction of identity cards is not yet settled and is partly dependent on the outcome of forthcoming procurement processes. However, due consideration will be given to current passport fee policies before the schedule is finalised and the Identity Cards Act provides that the first schedule of fees must be approved by Parliament through secondary legislation under the affirmative order procedure.

Persistent Offenders

Mr. Holloboone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persistent and prolific offenders have been identified by the Northamptonshire police force. [72935]

Mr. McNulty: The four prolific and other priority offenders schemes operating in the Northamptonshire police area covering Corby, Kettering, Daventry and Wellingborough are working intensively with 208 such offenders . Across the East Midlands region, a total of 1,296 prolific and other priority offenders are being targeted as part of the Government's national programme to tackle the small number of highly active offenders who cause a disproportionate amount of harm to the communities in which they live.

Police

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the sickness absence rate was in the Cambridgeshire constabulary in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [71393]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is provided in the table.

Police Officer Sickness Absence[1] in Cambridgeshire (2000-2005)

As at 31 March	Average number of working days lost per officer	Average number of working hours lost per officer
1997	11.1	—
1998	10.8	—
1999	11.9	—
2000	11.8	—
2001	13.3	—
2002	12.0	—
2003	11.4	—
2004	10.3	92.4
2005	—	98.3

[1] Prior to 2004, sickness data was recorded in days rather than hours. Figures from 1997-2003 were published in the Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary. Figures after this time are taken from the Police Performance Monitoring Reports published by the Home Office

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the total costs of the National Policing Improvement Agency in each year between 2005-06 and 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [71865]

Mr. McNulty: The NPIA will be established on 1 April 2007. The budget for financial year 2007-08 and thereafter has not been finalised.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* objective is of the National Policing Improvement Agency; what its manpower requirement will be; and if he will make a statement. [71866]

Mr. McNulty: The purpose and objective of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is to deliver a step change in the provision of services to support operational policing and drive further improvements in the service, particularly in front-line delivery to the public. The NPIA will be police-owned and led. The exact staffing levels of the Agency have yet to be determined.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations there were in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* Cornwall in (i) 2006, (ii) 2002 and (iii) 1995. [72780]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were on attachment to overseas police forces in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [72358]

Mr. McNulty: The maximum number of UK police officers who may be deployed to international peace support operations at any one time is 475. On average, around 170 officers from forces in England and Wales are deployed in this capacity each year.

In the years 2001 to 2005, the Home Office issued the following numbers of authorisations under section 26 of the Police Act 1996 to police officers from forces in England and Wales in respect of travel overseas to provide assistance to an international organisation or other body engaged outside the UK in policing activities:

	Number
2001	262
2002	250
2003	354
2004	840
2005	1,730

The majority of these authorisations were in respect of short-term assistance, including in the areas of counter-terrorism, serious and organised crime and disaster relief, such as the extensive help provided in 2004-05 in the aftermath of the tsunami.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons are employed *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time in working for Police Direct; what his policy is on the expansion of Police Direct; and if he will make a statement. [70899]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 May 2006]*: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of how one super force for the entire Eastern region would affect *(a)* the number of full-time police officers deployed in the area served by the Norfolk constabulary, *(b)* the level of service offered to the public and *(c)* the rates of crime. [38866]

Mr. McNulty: An assessment of the single Eastern regional option was not undertaken. Both the Home Office and forces and authorities in this region agreed that there were other more viable options on which resources needed to be focused.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the precepting arrangements will be for the new proposed Yorkshire police force; and whether the current arrangements requiring majority support among elected members of the police authority before a precept increase can be agreed will remain in place. [65792]

John Reid: I think the strategic direction that has already been set out is the right one. I have not yet had time to consider these matters in the considerable detail that would be wished, but will be turning my mind to how we can achieve this direction in the not too distant future.

Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of the preparation and production of the performance testing bid at HMP Wandsworth. [74005]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The additional cost of the performance test at Wandsworth prison was £200,000. This does not include the cost of any support for the process found from within existing resources.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he is taking to reduce the incidence of prisons breaching Rule 39 correspondence conditions; what estimate he has made of the number of breaches at each establishment in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [66560]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are clear procedures in place for the handling of correspondence to which prison rule 39 applies. No estimate has been made of the number of breaches of these procedures but we have no information to suggest this is a significant problem.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list those Private Members' Bills in respect of which his Department adopted a policy of neutrality in each session since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [72098]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Probation Service

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* active and *(b)* inactive operational vacancies there were for each probation area in England and Wales at the end of each of the past five financial years. [48448]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is not available for the full period requested. Data on active vacancies has only been collected since 1 April 2004.

The figures presented show active vacancies, in terms of full-time equivalent value, at the close of each quarter from 1 April 2004 to 30 September 2005. An active vacancy is one which a probation area is actively trying to fill through a recruitment process. The table also shows active vacancies as a percentage, shown in brackets, of total available posts. This shows the proportion of vacancies being carried by each area relative to the size of the work force in that area.

The National Probation Service is unable to provide figures on the number of inactive vacancies. This is because not all probation areas operate a set establishment against which inactive vacancies can be measured.

	2004-05					
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3	
	Figure	Percentage	Figure	Percentage	Figure	Percentage
Avon and Somerset	56.40	10.50	34.10	6.74	73.00	12.88
Bedfordshire	8.67	4.40	10.31	5.53	11.00	5.70
Cambridgeshire	13.49	5.78	15.29	6.59	19.47	8.03
Cheshire	29.50	8.02	20.80	5.60	0.00	0.00
Cumbria	9.00	5.32	12.86	7.21	14.35	7.71
Derbyshire	0.00	0.00	10.80	2.95	12.80	3.57
Devon and Cornwall	19.90	4.32	26.30	5.80	18.80	4.03
Dorset	16.70	7.65	23.57	10.51	15.30	6.73
Durham	8.00	2.95	4.00	1.45	1.00	0.34
Dyfed Powys	6.80	4.71	11.70	7.50	4.20	2.76
Essex	19.60	4.51	4.00	0.97	2.00	0.46
Gloucestershire	1.52	0.90	2.66	1.52	3.88	2.14
Gwent	9.00	3.77	4.00	1.67	7.50	3.09
Hampshire	8.73	1.70	18.25	3.55	12.50	2.35
Hertfordshire	16.90	7.36	16.10	6.78	16.10	6.81
Humberside	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kent	26.53	5.54	33.50	6.97	30.95	6.34
Lancashire	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Leicestershire	19.80	4.29	13.70	2.99	16.70	3.64
Lincolnshire	24.10	9.58	7.10	3.12	10.80	4.52
Merseyside	1.00	0.13	1.00	0.13	1.00	0.13
Norfolk	0.00	0.00	26.60	10.16	16.38	6.43
North Yorkshire	15.20	6.20	12.90	5.48	0.00	0.00
North Wales	14.10	5.77	15.00	5.99	13.00	5.19
Northamptonshire	21.00	8.78	15.00	6.67	20.54	8.84
Northumbria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nottinghamshire	12.80	2.57	12.80	2.65	12.80	2.54
South Wales	105.80	17.35	66.25	10.88	24.00	4.10
South Yorkshire	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Staffordshire	18.90	4.51	41.10	9.48	23.51	5.36
Suffolk	10.36	5.03	12.01	5.77	12.20	5.55
Surrey	45.50	16.49	40.70	14.59	28.20	10.32
Sussex	27.10	7.20	40.40	10.84	20.50	5.34
Teeside	4.00	1.30	6.40	2.06	8.80	2.74
Thames Valley	44.90	6.99	66.10	10.10	49.80	7.54
Warwickshire	8.70	5.10	6.60	4.01	9.90	5.73
West Mercia	26.93	7.04	15.73	4.11	11.90	3.09
West Yorkshire	78.30	7.20	87.10	7.92	66.30	5.93
Wiltshire	14.50	9.30	14.50	9.41	11.30	7.05
NPS total	743.73	3.75	749.23	3.78	600.48	2.98

	2004-05		2005-06			
	Quarter 4		Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Figure	Percentage	Figure	Percentage	Figure	percentage
Avon and Somerset	67.70	11.72	67.90	11.71	77.60	12.96
Bedfordshire	15.20	7.30	17.20	8.34	0.00	0.00
Cambridgeshire	18.32	7.61	22.80	9.20	14.10	5.65
Cheshire	5.60	1.55	21.00	5.53	48.90	10.70
Cumbria	6.45	3.55	5.50	2.95	19.30	9.73
Derbyshire	9.20	2.52	8.80	2.38	0.00	0.00
Devon and Cornwall	15.30	3.21	11.30	2.35	31.40	6.34
Dorset	9.30	4.12	20.60	8.91	17.40	7.37

	2004-05 Quarter 4		2005-06 Quarter 1		2005-06 Quarter 2	
	Figure	Percentage	Figure	Percentage	Figure	percentage
Durham	4.04	1.32	19.80	6.27	27.70	8.67
Dyfed Powys	6.30	4.09	4.60	2.97	3.50	2.15
Essex	6.80	1.49	7.00	1.52	7.00	1.50
Gloucestershire	7.88	4.33	10.09	5.40	14.31	7.50
Gwent	11 .90	5.00	8.00	3.49	2.30	0.98
Hampshire	14.50	2.65	26.00	4.49	0.00	0.00
Hertfordshire	16.10	6.90	20.60	8.84	12.40	5.48
Humberside	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kent	25.08	5.10	26.96	5.55	29.31	6.09
Lancashire	22.60	3.67	28.50	4.71	21.50	3.56
Leicestershire	20.80	4.50	30.60	6.24	20.30	4.23
Lincolnshire	4.00	1.70	8.00	3.46	5.00	2.17
Merseyside	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Norfolk	13.25	4.88	5.00	1.83	11.00	3.84
North Yorkshire	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
North Wales	5.20	2.11	7.50	2.96	7.60	2.99
Northamptonshire	6.00	2.65	19.60	8.19	28.10	11.74
Northumbria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nottinghamshire	12.80	2.42	12.80	2.35	12.80	2.32
South Wales	23.50	3.97	40.50	6.58	26.00	4.13
South Yorkshire	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Staffordshire	20.40	4.61	12.50	2.92	12.20	2.82
Suffolk	11.00	4.99	12.10	5.37	29.38	12.06
Surrey	18.50	6.82	27.20	9.48	23.90	8.38
Sussex	20.00	5.11	17.00	4.39	3.00	0.79
Teeside	9.80	3.00	30.80	8.32	52.60	13.59
Thames Valley	52.40	7.78	59.20	8.84	55.30	8.38
Warwickshire	4.50	2.59	5.80	3.38	4.00	2.29
West Mercia	8.51	2.21	13.60	3.51	21.66	5.52
West Yorkshire	52.18	4.83	50.50	4.61	97.78	8.75
Wiltshire	10.60	6.74	9.60	6.29	21.70	13.09
NPS total	555.71	2.74	688.95	3.35	759.04	3.64

Notes:
1. London figures are not included because the area is currently undertaking a recruitment exercise to achieve a 10 per cent. increase in staffing levels this year. The London probation area has only been able to provide active vacancy information from quarter 1 2005-06.
2. The Greater Manchester and West Midlands probation areas have also been omitted as they are not able to provide active vacancy figures at present.

Racially Motivated Attacks

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many racially motivated murders took place in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* London in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available. [71181]

Mr. Byrne: The available information relates to 2002-03 and 2003-04. Data extracted from the homicide index are given in the following table:

Homicides[1] with a known racial motivation, recorded by police in England and Wales in 2002-03 and 2003-04[2]

Month	England and Wales	Metropolitan Police
2002-03		
April	—	—
May	—	—
June	—	—
July	—	—
August	1	1
September	—	—
October	—	—
November	1	1
December	2	1
January	—	—
February	2	2
March	1	—
2003-04		
April	2	—
May	—	—
June	3	2
July	—	—
August	—	—
September	1	—
October	—	—
November	—	—
December	1	1

Homicides[1] with a known racial motivation, recorded by police in England and Wales in 2002-03 and 2003-04[2]

Month	England and Wales	Metropolitan Police
January	—	—
February	1	—
March	—	—

[1] Includes murder, manslaughter and infanticide.
[2] As at 22 October 2004. Homicide offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Right-to-Work Permits

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to other Government Departments and agencies on the need to verify the right-to-work permits of non-UK citizens undertaking *(a)* contracted and *(b)* sub-contracted work. [73624]

Mr. Byrne: Section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 is the primary measure for combating illegal working. It provides employers with a statutory defence from conviction if they check and record certain specified documents belonging to potential employees. To support employers in meeting their responsibilities under section 8, IND produced short (summary) guidance which was distributed widely among other Government Departments and agencies. If further guidance on this legislation is required, the booklet refers the reader to the immigration and nationality directorate website where comprehensive guidance is available, and there is also a reference to the Employers' Helpline which offers a dedicated service for employers by advising on the legislation on preventing illegal migrant working. The Employers' Helpline also disseminates hard copies of the comprehensive guidance on request. The comprehensive guidance makes clear that this legislation covers contracted and sub-contracted employment.

Secure Training Centres

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions oxygen was used on *(a)* staff and *(b)* trainees following incidents involving the use of restraint in (i) Hassockfield, (ii) Medway, (iii) Oakhill and (iv) Rainsbrook secure training centres between (A) January and June 2005, (B) July and December 2005 and (C) January and May 2006. [72305]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Oxygen was administered to trainees at Rainsbrook following a restraint incident twice during the first six months of 2005 and twice during the last six months. On each occasion the trainee had been hyperventilating or appeared to be feeling faint. None of the trainees had lost consciousness. In each case, oxygen was administered as a precaution and no other treatment was required.

These were the only occasions during the specified periods on which oxygen was used at any of the secure training centres in connection with a restraint incident.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times restraint was used in *(a)* Hassockfield, *(b)* Medway, *(c)* Oakhill and *(d)* Rainsbrook secure training centres between (i) January and June 2005, (ii) July and December 2005 and (iii) January and May 2006. [72306]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested—apart from the figures for May 2006, which are not yet available—is given in the following table. It includes all occasions on which any form of physical intervention was necessary, including low-level interventions such as a young person being led away from a potential incident.

Use of physical intervention in secure training centres

	January to June 2005	July to December 2005	January to April 2006
Hassockfield	410	591	310
Medway	1,010	636	291
Oakhill	474	595	265
Rainsbrook	293	282	123

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions *(a)* staff and *(b)* trainees lost consciousness during incidents involving the use of restraint in (i) Hassockfield, (ii) Medway, (iii) Oakhill and (iv) Rainsbrook secure training centres between (A) January and June 2005, (B) July and December 2005 and (C) January and May 2006. [72321]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No trainees or staff lost consciousness in the course of restraint at any of the secure training centres during the specified periods.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions *(a)* staff and *(b)* trainees were injured during incidents involving the use of restraint in (i) Hassockfield, (ii) Medway, (iii) Oakhill and (iv) Rainsbrook secure training centres between (A) January and June 2005, (B) July and December 2005 and (C) January and May 2006. [72322]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is given in the following table, apart from the figures for May 2006, which are not yet available. The table shows all injuries that required treatment by a medical practitioner.

Injuries to staff and trainees resulting from restraint incidents in secure training centres

	January to June 2005		July to December 2005		January to April 2006	
	Staff	Trainees	Staff	Trainees	Staff	Trainees
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	1	0	2	0	0	0
Oakhill	0	0	3	0	1	0
Rainsbrook	0	1	5	1	0	0

Serious and Organised Crime Agency

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of posts in the Serious and Organised Crime Agency are unfilled. [71551]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 May 2006]*: The Serious Organised Crime Agency was established on 1 April 2006 with a staff of around 4,300, the vast majority of whom came from the precursor agencies. SOCA has identified shortages in some specific skills which it is now seeking to fill through external recruitment and internal promotion and staff moves.

Terrorism

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many terrorist suspects have been detained by the police at UK airports since July 2005. [66869]

Mr. McNulty: Information in the precise form requested is not held centrally. Records of arrests and charges generally under the Terrorism Act 2000 are available on the Home Office website (http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/terrorism-act/) for the period September 2001 to September 2005.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the consultation period on the Draft Code of Practice for the detention, treatment and questioning of persons under section 41 and schedule 8 to the Terrorism Act 2000 lasts from 2 May to 25 May; and what account was taken of the Cabinet Office Code on consultation criteria when the consultation period was set. [72394]

Mr. McNulty: The Government undertook to produce a Code of Practice before bringing into force the provisions of the Terrorism Act 2006 which relate to extended detention. These provisions were discussed extensively during the passage of the Act, and given the urgent need to have these powers in place as soon as possible, I hope my hon. Friend will understand why the period of consultation agreed by the Government and the main opposition parties is shorter than usual.

The Code of Practice is also based largely on the revised Code of Practice for the detention, treatment and questioning of persons by police officers (Code C), issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, which was subject to extensive consultation before being issued on 1 January 2006.

The Consultation Paper issued with the Draft Code of Practice stated clearly that this consultation process was not being carried out within the usual Cabinet Office guidelines.

Violent Crime

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which crimes are recorded under the general heading of violent crime in his Department's statistics. [71702]

Mr. McNulty: Violent crime comprises the offence groups of violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery. The individual offences in each group are shown in Appendix two of "Crime in England and Wales 2004-05", and are available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1105append.pdf

Work Permits

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received about work permits from *(a)* farmers and *(b)* the National Farmers Union. [69739]

Mr. Byrne: Since the beginning of 2006 my predecessor, my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, East (Mr. McNulty), has received four representations from farmers and growers in the UK regarding the future of the seasonal agricultural workers scheme (SAWS) and a comprehensive reply from the National Farmers Union (NFU) in response to the consultation document "Selective Migration: Making Migration Work for Britain". There is also close contact with the NFU through the Illegal Working Stakeholder Group.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Capita Group

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have held with directors and senior executives of (i) Capita Group plc. an (ii) its subsidiaries since 1 January 2004; and whether (A) Capita Group plc. and (B) its subsidiaries have provided input (1) in writing and (2) in person to policy discussions in his Department since 1 January 2004. [61082]

Bill Rammell: This question could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) when she will answer the letter to her dated 8 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Dr. D. Ziegeler; [67491]

(2) when he will answer the letter to his predecessor dated 8 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Dr. D. Ziegeler; [72165]

(3) when he will answer the letter to his predecessor dated 8 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Dr. D. Ziegeler. [72668]

Alan Johnson: I responded to my right hon. Friend's letters on 23 May.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he will reply to the letter to his predecessor dated 20 March 2006 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Debbie Burton. [73849]

Jim Knight: I responded to my right hon. Friend's letter of 20 March, and his subsequent letter of 20 April, on 22 May.

Departmental Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from his Department in each of the last five years. [71797]

Alan Johnson: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The payments system used by the Department for Education and Skills does not currently hold sufficient detail about the nature of its suppliers to be able to easily and accurately collect this information.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he will answer the letter to his predecessor dated 4 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mrs. J. Watson. [72167]

Alan Johnson: I responded to my right hon. Friend's letter on 22 May.

Education and Inspections Bill

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the level of administration required to implement the provisions of the Education and Inspections Bill. [73781]

Jim Knight: The Education and Inspections Bill is generally deregulatory in nature, providing a legislative framework to establish a new relationship between government, local authorities and schools. However, there are additional costs for some elements of the Bill. These are set out in the Bill's Regulatory Impact Assessment which is available on the Department's website at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/educationandinspectionsbill.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received from hon. Members representing Scottish constituencies on the Education and Inspections Bill. [73910]

Jim Knight: We have received three representations on the Education and Inspections Bill from MPs representing Scottish constituencies. These have raised a number of issues, including:

The faith character of trust schools;

Whether the Bill has implications for the Barnett formula; and

A request for a response to the National Union of Teachers' leaflet about the Bill.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what system of inspections he will put in place to ensure the maintenance of nutritional standards in schools following introduction of the measures proposed in the Education and Inspections Bill; [73912]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the likely costs of the nutritional school meals proposed in the Education and Inspections Bill; and what assessment he has made of the impact of the proposals for the costs of school meals to *(a)* schools, *(b)* local education authorities and *(c)* parents. [73913]

Jim Knight: The responsibility for ensuring that the nutritional standards are being met will rest with either the local authority or the school governing body, depending on the model of provision. Ofsted are already inspecting schools' general approach to healthy eating as part of the new inspection framework for schools. They have also already carried out, alongside nutritionists, a pilot thematic study in three local authorities, looking at the standard of food provided in a sample of schools. A further larger-scale thematic study is planned for next year.

We have published a full Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) which considers the financial impact that the new nutritional standards will have. In compiling the RIA, account was taken of the report written for the School Meals Review Panel (SMRP) by PricewaterhouseCoopers on the costs of implementing the Caroline Walker Trust's recommendations, which are closely mirrored by the recommendations of the SMRP.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the likely costs of the free transport provisions of the Education and Inspections Bill. [73914]

Jim Knight: The Education and Inspections Bill includes provisions that place a general duty on local authorities to promote sustainable school travel and extend the entitlement to free home to school transport for low income families. It will also enable a small number of local authorities to run Pathfinder schemes which will include innovative arrangements supporting school choice; and increase the proportion of pupils travelling by sustainable means.

In 2004/05 local authorities in England spent £772 million on free and assisted home to school transport. This will be supplemented by £4 million per annum to fund the new general duty to promote sustainable travel; £40 million per annum to extend the entitlement to free transport to low income families, and £12 million per annum to support Pathfinder schemes.

Energy Conservation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what advice and assistance is

available to schools to enable them to reduce their energy bills and use. [73306]

Jim Knight: There is extensive guidance available for schools to improve their energy efficiency on the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) webpages[1] including the Department's Energy and Water Management Guide. The DfES launched a consultation on its framework for sustainable schools on 15 May. The framework promotes eight doorways to sustainability for schools, one of which is energy and water. The framework promotes a whole school approach to water and energy management in schools. A comprehensive website which will go live on 9 June this year combining management tools with curriculum resources for all of the eight sustainability themes[2]. The Energy Certification Scheme for Schools[3] and the Carbon Trusts programmes[4] also provide advice and assistance to schools.

[1] www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sd/focuson/energy/energymanagement/

[2] www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools

[3] www.est.org.uk/schools

[4] www.carbontrust.co.uk/energy

Field Courses

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what representations his Department has received regarding the effects of educational field courses on the academic performance of pupils; [73455]

(2) when the Education Outside the Classroom Manifesto is expected to be published; and what resources will be made available for schools to implement the aims of the manifesto; [73456]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to encourage teachers to take up fieldwork courses offered by science learning centres. [73457]

Jim Knight: The Department works closely with organisations such as the Field Studies Council (FSC), National Association of Field Study Officers (NAFSO), Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), Geographical Association and Association for Science Education on field work in schools including its contribution to improving academic performance. As part of the emerging Education Outside the Classroom Manifesto, a group of leading organisations from the fieldwork sector (including those listed above) submitted a report to the Department on the benefits of fieldwork and recommendations to promote and support field studies in schools.

We aim to launch the Education Outside the Classroom Manifesto before the end of the summer term when DfES will announce its pledges.

Science Learning Centres, a £51 million joint initiative by the Department and the Wellcome Trust, provide high quality professional development for science teachers.

To help encourage teachers to attend Science Learning Centres courses, the Department have provided funding to help subsidise the costs of the courses for the first two years of operation.

Learning and Skills Councils

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the costs were of *(a)* closing training and enterprise councils, *(b)* the creation of learning and skills councils and *(c)* the merging of learning and skills councils. [70499]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council was established in 2001 to replace the 72 Training and Enterprise Councils and the Further Education Funding Council. It was estimated that this would result in savings of some £50 million per annum. These savings have been realised and a significant proportion has been reinvested in better training in local areas.

Building on this, the Learning and Skills Council is currently undertaking a second major restructuring exercise which will further streamline the organisation and strengthen its capacity to work strategically with partners at local and regional level. This will involve the merger of some local offices, and the LSC estimates that, once completed, the restructuring will release up to £40 million per annum nationally.

The national costs incurred to date in *(a)* closing the Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) and *(b)* creating the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) are £83 million. TECs, which were independent local companies, will also have incurred some local costs connected with the ending of the TEC network, but we do not have details of the amounts involved. Although the majority of TECs have now been formally wound up, there will be some additional costs involved in winding up those remaining. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs associated with *(a)* and *(b)*.

Online Learning

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what plans he has to extend access to personal online learning space as outlined in the Schools White Paper to the further and higher education sectors; [72803]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure all schoolchildren have access to a personal online learning space by 2008 as outlined in the Schools White Paper. [72804]

Phil Hope: The Department is working closely with Becta, JISC and other stakeholders to establish the extent to which the approach to providing access to a personal online learning space in schools can be shared with further and higher education, and what can be learned from these sectors' experience with learning platforms by schools.

DfES will provide funding to local authorities in 2006-07 and 2007-08 to provide access to a personalised online learning space (through a learning platform) for all their schools by 2008. Our expectation is that local authorities will use the expertise of Regional Broadband Consortia to make best use of the funding (for example, through aggregated procurement) and to make sure that

schools' needs are met effectively. Guidance has been made available to local authorities and schools to allow them to plan and meet their requirements in time to meet the 2008 personal online space target. Becta is procuring a national framework (with preferred suppliers), which will help purchasers to select appropriate learning platforms. This framework will be available to all educational institutions from January 2007.

Private Finance Initiative

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many complaints his Department has received about the operation of private finance initiative contracts in schools over the last 12 months. [73487]

Jim Knight: I do not have a tally of the number of complaints which the Department has received about private finance initiative contracts, but I will write shortly to the hon. Lady with this information. We have been working consistently to improve the delivery of operational private finance initiative contracts in response to problems that have been brought to our attention. We have, for instance, provided additional support directly and through Partnerships UK for those schools and authorities which had contracts with Jarvis plc., and where there were undoubtedly exceptional problems because of the financial difficulties of that firm.

Ensuring satisfactory delivery of the services included in a private finance initiative contract is the responsibility of the authority which is signatory to the contract. However, the Department is always happy to advise and support where there are individual problems that cannot be resolved locally. It also continues to work with Her Majesty's Treasury and with other Departments to improve the delivery of public services through private finance initiatives. This is done by a process of continuous improvement of the contracts, and also by providing additional support through the recently formed Operational Task Force. This will support and intervene on wider structural issues like benchmarking, market testing, payment mechanisms and variations.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether his Department has undertaken a study to evaluate the amount of *(a)* time and *(b)* money spent by schools and local education authorities on the administration of private finance initiative contracts. [73488]

Jim Knight: The Department published last autumn a study on "Post-Signature PFI Contracts", commissioned from Partnerships UK, which is available through:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolsprivatefinanceinitiative

This shows that overall the schools and authorities surveyed are satisfied with the services which are delivered through their private finance initiative contracts. However, it also reports some areas for improvement, and makes a series of recommendations which the Department accepts and is acting upon.

One area for improvement is the high level of resources some schools and authorities have to devote to maintaining their contracts. In March, Her Majesty's Treasury published "PFI: Strengthening Long-term Partnerships", which supported our own findings. Among its recommendations are that authorities should plan to give a proper level of resources to operational contacts. It also announced the formation of a PFI Operational Taskforce with cross-government backing, including from the Department, to provide greater support to projects that are already operational.

The Department will continue to work with Her Majesty's Treasury and with authorities and schools, directly and through Partnerships UK, to support them and ensure that schools benefit as intended from their private finance initiative contracts.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether his Department has undertaken a study to assess the compliance of private finance initiative contractors with the terms of their contracts. [73489]

Jim Knight: All private finance initiative contracts include mechanisms for ensuring that the private sector partner delivers the services which are contracted, with financial penalties imposed where this does not happen. Contracts are made between individual authorities and the private sector partners, and the Department does not monitor them.

In autumn 2004, the Department published a "Post-signature Review" of schools private finance initiative projects which it had commissioned from Partnerships UK. This showed that overall there was satisfaction with the quality of buildings and services delivered by the operational contracts at the schools and authorities surveyed, but it also highlighted some areas where improvement could be made, and made a series of recommendations which the Department accepted and has acted on. Many of the lessons which this survey highlighted had already been included in more recent contracts. This survey is available through: www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolsprivatefinanceinitiative

These findings were also borne out in a further study which Her Majesty's Treasury published at the time of this year's Budget, "PR: Strengthening the Long-term Partnerships". This paper included setting up an Operational Task Force to support and intervene where there are major issues.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the quality of the buildings being constructed under a private finance initiative contract at Cumberland School in the London borough of Newham. [73490]

Jim Knight: Private finance initiative contracts are made between local authorities and the private sector partner, following a due procurement procedure which includes consideration of design and value for money. Design details are decided locally, and the local authority has responsibility for ensuring that the private sector partner delivers to the output specified in the contract. The private sector partner has of course the responsibility for fully maintaining and repairing the building throughout the length of the contract.

Contracts include mechanisms for financial penalty where the private sector partner does not deliver to contract.

We work closely with the Commissioners for Architecture and the Built Environment and other bodies with design interests. We have recently published Design Quality Indicators for school buildings, after consultation with relevant bodies. We strongly encourage all local authorities to use these resources.

Recycling

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* grants are available for and *(b)* assistance is offered by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies to schools and colleges for the promotion of education about recycling. [73860]

Jim Knight: On 15 May the Department launched a consultation for a framework of action for schools to become models of sustainable development in their communities. One of the key areas covered is developing sustainable policies on purchasing and waste by increasing recycling and conservation. The consultation will run until 1 September. By 2020, our aim is for all schools to be models of resource efficiency, recycling, repairing and reusing as much as possible.

Our sustainable schools website being launched on 9 June will include a section on grants available to promote sustainable development projects in schools. The site identifies approaches to the challenge of sustainability, award schemes, learning resources, training opportunities, research and local support.

School Meals

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the benefits of using omega 3 and 6 fish oil supplements in school meals. [73659]

Jim Knight: The Food Standards Agency comments as follows:

"The Food Standards Agency is currently conducting a systematic review of research looking at the effect of nutrition and diet on performance and behaviour of children in schools. This includes investigating studies that have used omega 3 and 6 fish oil supplements in schools.

Government is committed to ensure that children are provided with the food and nutrients they require during the school day and as such has recently published minimum standards for school food."

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support he provides to councils who wish to introduce initiatives to improve the health benefits of school meals. [73660]

Jim Knight: The School Food Trust will work with local authorities, and others, to understand and where possible overcome the barriers to transforming school food, and to develop a strategy to increase the demand for healthier food in schools. The School Food Trust will produce guidance for local authorities and schools. This will supplement the 'Food in Schools Toolkit' which includes materials and guidance on, for example, tuck shops, before/after school clubs, water provision and the dining room environment.

In addition DfES has:

published guidance on procuring healthy school meals and other school food;

established a School Food Reference Group, which consists mainly of local authority officials from across the country who are involved in school meals, to help identify issues and problems and share good practice;

compiled and made available a number of case studies to give examples of how particular schools and local authorities have implemented healthy eating initiatives;

put in place a Level 1 Vocationally Related Qualification which aims to give school cooks and caterers the basic knowledge and skills to deliver a healthier meals service. We are also developing qualifications at Levels 2 and 3 in cooking skills which will be available from September 2006 and form part of the Training and Development Agency's Support Worker in Schools qualification.

Schools (Pre-1970 Construction)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which schools in *(a)* Southend on Sea, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* the Metropolitan Police area of London were built before 1970; and when. [71961]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Student Loans

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total value is of payments made by people repaying student loans but not allocated to student loan accounts in each year since 2002; what the total amount outstanding is; and if he will make a statement. [71098]

Bill Rammell: Student loans are collected by employers alongside income tax and national insurance contributions and passed to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. At the end of each financial year, HMRC reconciles the loan repayments and passes the information to the Student Loans Company which updates borrowers' accounts. In a small number of cases, HMRC needs to check the returns made by employers, and this can lead to delay in sending statements to borrowers.

There are no outstanding reconciliations relating to 2002-03 or earlier years; some 1,500 accounts (0.4 per cent. of the total) have still to be reconciled from 2003-04 with a value of about £400,000. HMRC expects to have reconciled nearly all of the 2004-05 returns by the end of June 2006.

The total amount of student loans outstanding at the end of financial year 2004-05 under the income contingent repayment scheme was £14,147 million. This includes loans not yet due for repayment: borrowers are not required to repay until they are earning £15,000 or more per annum[1].

[1] This figure also includes hardship loans and loans made to part-time students but does not include amounts lent under the old mortgage style loans system.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Coroners

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list coroners in England; what the date of appointment of each was; and how many inquests each has performed. [65228]

Ms Harman: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Court Orders (Repossessions)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in Coventry, South in each of the last five years. [70330]

Ms Harman: Although figures for Coventry, South constituency are not available, the following table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made at Coventry county court in the last five years. This is the only such court in the Coventry area.

The civil procedure rules provide that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, Coventry county court covers areas other than Coventry, South and therefore not all possession actions entered in that court necessarily relate to the Coventry, South area.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made at Coventry county court, 2001-05

	Possession orders made[2]
2001	147
2002	132
2003	137
2004	153
2005	242

[1] Local authority and private

[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what incentives her Department offers to encourage staff to share vehicles when travelling to work. [73006]

Vera Baird: Vehicle sharing is one of a number of green transport initiatives the DCA promotes, often within a site specific travel plan. The DCA researches and disseminates publications to its staff such as "Making car sharing and car clubs work" and "Making Smarter Choices Work" and encourages the promotion of travel planning and inclusion of car sharing and car club schemes. Other measures supporting sustainable travel include secure cycle parking and showers and events to promote walking and cycling etc. Interest free loans for bicycles are also available to staff to encourage more sustainable travel.

DCA is also a member of a Civil Service Travel Group, which comprises all major Government Departments. Its key aim is to improve travel sustainability across the entire civil service by developing and delivering on action plans for each Department.

Divorce

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many divorces there have been in Coventry, South in each ethnic group in each year since 2000. [71752]

Ms Harman: The divorce information requested is not collected centrally by constituency area. In addition, the ethnicity of the parties is not collected at all. Therefore it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Elections

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps the Government took to tackle electoral fraud in the local elections. [70080]

Bridget Prentice: The Government take the issue of electoral fraud seriously, and prior to the elections worked with administrators, the Electoral Commission, the police, and the political parties on improving both the legislation and practical awareness and responsiveness to the issue on the ground.

Regulations were passed prior to the May 2006 local elections which contained measures to tackle fraud, including:

A requirement for Electoral administrators to write to everyone who has applied for a postal vote acknowledging receipt of their application and confirming the outcome—thus alerting people to false applications for postal votes on their behalf.

Giving administrators more time to check postal vote applications—people now have to apply for a postal vote 11 working days before the close of poll, (rather than six days as previously).

In addition, the Electoral Commission and the Association of Chief Police Officers produced practical guidance for police forces on the prevention and detection of electoral fraud, and the Commission produced a Code of Conduct on the handling of postal vote applications and ballots, which the major political parties signed up to.

Freedom of Information Requests

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been referred to the Access to Information Central Clearing House since 1 January 2005, broken down by Department; and what percentage of requests received by each Department this represents. [71949]

Ms Harman: This information is contained in the 'First Annual Report on the operation of the Freedom of Information Act in Central Government in 2005' which was published on 22 May and can be found at www.foi.gov.uk.

Ministerial Travel (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discounts are available in relation to hotel accommodation used by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in her Department. [69027]

Vera Baird: My Department has access to a contract for hotel booking services in connection with official travel undertaken by the Department's staff. Figures available for the year ending December 2005 show a saving to my Department of 38 per cent. compared with the full room rates. My Department also benefits from a rebate of 3 per cent. of the annual expenditure on the contract.

All bookings made by the Department for Special Advisors share the same discounts.

Post-mortems

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what factors decide who should carry out a post-mortem. [65537]

Ms Harman: Any decision will rest with the coroner, who may be expected to take into account the availability and experience of pathologists, as well as the views of others. Rule 6 of the Coroners Rules 1984 sets out the criteria.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list those Private Members' Bills in respect of which her Department adopted a policy of neutrality in each session since 2001-02; and if she will make a statement. [72109]

Vera Baird: My Department adopted a neutral stance on the Human Rights Act 1998 (Making of Remedial Orders) Amendment Bill from the 2003-04 session. The Bill completed all stages in the House of Lords but was dropped before second reading in the House of Commons.

Private Sector Fund Recipients

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from her Department in each of the last five years. [71806]

Vera Baird: The 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from my Department in the financial year 2005-06 were as follows:

Electronic Data Systems Ltd

Fujitsu Services

Liberata UK Ltd

Accenture UK Ltd

National Westminster Bank Ltd — (as Government Procurement Card provider)

Gartside Ltd

Land Securities Properties Ltd

Kelly Services (UK) Ltd

Initial Security Ltd

The Techologies Group

This analysis excludes payments made by the Department's executive non-departmental public bodies, for example, the Legal Services Commission.

Information for 2001-05 would require the commissioning of a special report which could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Unspent Budget

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much of the budget for her Department remained unspent in the 2005-06 financial year. [70510]

Vera Baird: The Department's underspend against its DEL budget will be included in the Provisional Outturn White Paper, which is due to be published before the summer recess in July.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

China

Mr. Hands: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what steps he has taken through the China Task Force to promote human rights and non-violent responses to demonstrators in China; [72270]

(2) what representations he has made to his Chinese counterparts in the China Task Force on promoting women's rights in the People's Republic of China. [72274]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government regularly raises human rights concerns with Chinese interlocutors, through ministerial engagement, the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue and EU mechanisms.

The China Task Force makes recommendations to the Government on its policy towards China in seven key areas: trade and investment, education, science and technology, health, culture, environment and sustainable development, and development issues. Its remit does not cover human rights issues.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what work the China Task Force has undertaken to combat climate change. [72271]

The Deputy Prime Minister: During the 2004 UK-China summit, the China Task Force proposed the creation of a UK-China Working Group on climate change, focusing on four key areas: the review and development of ongoing climate science collaboration between the UK and China, energy efficiency, the restructuring of the energy market towards a low carbon future, and adaptation mechanisms.

Sustainable development is also an important part of the China Task Force's remit. The Task Force instigated the UK-China High-level Dialogue on Sustainable Development during President Hu's State Visit in November 2005. This Dialogue provides a framework for further work with China on Sustainable Development issues affecting climate change, including Sustainable consumption and production and energy for Sustainable development.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he last met Tang Jiaxuan to discuss the work of the China Task Force. [72272]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I last met State Councillor Tang on 21 February this year in Beijing, and had extensive talks on a number of Task Force areas, and discussions on how we can best take forward Task Force recommendations.

I will be contacting Councillor Tang over the summer on how best to take forward the priorities of the China Task Force in the UK, and the UK Task Force in China.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had through the China Task Force on combating avian influenza in *(a)* China and *(b)* the UK. [72273]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The remit of the China Task Force was expanded in October 2005 to include Health. The China Task Force discussed epidemics in China at its October meeting last year. In February this year I visited Ditan Hospital, a leading infectious disease hospital in Beijing. I was accompanied by Chinese Health Minister Gao Qiang and discussed preparations China is making to handle the possible emergence of a pandemic influenza strain.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the work of the China Task Force. [72275]

The Deputy Prime Minister: At the request of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, the China Task Force was created in 2003 and I was asked to be its chair.

The Task Force has developed into a high level contact mechanism, which is recognised and valued by the Chinese Government. It has contributed fresh thinking on Government policy on China in the areas under its remit, and made recommendations on the further development of those policies. The Task Force has added value to a number of key issues, including an agreement to annual Prime Minister level UK-China summits, the signature of a Sustainable Development Dialogue, and support of strategic progress in key trade and investment sectors.

At the end of 2005 UK exports to China grew by 16 per cent., which was faster than all our EU competitors except France.

Ministerial Meetings

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what meetings he attended in *(a)* Shanghai relating to the 2010 International Expo and *(b)* Beijing relating to the 2008 Olympics; and what the outcome of the meetings was. [73559]

The Deputy Prime Minister: During my visit to China this February, I had a meeting in Beijing with Liu Qi, President of the Beijing Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and visited part of the Olympic site. We discussed work under way to establish a "sustainability bridge" linking London and Beijing's Olympic games. This will involve an exchange of expertise and good practice on how we are respectively approaching the sustainable development dimensions of the Games, complementing other ongoing initiatives.

In Shanghai, I held a meeting with Mayor Man at which we discussed EXPO 2010. We discussed the possible use of United Kingdom expertise in developing the project.

Ministerial Travel

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on his findings in relation to his trip to China in February; what the itinerary was; and what the cost was. [73558]

The Deputy Prime Minister: During my trip to China in February I undertook 28 engagements across five cities, covering all of the themes of the China Task Force, including meetings with Premier Wen Jiabao, Jia Qinglin, State Councillor Tang and Donald Tsang, Chief Executive of Hong Kong.

The engagements covered issues such as health, education, sustainable development, urban regeneration, and the Olympics as well as maintaining high level political contacts.

Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year and total costs of all ministerial overseas travel. Copies are available in the Library.

Norman Baker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many miles he travelled in his ministerial car in April. [73885]

The Deputy Prime Minister: This information is not collected centrally. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidance "Travel by Ministers".

CABINET OFFICE

Consultants

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Minister without Portfolio what advice she receives from consultants and public relations companies when providing strategic thinking on the general direction of Government policy and the values underpinning it; what contract Portland PR has to assist with these responsibilities; what contractual relationship she has with a public relations company which wholly or in part assists with the discharging of her ministerial responsibilities; and what the terms are of the contract. [72171]

The Minister without Portfolio: I have not appointed any consultants.

Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what percentage of staff in her Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension. [73047]

Hilary Armstrong: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) can pay additional contributions to top up their pension either through the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme (CSAVCS), a money purchase arrangement, or by buying added years of service in the PCSPS. As an alternative to membership of the PCSPS recruits from 1 October 2002 have been able to join a stakeholder arrangement, the partnership pension account.

The number and percentage of staff in the Department who are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension as at 30 April 2006 are shown in the table.

	Number	*Percentage*
CSAVCS	30	1.6
Added Years	87	4.6
Partnership	35	1.8

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

1976 Drought (Economic Impact)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of lessons to be learned from the economic impact of the 1976 drought on the UK economy; [73636]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact on the economy of a stand-pipe regime under a drought order in London and the South East; and if he will make a statement. [73640]

Ian Pearson: I am not aware of any assessment undertaken of the economic impacts of the 1976 drought.

Standpipes for the supply of water can only be authorised through an emergency drought order. The likelihood of any such orders being required as a consequence of the current drought in South East England is very small.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what factors were taken into account when deciding which measures relating to animal welfare should be included in the Government's preferred options for the England Rural Development Programme 2007 to 2013; [72710]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact on animal welfare standards of the preferred options for the England Rural Development Programme 2007 to 2013; [72711]

(3) whether he took account of the animal welfare measures to be included in the Rural Development Programmes for Wales and Scotland in determining the England Rural Developement Programme 2007 to 2013. [72712]

Barry Gardiner: The recent consultation on the priorities for the next Rural Development Programme for England was informed by our extensive analysis of economic, environmental and social issues facing rural areas.

In line with this principle, we proposed that the most effective way to use the next Rural Development Programme in England to address our animal health and welfare objectives, as part of our wider aim of making farming more competitive and sustainable, is through increased opportunities for training and knowledge transfer.

We shall make decisions on the priorities for the next Rural Development Programme in England in the light of the responses to the consultation, and in the context of the EU Rural Development budget allocations and our own discussions on the use of voluntary modulation and associated match funding.

There will continue to be separate Rural Development Programmes for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland for the new programming period, 2007-2013. This is necessary to reflect the different priorities and needs identified within each part of the UK.

Avian Influenza

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether John Pointon and Sons Ltd. have been appointed as renderers to deal with the carcasses of birds affected by avian influenza; and whether the company has a valid licence. [72398]

Mr. Bradshaw: John Pointon and Sons Ltd. have not been appointed as renderers to deal with the carcasses of birds affected by avian influenza. However, they are on the list of potentially suitable renderers that would be approached in the event of an outbreak of a notifiable exotic disease. The company is expected to apply to the Environment Agency for a permit under the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations 2000.

Badgers/Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the most accurate methods of estimating the badger population are; and what the margins of error are. [73569]

Mr. Bradshaw: For small scale surveys, of individual or a small number of social groups, Defra-funded research has used DNA fingerprinting of faecal samples obtained from badger latrines to identify the number of individuals present. Due to cost this method is not appropriate for use over large areas.

Widescale national surveys have been based on counting the number of active badger setts, but this method cannot identify the number of animals using each sett and is insensitive to changes in social group size. In these circumstances night-time lamping surveys can be used to estimate badger densities on pasture. The margins of error of each method depend on the number of samples collected and no generalisations can be made.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the success of methods of containing bovine tuberculosis other than the culling of badgers; [70800]

(2) what evidence he has assessed on the effectiveness of alternatives to badger culling in significantly reducing bovine tuberculosis. [71833]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* The Government have assessed and implemented a range of alternative measures to reduce bovine tuberculosis (TB):

In addition to the routine TB testing programme prescribed by EU legislation, we introduced compulsory pre-movement testing of cattle in England on 27 March to help reduce the risk of spreading TB through cattle movements. The legislation applies to cattle over 15 months of age moving from one and two year tested herds (phase 1 of the policy). It will be extended to movements of cattle over 42 days old on 1 March 2007 (phase 2). We estimate that phase 1 will achieve a reduction in new TB incidents of about 500 each year, with reductions of about 700 under phase 2.

We plan to extend the use of the gamma interferon test as an adjunct to the TB skin test in order to improve diagnosis of the disease.

We have a wide-ranging research programme in place looking at developing a TB vaccine for cattle and badgers, and investigating ways to limit interactions between cattle and badgers.

Based on the findings of past research, DEFRA has issued farmers with guidelines on good husbandry practices to try to minimise the transmission of bovine TB. More details are available on the DEFRA website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/abouttb/index.htm#protect

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the potential costs of bovine tuberculosis outbreaks caused by the perturbation effect resulting from badger culling; and whether these costs were included in the cost-benefit analysis included with his Department's consultation document. [70801]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* The partial regulatory impact assessment and cost benefit analysis published with our "Consultation on controlling the spread of bovine tuberculosis in cattle in high incidence areas in England" made clear that the potential cost of any perturbation effect was not included as data were not available at the time.

The existing cost-benefit model is now being updated to include the effects of perturbation resulting from badger culling.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in what ways he takes into account public opinion in determining the Government's policies on bovine tuberculosis control. [71857]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* The 'Government strategic framework for the sustainable control of bovine tuberculosis in Great Britain', published in March 2005, sets out our commitment to work in partnership with our stakeholders, including farmers, consumers, vets, wildlife groups and conservation groups, in developing policies on bovine tuberculosis (bTB).

We worked closely with stakeholder groups in developing the Strategic Framework itself, and in developing our policy for pre-movement testing in England. Between December 2005 and March 2006 we consulted on the principle and method of badger culling in high incidence areas of England, and held a number of citizens' panels to provide further information to feed into the consultation process.

On 6 March we held our first annual bTB meeting for Great Britain, which allowed a two-way exchange of information between the Government and our stakeholders on the latest bTB developments and provided opportunities for constructive discussion. In addition, we are in the process of setting up a new national bTB stakeholder body to advise on the development and delivery of new bTB policies.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how his Department plans to weight responses to the consultation document 'Controlling the Spread of Bovine Tuberculosis in Cattle in High Incidence Areas in England: Badger Culling'; [71858]

(2) how many responses were received to the consultation document 'Controlling the Spread of Bovine Tuberculosis in Cattle in High Incidence Areas in England: Badger Culling' by *(a)* post, *(b)* email, *(c)* telephone, *(d)* e-petition and *(e)* other methods. [71859]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* 47,474 consultation responses were received by post and email; further responses were received in the form of petitions. The specific method was not recorded for each response as it is not relevant to the analytical process.

Responses are not being weighted. They are classified and analysed by the type of respondent (e.g. stakeholder or public) and the content of the response (e.g. standard campaign letter, brief yes or no statement or detailed response).

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with Prionics AG since its acquisition of the Bovigam gamma interferon bovine tuberculosis test; and what alternatives to this test are available to the Department. [72247]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Veterinary Laboratories Agency is working closely with Prionics to refine the Bovigam test and further evaluate its performance. There are currently no equally sensitive alternative blood-based tests.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the terms of reference are for the current trials using snares for catching badgers; where the trials are being conducted; and when *(a)* the trials will end and *(b)* the results will be published. [73519]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* The objective of the current trial is to assess whether a specially designed body snare for badgers is an effective and humane method of restraint. The body snare is intended to be non-lethal and the purpose of the proposed trials is to assess the snare. The study will follow the principles laid down in the draft EU Directive on Humane Trapping Standards whereby the humaneness of a trapping device is first assessed under controlled conditions in pen trials before, if its humaneness is deemed to be acceptable, field trials of the device are conducted to confirm its humaneness and to assess its efficacy and non-target risks. The aim is to release all captured badgers taken during the trial back into the wild unharmed.

Pen trials have now been completed and field trials have commenced. Following completion of the trials and peer review a full report will be published by the end of the summer.

Research in relation to wildlife can be sensitive and controversial. There are real concerns over the security of the sites and the personal safety of the staff involved in this particular work and therefore I regret that I cannot supply this information.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the most recent statistics are for the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in cattle; what assessment he has made of the impact on the results of the use of new tuberculin in tests; and if he will make a statement. [73520]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* Latest provisional statistics show that the estimated incidence of bovine TB in Great Britain was 2.9 per cent. in the first quarter of 2006, compared to 4.8 per cent. in the same period of 2005 and 3.4 per cent. in 2004[1].

It is too early at present to draw any conclusions about the reduction in incidence from 2005 to 2006, as this may be due to one of a range of reasons or a combination of factors. The possible causes are currently under investigation.

[1] Confirmed new herd incidents as a percentage of tests on unrestricted herds. Provisional data downloaded from DEFRA's animal health database (Vetnet) on 24 May 2006. Subject to change as more data become available.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the extent to which the total eradication of bovine tuberculosis is achievable. [70830]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 24 May 2006]:* The 'Government Strategic Framework for the sustainable control of bovine TB in Great Britain', published in early 2005, focuses on our assessment of what is achievable within a 10-year timeframe. The vision set out in the Strategic Framework is to slow down and prevent the geographic spread of bovine TB to areas currently free of the disease, and achieve a sustained reduction in disease incidence in cattle in high incidence areas.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition his Department uses of *(a)* satisfactory, *(b)* control, *(c)* reduction, and *(d)* contain in its summary of the advice from veterinary surgeons in the report Controlling the Spread of Bovine Tuberculosis in Cattle in High Incidence Areas in England: Badger Culling. [70831]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 24 May 2006]:* The definitions the department have used are as follows:

Satisfactory: disease control and humaneness requirements are met by the policy.

Control: a halt in the increase in the incidence of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in cattle.

Reduction: a decline in the number of outbreaks of bTB in cattle in high incidence areas.

Contain: prevention of the spread and establishment of bTB in cattle herds in areas clear or with a low incidence of TB in England.

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the total coalesced land area involved would be if *(a)* badger culling boundaries were set at (i) one kilometre and (ii) 2.5 kilometres from the boundaries of all tuberculosis-infected farms in England and *(b)* if badger culling areas of 300 square kilometres were established around the boundaries of all such farms, using 2005 as the reference year; [72949]

(2) what the total coalesced land area is in the example of coalescence over *(a)* one kilometre and *(b)* 2.5 kilometres from the boundaries of farms in high tuberculosis incidence areas in England, in Figure 3, page 37, of the consultation document, Controlling the Spread of Bovine Tuberculosis in Cattle in High Incidence Areas in England: Badger Culling. [72950]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* The area covered by a cull would be dependent on the culling policy. No decision has been taken on whether to introduce a culling policy nor the precise way this would be done.

The Government have made it clear that if a decision was to be taken to cull badgers to reduce the incidence of bovine tuberculosis (bTB), culling would be limited to land in high incidence areas in England, (i.e. with repeated herd breakdown) and not to any farm infected with bTB.

The maps of coalesced culling areas presented in the consultation document, "Controlling the Spread of Bovine Tuberculosis in Cattle in High Incidence Areas in England: Badger Culling", are for illustrative purposes only. The coalesced area they illustrate is based on only one possible approach to culling and is estimated as a range of 19,650 km^2-25,200 km^2.

Bridleways

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when guidance was last issued to local authorities on the use of traffic regulation orders to counter unauthorised motorised vehicles on bridleways. [71689]

Barry Gardiner: Guidance was last issued in December 2005. It is contained within "Regulating the use of motor vehicles on public rights of way and off road—A guide for Local Authorities, Police and Community Safety Partnerships".

Buncefield

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the effect on the local environment of perfluorooctane sulphonate use during the Buncefield Depot fire. [70023]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the effect on the local environment of the use of perfluorooctane sulphonate during the Buncefield Depot fire. [70630]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency started to monitor for perfluorooctance sulfonate (PFOS) in the vicinity of the site following the fire in order to give a better understanding of the impact of the incident on the environment.

The agency has been closely monitoring the River Ver, and have detected low levels of PFOS in the river both during and after the Buncefield incident. No evidence to date has been observed of any impact on fish or other wildlife in the river as a result of this contaminant.

Water samples have been taken from the network of groundwater boreholes both on the Buncefield site and in the surrounding area. These samples have also shown evidence of the presence of PFOS mainly at low levels or below the limit of detection. Two samples however showed elevated levels of PFOS at 4.5 and 5.9 micrograms/litre. Repeat testing of the sample giving the higher result, showed a much lower level of 0.20 micrograms/litre.

The latest results of this groundwater monitoring were the subject of an Environment Agency press release on Friday 12 May. Details can be found on the agency website at: http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/news/1387272.

The agency has instigated a significant programme of work to further monitor the presence and extent of PFOS in both surface and ground waters in the environment around Buncefield. This programme will also look at background levels of PFOS in the wider environment in England and Wales.

The Environment Agency will continue to make public its findings as they emerge.

Corporate Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [67530]

Barry Gardiner: Paragraph 5.28 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

Correspondence

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will reply to the letters of 8 March and 18 April 2006 from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire concerning a constituent Mr. John Wood of Winster, Derbyshire, and legislation in respect of the protection of bats. [71904]

Barry Gardiner: I apologise for the delay in replying to the right hon. Member's letter. A response will be issued shortly.

Countryside Access

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications were made under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 for new rights of access in each district of Gloucestershire in each year since the Act came into force; and how many were successful. [73521]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* I assume that the question seeks the number of appeals made either in relation to the mapping of land as open country and registered common land or decisions on restrictions and exclusions of the right of access under Part I of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Defra does not hold figures for either type of appeal broken down by local authority district, or by local authority area. This information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Emissions Trading

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to discuss changes to the EU emissions trading scheme with his EU counterparts. [72730]

Ian Pearson: The Government continues to support the Commission in its efforts to improve and strengthen the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in the longer term, including work to include aviation emissions in the scheme. The UK works closely with the Commission's Aviation Working Group, which is considering how best to include aviation in the scheme. We are continuing to press the Commission to present a legislative proposal by the end of 2006.

The UK welcomes the review of the scheme that the Commission is undertaking. This will be a key opportunity for the Commission to strengthen the scheme post-2012 by mapping out a long-term policy framework that will help create security and confidence for business and facilitate significant investment in cleaner technologies. The Government are already considering their priorities for the review and intend to work closely with the Commission and other member states throughout the process. We look forward to the Commission's report this summer outlining how the work will be taken forward.

Energy Efficiency

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the contribution that energy efficiency could make to meeting the Government's climate change targets. [72726]

Ian Pearson: Energy efficiency is an integral part of our action to tackle climate change. We have a strong package of energy efficiency policies and measures, as most recently updated in the 2006 Climate Change Programme, which will deliver savings of 10.2 million tonnes of carbon per year across the economy by 2010. This will equate to between 36 and 43 per cent. of the overall carbon savings in the Climate Change Programme, depending on the level of savings delivered through the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

We expect energy efficiency to continue delivering against our climate change goals on a similar scale throughout the next decade.

Energy Saving Accreditation

Mr. Malik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to extend energy saving recommended accreditation to consumer electronic goods. [72656]

Ian Pearson: The Energy Saving Trust's Energy Saving Recommended (ESR) scheme was extended to cover consumer electronic goods in January 2006 when integrated digital TVs were added. To date nine manufacturers have been successful in securing endorsement for 90 products.

The Energy Saving Trust hopes to be able to extend the range of consumer electronic products covered by ESR later this year. Priorities include integrated digital recording equipment and set top boxes.

English Nature

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the funding provided by English Nature for land managers in upland areas and commons was spent *(a)* on grants to farmers and *(b)* in administration expenses in each year since 2001. [74176]

Barry Gardiner: English Nature does not separately record the administrative costs incurred in setting up agreements. However, the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme was specifically designed to reduce administrative costs by the use of standard agreements and standard payments. Prior to this, each agreement was individually negotiated and could take up to a year to complete.

Environment Agency (Flood Defences)

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was made available in 2005 to the West Midlands division of the Environment Agency for flood defences. [73398]

Ian Pearson: £19.1 million was allocated to Environment Agency flood defence projects and maintenance works in the West Midlands area in the financial year 2005-06.

Environmental Protection Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the operation of section 82 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; what recent representations he has received about the operation of this *(a)* section and *(b)* Act; and what amendments have been made to the Act. [72463]

Mr. Bradshaw: Section 82 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 allows a person with a complaint of statutory nuisance, for example, noise, smell or smoke, to take private action through the magistrates court. If the court agrees that a statutory nuisance exists and/or is likely to recur, it will issue an abatement notice on the person responsible for the nuisance, requiring that the nuisance be ceased or abated within a specified timescale. It may, but does not have to, specify the steps to be taken. Anyone causing a statutory nuisance could also be liable to a fine.

The statutory nuisance provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 have been amended by measures implemented on 6 April 2006 in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, which introduce insects, and artificial light, to the list of potential statutory nuisances. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 also introduces an optional seven-day deferral for serving of an abatement notice for statutory nuisance from noise in order to pursue alternative steps before formal action is taken.

The Government work as a matter of course with stakeholders and, on statutory nuisance from noise in particular, we will be seeking stakeholder views on the Noise Strategy, which will be the subject of full public consultation early in 2007.

A large number of amendments have been made to the 1990 Environmental Protection Act and the cost of collating a list would be disproportionate. As there is no central record of representations received by the Department that would enable officials to identify those about the operation of the whole Act, it would also incur disproportionate cost to do so.

Factory Farming

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the welfare conditions of *(a)* factory farmed poultry, *(b)* egg-laying hens in battery cages and *(c)* factory farmed fish. [71820]

Mr. Bradshaw: This Government are committed to high standards of farm animal welfare. In Great Britain, we have some of the strictest legislation in the EU to protect the welfare of farmed animals.

The State Veterinary Service (SVS) conducts regular programmed inspections of farmed premises to check the welfare of poultry. All complaints and allegations about poor welfare on-farm are investigated. In addition, a range of Government-funded research and advisory programmes are supporting our commitment to high standards of animal welfare.

The Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) undertakes regular inspections of premises in England and Wales to check on the health and welfare of farmed fish and shellfish. Defra has funded a number of research projects on fish welfare. This includes work to develop a non-invasive procedure that can be used by fish farmers to establish whether the welfare of their fish has been compromised.

Farm Subsidies

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been paid in subsidies to farmers in Bassetlaw directly by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the EU or its predecessors in each of the last 30 years. [71890]

Barry Gardiner: This information is not kept on a constituency basis, and information we do hold could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average time taken to enter fisheries data on to the fisheries database was *(a)* in the last period for which figures are available and *(b)* in each year since 1997. [73391]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Marine Fisheries Agency has an operational target to enter all information from fish markets, merchants, fishing log books, landing declarations and sales notes on to the fisheries database within five working days of receipt. This target relates to the processing of returns for which no follow-up or investigative action is required to resolve errors or anomalies.

The capture of information on the date of receipt of forms at port offices was introduced in April 2003, and information for earlier periods cannot be provided.

Period	*Percentage of forms entered within five working days*
2003-04	81.2
2004-05	95.1
2005-06	94.5

Foot and Mouth

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make an assessment of the likelihood of a recurrence of foot and mouth disease; which countries have outbreaks; and what procedures are in place to prevent food imports from those countries. [71899]

Mr. Bradshaw: The risk of the introduction of foot and mouth disease (FMD) to Great Britain remains low.

A very large number of countries experience regular foot and mouth outbreaks. We carry out constant surveillance of the animal health situation around the world, and publish preliminary outbreak assessments, qualitative risk assessments and summary reports on our website:

www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/monitoring/index.htm

All animals and animal products from countries outside the European Union are checked when imported to ensure they meet the necessary veterinary import conditions. Since 2003, additional resources have been made available to tackle illegal imports of products of animal origin. This increased enforcement activity has resulted in a three-fold increase in seizures. Enforcement is based on risk, including information provided by Defra on the animal health situation around the world, with assessments on new disease outbreaks.

Forest Certification Schemes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2006 to question 72426, on forest certification schemes, what representations the Prime Minister of Australia made to *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* other Government Ministers on the programme for the endorsement of forest certification schemes. [74295]

Barry Gardiner: The Prime Minister of Australia wrote to the Prime Minister expressing concern over the UK Government's assessment of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC) and the impact that could have on the procurement of Australian forest products.

My hon. Friend the Member for Scunthorpe (Mr. Morley), Elliot Morley, then Minister of State for Climate Change and Environment met with Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz, Australian Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, to discuss this matter.

Senator Abetz and other officials were able to clarify how the PEFC requirements are adopted and applied in Australia. The clarification of Australia's position was valuable in helping to consider the effectiveness of recent changes made by the PEFC scheme to its system requirements.

GM Crops

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government will base the co-existence and liability regime governing the growing of GM crops in England on the assumption that the growing of GM crops may become widespread. [73238]

Ian Pearson: We cannot be certain about the extent to which authorised GM crops may be grown in England in the future. However, our assumption is that this would start off at a relatively low level, becoming more widespread over time if there is market acceptance. We will review the coexistence regime introduced for England in the light of developments in the scale of any GM cropping. On-going Defra and EU research will also provide more evidence to help us judge what coexistence measures might be needed if GM crops become widespread.

H5 Virus

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many separate cases of the H5 virus have been discovered in the UK since 1997. [73246]

Mr. Bradshaw: Two. Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza was detected in a parrot in a quarantine facility in Essex in October 2005 and a swan in Cellardyke, Scotland in April 2006.

Live Calves (Export)

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2006 to the hon. Member for Dover (Gwyn Prosser), *Official Report*, column 485W, on live calves (export), what steps he has taken to assist farmers to rear and market veal calves in the UK. [73507]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1296W.

Marine Fisheries Agency

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his written statement of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 48WS, on the Marine Fisheries Agency performance targets 2006-07, what measures the agency has in place to monitor the quota stocks target; and what the risk weightings referred to are. [73392]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Marine Fisheries Agency, along with other fisheries administrations in the UK, operates systems as required by EU legislation to monitor and control the activity of UK fishing vessels to ensure quotas allocated to the UK are not exceeded. This involves maintaining dedicated systems for the collection and collation of information from vessel logbooks and landing declarations, as well as information from sales notes from registered buyers and sellers of fish. The information from UK systems is collated to produce reports on the level of uptake of quotas that are updated on a daily or weekly basis as appropriate. These reports are used by fisheries administrations, producer organisations and other groups in the UK to manage the individual quota allocations during each year. Monthly reports are provided to the European Commission, with measures also in place to check and validate information received by the Commission from other member states on landings by UK vessels outside the UK. The agency takes management action, as necessary, to control or close activity in particular fisheries to ensure quotas limits are complied with.

The risk weightings relate to enforcement of sea fisheries legislation. The Marine Fisheries Agency aims to deploy 60 per cent. of its inspection and enforcement resources to high risk fisheries, 30 per cent. to medium risk and 10 per cent. to low risk. The specific risk weightings take account of a number of factors, including the nature of the fishery, the area and the type of fishing activity. For instance, we would consider vessels fishing in an area and for a species for which specific recovery measures have been introduced to be classified as 'high risk'. The agency is developing a computer model to assist in analysing a wide range of factors to determine compliance risks in fisheries for the medium to long term so that its resources can be deployed and utilised to best effect.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* under and *(b)* over 10 metre licences were issued by the Marine Fisheries Agency in each year since 1997. [73393]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table sets out the number of licences issued to fishing vessels administered in England and Wales by *(a)* vessels of 10 metres and under in length, and *(b)* vessels of over 10 metres in length.

	(a) 10 metres and under	*(b) over 10 metres*
1997	0	1,000
1998	3,342	1,070
1999	0	938
2000	3,203	890
2001	0	842
2002	3,041	805
2003	0	731
2004	3,004	696
2005	0	656
2006	n/a	649

Licences for fishing vessels over 10 metres in length were issued annually. Since 1996 licences for vessels of 10 metres and under in length have been issued biennially. Licences for fishing vessels of 10 metres and under in length will be issued again in June 2006.

Licences for vessels in Scotland and Northern Ireland were issued by the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development respectively.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many 10 metre licences have been issued by the Marine Fisheries Agency. [73394]

Mr. Bradshaw: In December 2005 the Marine Fisheries Agency issued licences for 649 fishing vessels of over 10 metres in length administered in England and Wales.

Licences for fishing vessels in Scotland and Northern Ireland were issued by the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development respectively.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department last met representatives from the Composting Association. [73403]

Mr. Bradshaw: I met representatives from the Composting Association on 22 August 2005; my officials met a representative on 25 May this year.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have stayed overnight in (i) five star, (ii) four star and (iii) three star hotels in each of the last three years. [69092]

Barry Gardiner: The information requested is as follows:

April 2003 to March 2004

ResCompany	Star	Room nights	Turnover (£)
DEFRA	5	10	1,180.01
DEFRA	4	1,789	145,671.52
DEFRA	3	3,021	203,135.67
DEFRA	2	331	18,677.35
DEFRA	1	1	50.00
DEFRA	0	1,299	78,586.89
Total		6,451	447,301.44

April 2004 to March 2005

ResCompany	Star	Room nights	Turnover (£)
DEFRA	5	9	824.00
DEFRA	4	1,385	116,026.78
DEFRA	3	3,217	231,565.86
DEFRA	2	263	16,907.75
DEFRA	1	13	964.75
DEFRA	0	1,002	65,265.02
Total		5,889	431,554.16

April 2005 to March 2006

ResCompany	Star	Room nights	Turnover (£)
DEFRA	5	12	1,108.00
DEFRA	4	1,076	97,709.85
DEFRA	3	3,461	253,475.01
DEFRA	2	180	12,397.55
DEFRA	1	1	65.50
DEFRA	0	764	49,713.11
Total		5,494	414,469.02

Part-time Ministerial Post

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what factors he took into account when deciding that the post of Minister of State (Sustainable Farming and Foods) should be a part-time post. [73210]

Barry Gardiner: The post of the Minister of State (Sustainable Farming and Foods) is full-time. In accordance with long standing practice Lords Ministers with particular departmental responsibilities also act as spokesmen for other Departments in the House of Lords. Lord Rooker acts as spokesman for Northern Ireland and is also deputy leader of the House of Lords.

Pesticides Safety Directorate

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 46WS, on the Pesticides Safety Directorate (Performance Targets 2006-07), who is responsible for progress on each of the targets; to whom each person reports; what recent discussions he has had about implementation of each target; and if he will make a statement. [73243]

Ian Pearson: The Pesticides Safety Directorate's performance targets are set by the Minister of State and published in the agency's Business Plan. The executive responsibility for delivering these targets lies with the agency's chief executive who is supported by three operational directors and one non-executive director who together are responsible for the day-to-day management of the agency and its business. In addition, the strategic direction and performance of the agency is monitored on behalf of the Minister by the Department's Regulatory Agencies Strategy Board. The agency's achievements against its targets, along with membership details of its management board and that of the Regulatory Agencies Strategy Board, are given in the agency's Annual Report and Accounts.

Poultry Meat

Albert Owen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the impact on the UK poultry industry of imports of surplus meat from other EU countries following outbreaks of avian influenza. [72069]

Mr. Bradshaw: Imports of poultry meat into the UK from some EU countries have affected the domestic wholesale market. There is nothing illegal about this practice, which is consistent with Single European Market principles. Further, it is anticipated that recent high levels of imports will begin to fall away as surplus European supplies diminish.

Private Office Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been paid in *(a)* salary, *(b)* travelling expenses, *(c)* subsistence allowance and *(d)* removal expenses to special advisers in his private office in each of the last five years. [69095]

Barry Gardiner: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each pay band. For information relating to the last financial year I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 158-61WS.

Information on special advisers for this financial year is currently being collected and will be published in the normal way when it is ready.

Queen's Flight

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what occasions she has travelled on the Queen's Flight since 2002; what the *(a)* departure point, *(b)* destination, *(c)* distance travelled and *(d)* cost was of each flight; how many (i) other Ministers and (ii) officials travelled on the same flight; how the costs are calculated; and on what basis decisions are made on whether such flights are cost effective. [64606]

Barry Gardiner: The use of 32 Squadron flights is governed by time and cost considerations. The rules on the use of special flights are set out in "Travel by Ministers". The annual lists of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500 are set out when special flights are used, and the purpose of each trip. Copies are available in the Library. Carbon dioxide emissions arising from 32 Squadron flights are included in the Government's carbon offsetting commitment. Carbon emissions arising from the use of these flights have been recorded and offset in the same way as the use of scheduled flights since April 2005.

Rural Enterprise Scheme

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grants have been allocated under the Rural Enterprise Scheme in the South West in each month since December 2005. [73274]

Barry Gardiner: The following figures show the number of applications approved in the South West region, in each month from December 2005 onwards. The numbers have been broken down by measure, to show the type of activity for which funding has been approved.

The funding awarded covers activity to take place across financial years 2005-06 to 2008-09.

December 2005

Measure	*Number of projects*	*Total funding offered (£)*
Basic Services	1	62,156
Renovation and development of villages	5	274,789
Diversification	8	322,573
Encouragement for tourism and craft activities	1	25,685
Total	15	685,203

January 2006

Measure	*Number of projects*	*Total funding offered (£)*
Diversification	1	13,325
Development of Infrastructure	1	13,015
Encouragement for tourism and craft activities	1	10,972
Total	3	37,312

February 2006

Measure	*Number of projects*	*Total funding offered (£)*
Marketing of Quality Agricultural Products	1	15,000
Basic Services	1	41,251
Renovation and development of villages	5	347,082
Diversification	8	442,924
Development of Infrastructure	1	6,361
Encouragement for tourism and craft activities	1	4,500
Total	17	857,118

March 2006

Measure	*Number of projects*	*Total funding offered (£)*
Basic Services	2	76,309
Renovation and development of villages	4	310,931
Diversification	6	693,512
Total	12	1,080,952

April 2006

Measure	*Number of projects*	*Total funding offered (£)*
Basic Services	1	13,983
Renovation and development of villages	2	29,990
Diversification	3	24,108
Encouragement for tourism and craft activities	1	13,179
Total	7	81,260

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance his Department has provided to farmers to facilitate applications to the Rural Enterprise Scheme. [73275]

Barry Gardiner: Across the country, Regional Appraisal Panels have awarded Rural Enterprise Scheme (RES) grants to a number of facilitation projects and co-ordination bodies, totalling approximately £1.5 million, which includes significant support for farmer applicants. For example, one project in the West Midlands regions was awarded over £150,000 as a co-ordination body to facilitate the development of broad, high quality innovative and collaborative new projects in rural Warwickshire that had the potential to be funded under RES.

When the Rural Enterprise Scheme guidance notes for applicants were updated in 2004, an additional booklet providing advice on preparing a business plan for socio-economic projects was also developed and provided to prospective applicants.

Rural Development Service staff across the country have continually provided help and advice to prospective applicants as part of their day-to-day activity running the scheme. This has included pre-application clinics, advice and direction on priorities for funding, and site visits to discuss projects.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications have been received for the rural enterprise scheme in *(a)* England and *(b)* each Government region; how much money has been made available as part of the scheme in (i) England and (ii) each Government region; what percentage of the funds in each area have been allocated; to what extent funds allocated to the south west have been withdrawn to compensate for overspends in other parts of the country; and if he will make a statement. [73733]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* The following table provides details on the rural enterprise scheme which operates within the 2000 to 2006 England Rural Development Programme. Figures provided are up to date as of 23 May 2006:

Region	*Total number of RES applications received 2000 to 2006*	*Total number of RES applications approved to date*	*Value of RES budget 2000 to 2006 (£ million)*	*Percentage of RES budget allocated 2000 to 2006 (percentage)*
North East	511	293	10.0	94
North West	704	423	20.0	86
East Midlands	609	272	25.6	86
West Midlands	683	367	16.7	84
South West	919	408	18.5	86
Yorks and Humber	584	311	14.5	97
East of England	607	271	13.7	77
South East	612	330	13.8	87
National[1]	46	17	7.2	29
Total for England	5,275	2,692	140.0	84

[1] National covers projects that span a number of regional boundaries.

No funds have been withdrawn from the south west region's allocation.

Under the EU regulations supporting the rural enterprise scheme, 50 per cent. of funding comes from the European Union. These European funds are allocated on an annual basis and it is generally not possible to transfer any unspent EU funds to a later financial year. This scheme, therefore, requires close and careful financial management. To this end, each region is given an annual budget within which it must manage the grant awards it has made. This will include any delays to project expenditure and therefore delays to claims, as well as any under or over-claims by beneficiaries.

The performance of approved projects is subject to continuous review to establish the true value of any 'headroom' in annual budgets. For 2006-07, a detailed exercise is in place to ensure that budgets are used to the maximum extent possible. In this regard, it is expected that some additional monies will be identified as available to support new grant awards before the closure of the scheme at the end of June. The precise value of funds available for grant awards will be confirmed by mid-June.

There will continue to be significant competition for the remaining funds; the Rural Development Service will continue to manage the position carefully in 2006-07, with a view to the possible redirection of funds between regions where regional interest in the scheme is genuinely lower than anticipated.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether money allocated to the South West for grants to be made under the Rural Enterprise Scheme has been subsequently transferred to other areas. [74090]

Barry Gardiner: No funds have been withdrawn from the South West under the Rural Enterprise Scheme for transfer to other areas.

Rural Payments Agency

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many payments have been made by the Rural Payments Agency to farmers in *(a)* mid-Bedfordshire, *(b)* Bedfordshire and *(c)* the UK in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [63056]

Barry Gardiner: Details of payments made by the Rural Payments Agency under farm-based schemes are set out in the tables. Payments to farmers in mid-Bedfordshire and in Bedfordshire are available only for the two years 2003-04 and 2004-05.

(a) Payments made to farmers for mid-Bedfordshire

	£ million
2003-04	6.708
2004-05	6.638

Note:
Analysis by parliamentary constituency is not available prior to this date.

(b) Payments made to farmers in Bedfordshire

	£ million
2003-04	18.455
2004-05	17.670

(c) Data for farmed-based schemes payments made by RPA for England

	£ million
2000-01	1,400.391
2001-02	1,424.346
2002-03	1,549.150
2003-04	1,799.029
2004-05	2,119.490

The detail supporting each of the years in the tables can be found in RPA's Annual Report and Accounts under House of Commons publication numbers HC 1197 (for both 2000-01 and 2001-02), HC 940, HC 1009 and HC 82 respectively.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claim forms for the 2006-07 Single Payments Scheme *(a)* were sent by the Rural Payments Agency to potential applicants before 13 April 2006 and *(b)* have been sent on or since 13 April 2006; and if he will make a statement. [68880]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency issued 84,334 SPS application forms to potential applicants before 13 April 2006 and a further 33,902 application forms have been issued on or since 13 April 2006.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have been sent a set of application forms for payments in 2006 by the Rural Payments Agency; how many completed applications have been returned; and how many forms remain to be issued. [68930]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency issued 118,236 SP5 application forms between 21 March 2006 and 26 April 2006 to known customers. As of 25 May 2006, 90,225 completed application forms have been returned and logged. No forms remain to be issued.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of e-mails to the Rural Payments Agency have been *(a)* acknowledged within one working day and *(b)* replied to within 15 working days in each month since October 2001. [71517]

Barry Gardiner: The following information refers to e-mails sent to the Rural Payments Agency's Customer Service Centre (CSC), e-mail address CSC@rpa.gsi.gov.uk. The CSC was established in February 2005 and the following information is based upon statistics collected from 29 April 2005 to 16 May 2006.

Month	*e-mails received*	*Resolved within 15 days*
April 2005	71	61
May 2005	1,519	1,416
June 2005	341	277
July 2005	495	433
August 2005	583	515
September 2005	647	523
October 2005	772	659
November 2005	813	665
December 2005	888	757
January 2006	1,148	906
February 2006	1,002	760
March 2006	3,057	2,857
April 2006	1,356	1,111
May 2006	969	785

All emails to CSC@rpa.gsi.gov.uk are acknowledged automatically. The acknowledgement includes a set of frequently asked questions aimed at answering the customer's general questions immediately.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many telephone calls to the Rural Payments Agency Customer Service Centre resulted in left messages in the last 12 months; and what proportion of those calls were returned within one working day. [71532]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payment Agency's (RPA) Customer Service Centre (CSC) provides an inquiry response facility and, outside business hours, a recorded messaging service, referring customers to RPA's website. As such the CSC seeks to answer inquiries as they are made. A proportion of the inquiries that are answered require a follow up response from a CSC operator or a member of RPA's processing staff. Moreover, RPA provides an electronic ordering facility for those customers seeking to acquire an application form or other scheme literature.

RPA launched a CSC on 14 February 2005. This was done to streamline single payment scheme and customer registration telephone inquiries into the Agency through one route, to allow staff to concentrate on processing. More importantly, this system aims to ensure that customers receive consistent answers and that any more complex inquiries can be directed to specialist areas of the business to call the customer back.

The main call centre is based in Workington with facilities for calls to be diverted to staff at other RPA sites during periods of unusually high demand.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what IT contracts the Rural Payments Agency has with private

businesses; what the cost of each is; and what assessment he has made of their value for money. [71539]

Barry Gardiner: Details of expenditure on major IT contracts in the year 2005-06 were:

Major IT hardware/software contracts—£500,000

		Contract (£)
Accenture	Applications software development, maintenance, support and operations	22.19 million
Computacenter (UK) Ltd.	Hardware and software	2.38 million
Sungard Sherwood Systems	Applications software development, maintenance, support and operations	4.38 million
IBM	IT infrastructure management and operations. Applications software development, maintenance, support and operations	15.49 million
Oracle Corporation UK Ltd.	Software licences and services	848,000
Xansa UK	Applications software development, maintenance and support	658,000

Other hardware/software contracts—under £500,000

(a) 17 suppliers with total expenditure 2005-06 of approximately £1.14 million.

(b) The suppliers were

Albany Software
Axios Systems Consultants
Banctec Ltd.
Business Objects UK Ltd.
Casewise Ltd.
Dell Computer Corporation
EMC Documentum Ltd.
Korec Ltd.
Memex Technology
Mercury Interactive
Novell UK
Officevision Ltd.
Quest Software (UK) Ltd.
Serena Software Europe Ltd.
Sun Microsystems Ltd.
Verisign UK Ltd.
Visualfiles Ltd.

Telecommunications contracts (voice/data/mobile and videoconference)

(a) Eight suppliers with total expenditure 2005-06 of approximately £2.63 million

(b) The suppliers were

BT
Cable and Wireless
Energis Communications
Grapevine Communications Ltd.
Internal Videocomms Ltd.
Orange
Siemens PLC
Vodafone Ltd.

IT consultancy contracts

Major contracts—over £500,000

	£
Atos Consulting Ltd.	5.39 million
Hays IT	2.15 million
Methods Consulting Ltd.	8.11 million
PMR Group PLC	702,000
Xansa Recruitment	1.44 million

Other consultancy contracts

(a) Seven suppliers with total expenditure 2005-06 of approximately £1.42 million.

(b) The suppliers were

Gartner Group
IT Service and Support Consulting
Logica/CMG
PA Consulting Group
Parity Solutions Ltd.
Scisys Ltd.
Tribal Yale

To provide assurance on the effectiveness of controls, continuous improvement and value for money the RPA purchasing and contract management functions are subject to regular audit and value for money assessments.

The question relates to the "cost" of contracts. As there are several interpretations of this, and to give the best clarity and comparison, I have provided expenditure figures for 2005-06.

The scope of "IT contracts" is also open for interpretation. In addition to the contracts which include "tangible" IT goods and communications I have also included detail of the expenditure under the IT consultancy contracts, as the majority of work under these contracts is for IT or IS consultancy, or is IT project/programme related.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the backlog is of Rural Payments Agency cases for *(a)* single farm payments and *(b)* entry level scheme payments; what plans he has to reduce each backlog; and by what date the Rural Payments Agency will have cleared its backlog. [71540]

Barry Gardiner: The information is as follows:

(a) By close of business on 23 May 2006, 93,710 single payment scheme claimants had received either a full or substantial partial payment. The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is working hard to ensure that outstanding payments are made as quickly as possible.

(b) At 12 May, 93 per cent. of environmental stewardship payments due in the first three payment rounds (February-April) had been made, leaving 654 outstanding of a potential total of 9,097. The Rural

Development Service, who administer the scheme, and RPA, who make the payments, are working hard to ensure that outstanding payments are made as quickly as possible.

The deadline for application under the single payment scheme in 2005 was 16 May. The regulatory payment window for the scheme is from 1 December 30 June, but RPA announced in early 2005 that the most probable time frame for payments to begin being made was in February 2005. This target was met, as the first payments were issued on 20 February. Full payments were continuing to be made until 5 May, when it was announced that substantial partial payments were going to be made to a large number of farmers yet to receive a payment. These were made by 12 May with full payments and top up payments currently being made.

RPA is working hard to ensure that outstanding payments will be made as quickly as possible.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what factors have contributed to the increases in the cost of running the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) since 2003-04; and what the original budget allocation was for the RPA at the beginning of *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2004-05. [73220]

Barry Gardiner: The original running cost budget allocations for the Rural Payments Agency were:

	£ million
2003-04	196.170
2004-05	193.161

These allocations did not include any funding for non-cash costs such as depreciation and the cost of capital, nor the Agency's contribution to the corporate costs of its parent department, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

RPA running costs have increased as a result of additional responsibilities taken on by the Agency over the last three financial years. These include:

The merger with the British Cattle Movement Service;

Structural Funds;

National Fallen Stock Scheme;

Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy including the introduction of the Single Payment Scheme.

In each of the years since 2003-04 the original budget allocations have been supplemented by additional funding provided by DEFRA, to cover these additional responsibilities. In particular, the Agency has reduced the number of permanent staff and introduced IT systems to make efficiency savings in the longer term.

Securing the Benefits (Grant Applications)

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many grant applications for the fishing industry made under the scheme set out in Securing the Benefits have taken longer than eight weeks to process in 2006; what the average processing time has been; and how many applications were processed within the eight week target in 2005. [73797]

Mr. Bradshaw: For the period 1 January 2006 to 19 May 2006, 55 out of 57 grant claims made under the financial instrument for fisheries guidance scheme (96 per cent.) were processed within eight weeks. The average processing time was 19 working days including the time taken to chase additional necessary information from the claimant.

For 2005, 123 out of 136 grant claims (90 per cent.) were processed within eight weeks. The average processing time was 23 working days including the time taken to chase additional necessary information from the claimant.

Single Farm Payments

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact on the Department's targets to pay applicants for single farm payment of the rejection of entitlements which are declared invalidated. [59350]

Barry Gardiner: The rejection of Single Payment Scheme claims because they are not valid does not affect the Rural Payments Agency's target to make 96.14 per cent. of valid SPS payments by the end of the payment window on 30 June 2006.

The deadline for the Single Payment Scheme in 2005 was 16 May. The regulatory payment window for the scheme is from 1 December to 30 June, but the Rural payments Agency announced in early 2005 that the most probable time frame for payments to begin being made was in February 2005. This target was met, as the first payments were issued on 20 February. Full payments were continuing to be made until 5 May, when it was announced that substantial partial payments were going to be made to a large number of farmers yet to receive a payment. These were made by 12 May with full payments and top-up payments currently being made.

The Rural Payments Agency is working hard to ensure that outstanding payments will be made as quickly as possible.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that all validated single payment scheme (SPS) entitlement statements are issued by the end of March; and how many farmers in Devon have received *(a)* validated and *(b)* unvalidated SPS statements. [59660]

Barry Gardiner: 120,367 applications were received for the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). By the end of Monday 22 May, 93,710 claimants have received a full or partial payment. This represents 78 per cent. of the customer base now having received a total of £1.322 billion. This equates to 88 per cent. of the £1.5 billion fund.

The remaining payments will be made as soon as legally possible following the positive action set out in my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's written statement on 16 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 104WS, the response to the hon. Member for South-

East Cambridgeshire on 27 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 543, and the written statement on 19 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 13WS.

The Rural Payments Agency does not have data available on a regional basis, as the scheme is not administered in this way.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of 2005 Single Farm Payment Scheme claims he expects to be paid by 30 June 2006; what the value of each such payment will be; and whether those claims unpaid by that date will be *(a)* subject to EU reimbursement and *(b)* met from public funds. [66171]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is working hard to ensure that outstanding payments will be made as quickly as possible. By 16 May some £1.3 billion had been paid, representing 87 per cent. of the total projected expenditure. The value of each payment will depend on the size of the claim and the proportion that is determined as eligible.

Any 2005 scheme claims unpaid by the end of June 2006 will be subject to a sliding scale of EU reimbursement. The reduction in the rate of reimbursement will not apply to the first 4 per cent. of the expenditure and any subsidy paid after 15 October 2006 will not be reimbursed.

My officials have approached the European Commission to request an extension to the 2005 SPS payment window, although as yet, no response has been received.

The deadline for the Single Payment Scheme in 2005 was 16 May. The regulatory payment window for the scheme is from 1 December to 30 June, but RPA announced in early 2005 that the most probable time frame for payments to begin being made was in February 2006. This target was met, as the first payments were issued on 20 February. Full payments were continuing to be made until 5 May, when it was announced that substantial partial payments were going to be made to a large number of farmers yet to receive a payment. These were made by 12 May with full payments and top-up payments currently being made.

RPA is working hard to ensure that outstanding payments will be made as quickly as possible.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of eligible claimants for the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) had lodged their SPS claim forms by 15 May 2006; if he will estimate how much and what percentage of total SPS monies for 2006 these claims represent; and if he will make a statement. [72834]

Barry Gardiner: 52,204 Single Payment Scheme applications were received on or before 15 May 2006.

The Rural Payments Agency is not able to determine how many of these forms are valid until they have been through level 1 validation checks to ensure that basic information is present on the form.

Until these forms are entered into the computer system the RPA is unable to establish the value of the eligible claims.

118,236 Single Payment Scheme application forms have been sent to potential claimants plus an additional 1,500 application forms requested by potentially new applicants to the 2006 scheme.

A copy of the 2006 application form is also available for customers to download and complete from the RPA website. Customers can also collect blank application forms from RPA offices and drop-in centres located around the country.

As announced on 5 May, applications to the 2006 SPS received between 16-31 May will not attract late claim penalties.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress of the delivery of single farm payments to farmers. [74173]

Barry Gardiner: By close of business on 23 May 2006, 93,710 single payment scheme claimants had received either a full or substantial partial payment. The Rural Payments Agency is working hard to ensure that outstanding payments are made as quickly as possible.

United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement Meeting

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what issues he plans to raise at the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement meeting in New York on 22 to 26 May. [73395]

Mr. Bradshaw: The UK played an active role in the preparation of the EU position for this meeting and at the meeting itself. This included looking at the 15 elements chosen for assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of the UN Fish Stock Agreement, and suggesting means of strengthening the substance and methods of the Agreement's implementation.

In addition, the UK hosted a State meeting at the conference to profile the report of the High Seas Task Force into Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, and presented the UK's action plan for taking forward the report 's recommendations. The event was well attended by representatives of State, NGOs and other interested bodies.

Venezuelan Discounted Oil (Environmental Impact)

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential environmental impact of the supply of discounted oil to London by Venezuela; and if he will make a statement. [73599]

Ian Pearson: We are not aware of any firm commitment by the Government of Venezuela to supply oil or oil products at discounted rates to the UK. In the absence of this and any specific details I am unable to speculate on the potential environmental implications of this proposal.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency has (i) allocated to and (ii) spent on supporting charitable organisations in preparation for the implementation of the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive. [73776]

Mr. Bradshaw: Defra has not allocated or provided funding to charities specifically in preparation for the implementation of the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive.

In April 2005, Defra awarded a total of £3 million to 36 community groups working with waste in England, under the Waste Partnership Fund (WPF). A number of the community projects that are being taken forward will support the reuse and recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment.

The Environment Agency (EA) has provided some support to charitable refurbishers at a local level. Nationally, support has been given through work with Envirowise on their national programme of WEEE seminars. The EA has agreed an interim position on WEEE permitting which has saved many small-scale WEEE refurbishers the cost of obtaining a waste management licence in the period before new licensing exemptions are available.

Water

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will introduce legislation to allow householders to reverse a decision to accommodate a water meter once installed; and if he will make a statement. [73325]

Ian Pearson: Water customers have, since 2000, had some choice in how their charges are calculated and customers who would benefit from a metered charge can request a meter to be installed free-of-charge. Customers also have the corresponding right to revert back to an unmeasured charge within a year if they feel that it does not best suit their needs.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at what level of available water supply a water company may apply to take remedial action to avoid water shortages. [73826]

Ian Pearson: All water companies have drought plans setting out how the company will continue to meet its duty to maintain an adequate supply of water during a short-term water shortage. These plans are now a statutory requirement. The plans contain various triggers to initiate a range of actions at differing stages depending on the severity of a drought. One of the actions may involve applying to my Department for drought orders to restrict non-essential uses of water.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures he is taking to ensure that residents of Tendring do not run out of water. [74128]

Ian Pearson: Water companies' plans for meeting demand were set out in their 25-year water resources plans, prepared in 2004. The Environment Agency reported on those plans in "Maintaining Water Supply", which is available from its website at:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/mws_837514.pdf

Water companies also have drought plans which set out how they will meet their duties to supply adequate quantities of wholesome water during drought periods with as little recourse as possible to drought orders and permits. The plans contain various triggers to initiate a range of actions at differing stages depending on the severity of a drought.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to assess the merits of *(a)* cloud seeding and *(b)* desalination as ways of meeting the UK water supply requirements. [74182]

Ian Pearson: Water companies are responsible for considering the need for increasing provision of water in fulfilment of their duties to maintain adequate supplies of water. The companies' plans for meeting demand were set out in their 25 year water resources plans, prepared in 2004. The Environment Agency reported on those plans in "Maintaining Water Supply", which is available from its website.

No water company has plans to seed clouds in its water resources plan. The merits of desalination on a significant scale are currently the subject of a public inquiry following Thames Water's appeal against refusal of planning permission for a plant in the Thames estuary.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of Thames Water's spending on the renewal of its water distribution network. [72852]

Ian Pearson: The Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) sets price limits for water companies. In the price limits for 2005-10, Thames Water was allowed £279 million to renew its water infrastructure. This will enable Thames to increase activity to maintain its pipes, including the renewal of about 1,400 km of water distribution mains.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what schemes are being promoted by his Department to provide *(a)* low cost water butts and *(b)* other water use reduction devices in areas of England subject to hosepipe bans. [69380]

Ian Pearson: Under the Water Industry Act 1991, water companies have a duty to promote the efficient use of water by their customers. As part of the activities they undertake to meet this duty, many water companies offer subsidised water butts to customers as well as other water saving devices, such as those that lower toilet flush volumes. This duty is exercised regardless of whether a hosepipe ban is in place, though publicity advertising the availability of water saving devices is likely to be increased during these periods.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the impact of water saving regimes under drought orders in London and the South East on incoming tourism. [73637]

Ian Pearson: I have had no such discussions with the Secretary of State of Culture, Media and Sport; however drought orders are unlikely to impact to any significant extent on tourism in London and the South-East.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what new water-saving measures have been introduced in departmental offices in London and the South East since 1 January. [73627]

Ian Pearson: No specific new measures have been introduced within Defra offices in London and the South East since 1 January. However, water consumption at all sites is monitored on a regular basis and compared with targets set out in the framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate (SDiG). Leaks and metering problems are taken up with suppliers and appropriate efficiency measures are put in place to deal with other causes of high consumption.

All refurbishment projects involving Defra offices have included water saving measures. Waterless urinal systems and low flush cisterns have been successfully installed at a number of sites to provide consistent savings in water consumption. Percussion or spray taps or taps with sensors are also delivering significant savings.

These initiatives will continue to be extended to other sites across the estate. Other issues under consideration are the sub-metering of areas where there is a high water use, for example in catering sites and crèches.

As part of the World Environment Day campaign, water hogs were made available for use within Defra sites and also for staff to take home.

Defra's published responses to SDiG targets are available at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/sdstrategy/operations/partc.htm.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 5 June 2006

PRIME MINISTER

Bilateral Discussions

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister when he last held bilateral discussions with the Prime Minister of *(a)* Norway and *(b)* Belgium. [73628]

The Prime Minister: I last met the Prime Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg, for bilateral discussions in London in October 2005. I last met the Belgian Prime Minister, Guy Verhofstadt, for bilateral discussions in London in May 2004. We have talked on the telephone and met at European councils in the meantime.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister when he last held bilateral discussions with the Prime Minister of *(a)* Latvia and *(b)* Canada. [74336]

The Prime Minister: I last met the Prime Minister of Latvia, Aigars Kalvitis, for bilateral discussions in December 2005. I have not held bilateral discussions with the new Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper. We have, however, spoken on the telephone.

Chevening

Mr. Brady: To ask the Prime Minister (1) which Ministers have had use of the residence of Chevening since 7 May; and if he will make a statement; [74300]

(2) whether he plans to make *(a)* the Chevening house and estate and *(b)* another similar facility available to the Foreign Secretary for the purposes of entertaining official overseas guests. [74492]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my official spokesman on 25 May, a copy of which is available on the No. 10 website.

Committee on Standards in Public Life

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister when he last met the Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life; and if he will make a statement. [73864]

The Prime Minister: The position is as set out by the Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life in his evidence to the Public Administration Select Committee on 27 April.

Congressional Medal

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister whether he intends to collect his Congressional Medal before he leaves office. [74639]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Louth and Horncastle (Sir Peter Tapsell) at Prime Minister's questions on 14 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1301-02.

Darfur

Mr. Drew: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the outcome of his discussions with Alpha Konare, Chair of the African Union, on how to enhance peace-keeping operations in Darfur and help deliver the recently signed peace agreement. [74004]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the press conference I held with Alpha Konare on 23 May, and to the joint statement made after our discussions. Copies of these are available on the No. 10 website.

Dorneywood

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost to the public purse was of security at Dorneywood for the most recent year for which figures are available. [73878]

The Prime Minister: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on security matters.

Energy Review

Lynne Jones: To ask the Prime Minister whether the first draft of the Energy Review received by him the day before his speech to the Confederation of British Industry on 16 May included an assessment of the total life-cycle carbon costs of nuclear power. [74692]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave my hon. Friend on 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1624W.

Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from his Office in each of the last five years. [71776]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, North (Edward Miliband) today.

House of Lords Nominations

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list those nominated by the public to the House of Lords Appointments Commission as non-party-political peers since the Commission was established; and which of those nominated were selected. [74538]

The Prime Minister: I understand that since the House of Lords Appointments Commission was established in 2000, it has received approximately 4,090 nominations from members of the public for non-party-political peerages. The Commission has undertaken to treat all information supplied by nominees in confidence. This also accords with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

A list of those selected for appointments is available on the Commission's website. A copy has also been placed in the Library of the House.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by his Office in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature of the charges brought against them were. [73959]

The Prime Minister: None.

Ministerial Visits

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister if he will visit Shrewsbury in summer 2006 to attend Shrewsbury Flower Show. [74765]

The Prime Minister: I have no current plans to do so.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Prime Minister how many times he has visited China since becoming Prime Minister. [73551]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information on the number of officials accompanying Ministers on overseas visits is included in the list. All Ministers' travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the ministerial code, and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers". Information for the year 2005-06 will be published as soon as it is ready.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister when he next plans to visit *(a)* Nigeria and *(b)* South Africa. [73629]

The Prime Minister: I have no current plans to do so.

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister what discounts are available in relation to hotel accommodation used by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Office. [69248]

The Prime Minister: All travel by civil servants and special advisers is conducted in accordance with Section 8,2 of the Civil Service Management Code, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Official Residences

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister what the name is of the official residence recently vacated by the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett). [75282]

The Prime Minister: Government House, Pimlico.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* notional market rent, *(b)* estimated capital value and *(c)* total annual cost of (i) rent, (ii) security, (iii) utilities, (iv) facilities management and (v) general maintenance was for (A) Flat 1 Admiralty House, (B) Flat 2 Admiralty House, (C) Flat 3 Admiralty House, (D) Government House in Pimlico, (E) No. 1 Carlton Gardens, (F) Bute House, (G) the Chancellor of the Exchequer's residence in Downing street and (H) his residence in Downing street in the last year for which figures are available. [75283]

The Prime Minister: Expenditure on official residences is a matter for the relevant Ministers' Departments.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. For the cost of routine maintenance on the flat above 11 Downing street I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 10 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1836-37W.

Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension. [73043]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) on 1 June (73047).

Sovereign Strategy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Prime Minister on what dates over the last 12 months *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have met a representative of Sovereign Strategy. [72345]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Antiquities (Illegal Trading)

10. **Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures she is taking to tackle the illicit international trade in antiquities, with particular reference to the London art market. [74926]

Mr. Lammy: Since 2000, with support from other Government Departments, the police, HM Revenue and Customs, the art trade and the museums, libraries and archives communities, we have introduced a series of measures to combat the illicit trade in antiquities, in particular:

The Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act, which makes it illegal to deal in tainted cultural property; and

The publication of guidance for museums, libraries and archives to ensure that, in practice, they acquire cultural property legally and ethically.

Digital Television

11. **Mr. Martlew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of television viewers in the Border Television area cannot receive digital television. [74927]

Mr. Woodward: Currently digital terrestrial television is available to over half of the population of Border region, and the vast majority of households can receive digital TV services via digital satellite, terrestrial or cable. 70 per cent. of households in Border have already chosen to take up digital TV.

After switchover, which takes place in Border in 2008, UK digital terrestrial television coverage will match the current analogue coverage of 98.5 per cent.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether Ofcom's digital dividend review of the value of the spectrum released by full digital switchover will inform Government policy on the extent of the costs of digital switchover to be paid for through the BBC licence fee. [71608]

Mr. Woodward: There is no relation between the Digital Dividend Review, on which we expect Ofcom to consult towards the end of this year, and the switchover costs to be paid by the BBC, which will be part of the licence fee settlement.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans her Department has to increase its audio description targets for digital television. [75172]

Mr. Woodward: The Department currently has no plans to increase its audio description targets for digital television. The Communications Bill gives Ofcom a requirement to produce, publish and from time to time review a Code relating to provision for the deaf and visually impaired and the means by which such services should be promoted. Ofcom are in the process of reviewing the code, and have suggested in their consultation that it would be better to review the statutory target for audio description when it is clearer how many potential beneficiaries will use it.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the cost of digital switchover will be ring-fenced in the accounts of the BBC. [73549]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* We are considering how best to account for the BBC's digital switchover costs, including the cost of the targeted help scheme, as part of discussions about the level of the licence fee.

Sport (Participation)

12. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to increase mass participation in sport. [74928]

Mr. Caborn: The Department is committed to its public service agreement target of increasing levels of participation in sport by priority groups by 3 per cent. by 2008. Working through Sport England, we are implementing a range of measures to achieve this.

Gambling

13. **David Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate she has made of the number of people with a gambling addiction. [74929]

Mr. Caborn: The current estimate is that 0.6 per cent. of the adult population in Great Britain are problem gamblers. This figure is drawn from the last national prevalence study published in 2000. The Gambling Commission is currently conducting a further prevalence study.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the Gambling Commission on the size of the sample to be used in future prevalence studies on problem gambling; and if she will make a statement. [74567]

Mr. Caborn: My Department has had discussions with the Gambling Commission about all aspects of the design, conduct and management of the prevalence study.

The sample size to be used in the prevalence study to be conducted this summer will be 10,000, which is greater than that used in the 1999 study. The sample size to be used in future prevalence studies has yet to be decided.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria will be used to assess the level of problem gambling in an area surrounding a new casino licensed under the Gambling Act 2005. [74867]

Mr. Caborn: My Department is in the process of tendering for a scoping study to establish the best means of identifying, measuring and assessing the social and economic impacts of the 17 new casinos that are being permitted under the Gambling Act 2005. The study is scheduled to be completed in the autumn and will be published once the Department has had the opportunity to consider it.

Digital Audio Broadcasting

14. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent progress there has been in the take-up of digital audio broadcasting; and if she will make a statement. [74930]

Mr. Woodward: Progress has been impressive with sales of DAB sets doubling in the last 12 months to April. Sales now exceed 3 million. The Government have established a regulatory regime which has allowed for this growth, and we continue to work closely with Ofcom and industry to encourage that development further. According to the Digital Radio Development Bureau, the UK leads the way in take up of DAB sets.

Olympic Games

15. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of possible cost over-runs on the 2012 Olympics. [74931]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Ludlow (Mr. Dunne).

Ann Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the potential role for the arts in the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [73564]

Mr. Caborn: The arts will play a crucial role in the cultural events supporting the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The Cultural Olympiad will begin in 2008, offering an unprecedented opportunity to showcase the range of high class and diverse art from across the UK.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contingency plans her Department has for overspend on the 2012 Olympic games. [74507]

Tessa Jowell: We will make every effort to avoid cost overruns. However, should they arise, we will look at all the options available at the time.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she has received a copy of the The Business of the Games report by the Economic Development, Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee of the Greater London Assembly; and if she will make a statement. [74568]

Mr. Caborn: I have seen a copy of this report and I endorse the London Assembly's recognition of the importance of ensuring that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are equipped to benefit from the many opportunities that the 2012 Games will bring. Small businesses across the value chain, in a wide variety of sectors and throughout the nations and regions, have much to gain from the commercial opportunities arising from the Games. The Government are determined to maximise those opportunities both for SMEs and British business as a whole. All the Olympic partners and stakeholders are working together to identify the best model to achieve this, taking into account best practice from previous host cities.

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures her Department has put in place to co-ordinate a cross-Government approach to achieving a legacy for the 2012 Olympics. [73313]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) has been set up within DCMS to co-ordinate Government input into the 2012 games. The Executive acts as a link between Departments on the one hand and LOCOG (London Organising Committee) and the ODA (Olympic Delivery Authority) on the other. The GOE works closely with all Departments through the Inter-Departmental Steering Group (senior officials responsible for Olympic related activity in Departments), supported by Departmental Olympic Co-ordinators who handle the day-to-day liaison. Through these groups the GOE is ensuring a joined up inter-Departmental approach to delivering the benefits and legacy of the 2012 games.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* principles and *(b)* guidelines are in place relating to the exploitation of the Olympics for party political purposes in elections up to 2012. [73615]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* Arrangements were agreed before the May 2005 general election in respect of the London 2012 bid. The principle of cross-party working still applies and is an important element of the success to date. I am committed to continuing to work openly and constructively with all parties in delivering the 2012 Games, and we have a series of working arrangements in place to ensure this happens.

Tourism

16. **Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations have been made by her Department to the Lyons review with regard to the potential impact of a bed tax on tourist accommodation. [74932]

Mr. Woodward: The Lyons Inquiry is an independent review, and it has not yet made any recommendations. Sir Michael Lyons is scheduled to report by the end of this year and my Department will respond, as is appropriate, at that point.

18. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the role of local authorities in promoting tourism in the UK. [74935]

Mr. Woodward: Local authorities play vital roles in supporting tourism, investing over £122 million into the sector in 2004-05. My Department works closely with the Local Government Association and a range of other organisations representing local councils, and is ensuring that local authorities are fully involved in work to prepare for the tourism opportunities of the 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games.

Cricket (Television Coverage)

17. **Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to meet the England and Wales Cricket Board and the major broadcasters to discuss television coverage of test match cricket. [74934]

Mr. Caborn: As I made clear, both at the Select Committee hearing on 29 November and in my response to the Committee Report, published in March, I am willing to convene a meeting between the terrestrial broadcasters and BSkyB, but only upon the understanding that the broadcasters are willing to negotiate with BSkyB. To that end, I wrote to the major broadcasters on 16 May to canvass their views on whether such a meeting would be useful. We have yet to receive all the responses.

Sports Events (Alcohol Sales)

19. **Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with sporting bodies on the possible effect on antisocial behaviour of the sale of alcohol at sporting events. [74936]

Mr. Woodward: I have had no discussions with sporting bodies on the impact of the sale of alcohol at sporting events on antisocial behaviour. The licensing of sales of alcohol was devolved to individual licensing authorities by the Licensing Act 2003. The prevention of crime and disorder is one of the licensing objectives which licensing authorities have to take into account when relevant representations are made on a licence application. The police can also seek a review of a licence if they have concerns about crime and disorder.

Air Miles

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many air miles have been accrued by senior civil servants in her Department from official business in each of the last three years; and how they were used. [70487]

Mr. Lammy: DCMS uses an agent to book air travel and, as part of this cross-Government arrangement, the individual does not accrue air miles.

BBC

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who will monitor the BBC's efficiency targets. [73547]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* As stated in the White Paper, the Government believe that one of the overriding duties of the Trust should be the effective stewardship of the licence fee on behalf of licence fee payers: making sure that it is spent with maximum effectiveness and efficiency and always providing value for money. It will be part of the Trust's role to secure and demonstrate continuing improvements in the BBC's efficiency, increasing the return provided by its commercial services and bearing down on the costs of proposed investments. The Government also welcome the proposal of the current Chairman of the BBC that the Trust should ask the NAO to consider the extent to which future "self-help" targets are being met and that the results of this work will also be reported to Parliament.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will require the BBC to submit a revision of its Red Book figures before making a decision on the licence fee. [73546]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* The Government are currently conducting a funding review to determine the level of the licence fee to apply from April 2007. As part of this process the BBC has submitted an assessment of its future funding needs. That assessment made clear that projected costs in some areas would be subject to revision. The BBC has undertaken to make revisions to its assessment available to the Government as work progresses. The Government will announce the details of the settlement in due course.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to ensure the independence of the BBC Trust from *(a)* the Corporation and *(b)* the Government. [75061]

Tessa Jowell: The new governance structure is designed to strengthen the BBC's independence from Government and will be reinforced by very clear separation between the Trust and the Executive Board. This clear separation will be achieved through the distinct and different roles of the Trust and Executive Board. The Trust's overarching responsibility will be to represent the interests of the licence fee payer. The new system will also deliver effective oversight of the Executive Board's activities by the Trust, in the public interest; at the same time, it will prevent micro-management of the executive Board's activities by the Trust in a way that would distract from the Trust's strategic role.

Better Regulation Unit

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what role her Department's Better Regulation Unit has played in *(a)* the review of the Licensing Act 2003 and *(b)* the guidance issued

under section 182 of that Act; and if she will make a statement. [71692]

Mr. Woodward: The Department's team responsible for promoting better regulation is involved at all stages of the review of the guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, and in our wider monitoring and evaluation work around the implementation of the Act.

Betting and Gaming

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what regulations govern the sponsoring of terrestrial television programmes by gambling companies; and if she will make a statement. [72967]

Mr. Woodward: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to respond directly to my hon. Friend. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consideration her Department has given to introducing a levy on betting and gaming in connection with other sporting activity analogous to that which applies to horse racing. [74132]

Mr. Caborn: The horse race betting levy recognises the unique relationship between that sport and the betting industry. Horse racing is a sport whose primary purpose is to provide a betting product. In that respect, it is a symbiotic relationship not shared by other sports, except perhaps greyhound racing which has a separate arrangement with bookmakers. Consequently, the Government currently have no plans to introduce a betting levy for other sports.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the Gambling Commission has powers to make the prohibition of lottery-style betting games by gambling operators a licence condition. [73439]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 24 May 2006]*: The Gambling Act 2005 sets out the definitions of different types of gambling activity, and provides that it is a criminal offence to offer facilities for gambling without authorisation. It would be inappropriate for the Gambling Commission to duplicate these provisions through the introduction of licence conditions.

The Commission does, however, have powers under section 79 of the Act to impose conditions on operators which relate to the manner, nature and circumstances of licensed activities (including lottery style betting games), should the Commission consider that there is a regulatory need to do so.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received on the uprating of gaming machine stake and price levels. [75037]

Mr. Caborn: We have received many representations on this issue from gambling operators, trade bodies, and from Members of Parliament.

We will be publishing our proposals for gaming machine stake and prize limits under the Gambling Act 2005, for consultation, in the near future. This will give everyone with an interest an opportunity to comment on the proposed stake and prize levels that will operate from September 2007 onwards.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she will next uprate gaming machine stake and prize levels. [75038]

Mr. Caborn: The stakes and prizes that will apply from September 2007 when the Gambling Act 2005 comes into force were set out at the time the Gambling Bill was introduced into Parliament in October 2004. This remains Government policy.

These proposals involve raising the maximum stake on Category C gaming machines (currently all cash amusement with prizes machines) from 30p to 50p, and raising the maximum stake on Category B3 and B4 gaming machines (currently jackpot machines in bingo premises and registered clubs respectively) from 50p to £1.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures are in place to assist *(a)* the Gambling Commission and *(b)* sports governing bodies to monitor betting placed from outside the UK on sporting events which take place within the UK. [74117]

Mr. Caborn: While the Gambling Commission has no jurisdiction over betting operators licensed outside Great Britain, it is continuing to build upon its co-operative relationships with overseas gambling regulators.

The Government have worked with sports governing bodies to develop a 10-point plan which facilitates information sharing between sports bodies and betting operators. So far 11 sports bodies have signed up to the voluntary plan and an increasing number have a Memorandum of Understanding with betting operators allowing for the sharing of information about suspicious betting patterns or individuals betting with those operators here or abroad.

Big Lottery Funding

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on progress with the work of the Big Lottery Fund. [74137]

Mr. Caborn: The Big Lottery Fund is the operating name of the National Lottery Charities Board and the New Opportunities Fund, working jointly together. A UK-wide framework of themes and outcomes for their work has been agreed, and within that relevant priorities for each of the four parts of the UK have been set.

The Fund has announced a range of new programmes following extensive public consultation,

including children's play; support for the voluntary and community sector, the environment and well-being; and international grants.

The National Lottery Bill currently before Parliament will establish the Big Lottery Fund as a new statutory NDPB. A recruitment campaign for Board and Committee positions on the Big Lottery Fund is currently under way.

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in her Department's press office. [74363]

Mr. Lammy: The Department currently has 14 members of staff employed in the press office of which six have declared they are white and the remainder have not declared their ethnicity. Information on ethnicity is collected on a voluntary basis.

Charles Darwin

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will allocate funds to Shrewsbury borough council to help it promote the town as Darwin's birthplace in the run up to the bicentenary of Darwin's birth in 2009. [74767]

Mr. Lammy: This Department has no funds to allocate to Shrewsbury borough council to help promote the town as Darwin's birthplace or assist with events leading up to the bicentenary of Darwin's birth in 2009. However, Darwin at Downe, Charles Darwin's home and workplace, was this year nominated for inclusion in the World Heritage List and will be considered by the World Heritage Committee in 2007.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she will reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 31 March (departmental ref. 40297). [73897]

Mr. Lammy: I wrote to the hon. Member on 23 May 2006.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to her answer of 23 May 2006 to question 72575 on the delay in responding to a letter from a constituent, what the reasons are for the delay. [74429]

Mr. Caborn: I have received several letters about Holme Pierrepont over recent months and officials have been working with Sport England and others to ensure that our response to those inquiries is as complete and up to date as possible. I hope to be able to respond to the hon. Member's inquiry immediately after the Whitsun recess.

I shall also be meeting representatives of Nottinghamshire county council in the near future to discuss progress.

Departmental Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what facility is available for senior civil servants in her Department to use credit cards supplied by the Department. [70486]

Mr. Lammy: If an officer has a business need they can apply for a Government Procurement Card. This is a debit card facility and utilises an agreement set up by the Office of Government Commerce.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff from her Department attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event in London in 2005; and what the total cost was to her Department of allowing them to attend. [73013]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster wrote to the hon. Member on 1 June with details of the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event. Copies of her letter are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Funding

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from the Department in each of the last five years. [71803]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of staff in her Department are making voluntary contributions to their pension. [73011]

Mr. Lammy: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) can pay additional contributions to top up their pension either through the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme (CSAVCS), a money purchase arrangement, or by buying added years of service in the PCSPS. As an alternative to membership of the PCSPS recruits from 1 October 2002 have been able to join a stakeholder arrangement, the partnership pension account.

The number and percentage of staff in the department who are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension as at 1 May 2005 are shown in the table.

	Number	Percentage of Headcount (excl Ministers and Special Advisers)
CSAVCS	5	0.95
Added Years	19	3.6
Partnership	5	0.95

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in her Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [73012]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Sick absence figures are contained in the annual report entitled Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service published by the Cabinet Office. Table A of the report gives details of both the average working days absence per staff year and the number of staff years on which that calculation is based. The most recent report for the calendar year 2004 was published on 1 November 2005, copies of which are available in the Library. This report and those for 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 are available on the Cabinet Office website at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/occupational_health/publications/index.asp

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of her staff in each of the last three years; and at what total cost. [73016]

Mr. Lammy: The information is in the following table:

	Number of non-pensionable bonuses	Total cost of non-pensionable bonuses (£)	Percentage of paybill
2003-04	232	229,096	1.2
2004-05	239	243,276	1.2
2005-06	276	332,109	1.6

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in her Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75121]

Mr. Lammy: In each of the last three years, the number of employees who did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report totalled less than five. The actual numbers and the percentages these represent of the total number of staff cannot be released on grounds of confidentiality.

Engagements

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will visit Shrewsbury to discuss the proposed theatre project with the council. [74762]

Mr. Lammy: Neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State nor I have plans to visit Shrewsbury at the current time. I am however aware of plans to build a new theatre in the town and understand that Arts Council England's West Midlands office is in contact with the council over the project.

The Public

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been paid by the Arts Council to the consultant Paul Lamb in connection with his work for the arts organisation The Public in West Bromwich in each of the last 10 years. [69133]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested in this question is commercial-in-confidence and as The Public is currently in administration, it would not be appropriate to release it at this time.

Mr. Fiello: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Arts Council paid the consultant Gary Jones to examine the management structure of the arts organisation the Public in West Bromwich; and if he will list other projects he has assessed for the Arts Council. [70244]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested in the first part of this question is commercially sensitive and as The Public is currently in administration, it would not be appropriate to release it at this time.

Gary Jones' company, Blackbushe, has received direct payments from Arts Council England for work on three projects since January 2004. These are for work on the Derby Playhouse (January 2004), the Ocean Music Trust (October 2004) and The Public (March 2005).

Government Art Collection

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes) of 5 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 1018W, on the Government Art Collection, whether there are plans to insure further items in the Government Art Collection. [73806]

Mr. Lammy: The Government Art Collection is not commercially insured. As a general rule, the Government does not purchase commercial insurance for the risks it faces as, in general, it is cheaper for Government to cover its own risks. The Government Art Collection does not plan to insure further items beyond those works of art on display in non-government buildings.

Hylas Spacecraft

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions her Department has had with Digital UK on the use of the

Hylas spacecraft to increase digital television reception in rural areas; and if she will make a statement. [73470]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 25 May 2006]*: Neither I nor my officials have had any discussions with Digital UK regarding the use of the Hylas satellite.

Leased Land

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* land and *(b)* property her Department (i) leases and (ii) leased in (A) 1979, (B) 1983, (C) 1987, (D) 1992 and (E) 1997 in (1) the Southend, West constituency, (2) Essex, (3) Hertfordshire and (4) the Metropolitan Police area of London. [72122]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not have and has never held leases in the Southend, West constituency, Essex or Hertfordshire.

In the Metropolitan Police area of London, the Department currently leases the following properties: 2 to 4 Cockspur Street; Oceanic House, 1a Cockspur Street; Grove House, 2 to 6 Orange Street; Queen's Yard, 179a Tottenham Court Road; 55 Blandford Street.

The Department was created under its previous name, the Department for National Heritage, in 1992. It thus held no leases in 1979,1983 or 1987. In 1992, the Department leased 2 to 4 Cockspur Street and 2 Sheraton Street. In 1997 the Department leased 2 to 4 Cockspur Street; 2 Sheraton Street; Grove House, 2 to 6 Orange Street; and Haymarket House, Oxendon Street.

Libraries

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many static public libraries there are in England. [73859]

Mr. Lammy: The number of static public libraries in England in each of the last five years was as follows.

Static libraries in England (by hours open per week)

	60 plus	*45 to 59*	*30 to 44*	*10 to 29*	*<10*
2000-01	19	469	1,206	1,331	130
2001-02	28	493	1,199	1,311	115
2002-03	42	598	1,168	1,240	91
2003-04	51	683	1,143	1,186	80
2004-05	69	727	1,139	1,106	96

The original source for these statistics is the Public Library Statistics Actuals, published by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). These are published annually, most recently in January 2006.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the level of funding for libraries. [75000]

Mr. Lammy: In terms of public libraries, there is no ring-fenced Government core funding: such funding is via the Local Government Financial Settlement administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

It is for the 149 library authorities in England to decide upon the level of funding for their services bearing in mind their statutory responsibility to make comprehensive and efficient provision.

The public library statistics published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy show that library authorities made net expenditure (excluding capital charges) of £817,216,604 in 2004-05 (the latest figure available). The comparable figure for the previous year was £781,990,546.

Additional examples of funding for public libraries from within my Department's portfolio are the £120 million of National Lottery support for the People's Network, around £130 million of DCMS Private Finance Initiative Credits for library or part library projects, and the ongoing DCMS funding of £2 million per annum for the Framework for the Future Action Plan programme. I also look forward to the Big Lottery Fund's £80 million community library funding programme which will be launched later this year.

My Department is also responsible for sponsorship of the British Library, the UK's national library. Grant-in-aid funding to the British Library over the 2004 Spending Review period is as follows:

		£ million
2005-06	Estimated outturn	96.3
2006-07	Planned	102.2
2007-08	Planned	104.4

Source:
DCMS Annual Report 2006

Licensed Premises

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many outlets in *(a)* the county of Greater Manchester, *(b)* Tameside metropolitan borough and *(c)* Stockport metropolitan borough have been prosecuted under the Licensing Act 2003. [72647]

Mr. Woodward: This information is not held centrally.

Licensing Act

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the Government will publish the first part of the review of its Guidance in respect of the Licensing Act 2003. [73329]

Mr. Woodward: Following the initial review, which covers issues where a broad consensus exists among stakeholders, it is expected that supplementary Guidance will be laid before Parliament in June 2006.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the Government's proposed timetable is for the completion of the second

part of the review of its Guidance in respect of the Licensing Act 2003. [73330]

Mr. Woodward: We expect to lay a revised version of the Guidance before Parliament by the end of 2006.

Live Music

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government are taking to support live music. [74136]

Mr. Woodward: The Government are committed to supporting live music in all its forms. Through the Live Music Forum, we are working to ensure that opportunities for the promotion of live music are realised to the full. We are also achieving this through increased investment—funding for music through Arts Council England has more than doubled since 1997 to over £100 million in 2006.

Lotteries

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to restrict the ability of gambling operations to market lottery style betting games. [74566]

Mr. Caborn: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State does not have any plans to impose conditions to operating licences under section 68 of the Gambling Act 2005 in relation to lottery style betting games.

The Gambling Act 2005 sets out the definitions of different types of gambling activity, and provides that it is a criminal offence to offer facilities for gambling without authorisation.

However, should the Commission consider that there is a regulatory need to do so, it does have powers under section 79 of the Act to impose conditions on operators which relate to the manner, nature and circumstances (including marketing) of licensed activities (including lottery style betting games).

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she will announce her decision on the review by the Gambling Commission, of the legal limits on the size of *(a)* prizes and *(b)* proceeds of society lotteries. [71627]

Mr. Caborn: We are currently considering the Gambling Commisaion's review of the limits on the prizes and proceeds for society lotteries, and will make an announcement in due course.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether it is Government policy to encourage competition between the National Lottery and society lotteries. [71629]

Mr. Caborn: The Government believe that society lotteries and the National Lottery can co-exist happily. Both types of lottery play an important role in raising money for good causes, and it is our policy to ensure that appropriate and proportionate regulation applies in each case. Society lotteries are required to abide by strict limits on proceeds and prizes, currently up to £2 million and £200,000 respectively in any single lottery. We are supporting the work of society lotteries by introducing a range of deregulatory measures through the Gambling Act 2005, and by strengthening the protection for society lotteries from illegal lotteries that purport to be prize competitions in certain media outlets. The National Lottery continues to be regulated under separate legislation.

Museums and Galleries

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many items in national museums and galleries have not been on public display in the last three years. [74511]

Mr. Lammy: The number of collection items in the DCMS-sponsored museums and galleries that have not been on public display in the past three years was estimated to have been around 105 million in October 2005. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) on 11 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 459W.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the most recent estimate is of the size of the reserve collections of the national museums and galleries. [74512]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) on 11 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 459W.

National Lottery

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions her Department has had with the Department for Education and Skills on the use of lottery funding for projects in schools. [74506]

Mr. Caborn: We have regular discussions with colleagues at the Department for Education and Skills about joint programmes, such as those that receive funding from the Big Lottery Fund and the Arts and Sports Councils. For example, this includes the £750 million New Opportunities for PE and Sport (NOPES) programme which is bringing about a step change in the provision of sporting facilities for young people and the community more generally.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the current balance is of lottery funds held in the national lottery distribution fund on behalf of the Millennium Commission. [74508]

Mr. Caborn: The Millennium Commission's balance held in the national lottery distribution fund at the end of April 2006 was £56.1 million of which £34.5 million has been committed under existing grant programmes and for operating costs. The uncommitted balance is

allocated to the Millennium Commission's final funding programmes, and decisions will be made on these in due course.

Under the provisions of the National Lottery Bill, the Big Lottery Fund, as the Millennium Commission's successor body, would take on any remaining balance and funding commitments.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* cost to date and *(b)* projected cost is of the merger of the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund to create the Big Lottery Fund. [74509]

Mr. Caborn: The cost to date of the administrative merger of the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund to create the Big Lottery Fund is £4.976 million. The administrative merger is now effectively complete, though some minor costs will be incurred in effecting the legal merger, if the National Lottery Bill is passed. Savings of £3.5 million a year on costs have already been achieved and overall the merger will lead to savings of 10 to 20 per cent. of pre-merger costs, which equates to around £6 million to £12 million per annum.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the national lottery operator has paid to the National Lottery Commission in licence fees in each year since 1994. [74510]

Mr. Caborn: The information is as follows:

	Amount (£)
1994-95	110,000
1995-96	260,000
1996-97	340,000
1997-98	400,000
1998-99	380,000
1999-2000	480,000
2000-01	620,000
2001-02	544,000
2002-03	820,000
2003-04	428,000
2004-05	316,000
2005-06	371,000

The figures for licence fees between 1994-95 and 1998-99 are cash-based and from 1999-2000 accruals-based. The figure for the year ending 31 March 2006 is not yet available, but will be published when the accounts for that period are laid before Parliament in July 2006.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many members of the public her Department consulted on the proposed changes to the National Lottery; and how many responses were received. [74513]

Mr. Caborn: My Department held a public consultation between 25 November 2005 and 28 February 2006 about Lottery funding for the good causes of arts and film, heritage and sport after 2009. The consultation could be accessed online through the Department's website and respondents could also reply by postage-paid questionnaire. The consultation received 11,476 responses. The same consultation was also carried out by Camelot, on its players' website, for the two weeks to 28 February 2006, receiving 175 responses. My Department also commissioned a series of focus groups across the UK.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what amount of National Lottery prize money remains unclaimed; and if she will make a statement. [74565]

Mr. Caborn: Amounts in respect of unclaimed prize money are paid to the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF)180 days after the relevant draw, or 180 days after the end of the relevant scratchcard game.

From the launch in 1994 to 28 April 2006, £824.4 million in unclaimed prize money has been paid to the NLDF.

During the 180-day period, unclaimed prize money is held in Player Trust Accounts. The figure for unclaimed prize money held in Player Trust Accounts is calculated on the last Friday of every month. The figure on 28 April 2006 was £54.5 million.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the total amount *(a)* allocated and *(b)* distributed by each of the lottery distribution bodies in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006. [73872]

Mr. Caborn: The table shows the value of grants awarded and how much has been spent by each lottery distributor, using the financial years closest to those in the question.

The information in table (a) is derived from the Department's lottery award database, searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk, which uses information supplied by the lottery distributors. The 2006 figures are the latest available, but will exclude awards yet to be reported to the Department and included on the database.

It often takes time for projects that are awarded lottery money to start spending on a project; consequently awards are often spent wholly or partly in different years from those in which they are made.

The expenditure figures are the sum drawn down from the National Lottery Distribution Fund by each distributor for the years in question, and include operating costs.

Table (a)

£

	Awarded	
Distributing body	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Arts Council England	123,837,021	144,370,701
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	13,513,693	5,447,527
Arts Council of Wales	13,138,415	9,425,019
Community Fund[1]	204,519,573	420,851,262
Heritage Lottery Fund	332,083,116	251,528,624
Millennium Commission	33,100,574	653,256
New Opportunities Fund[2]	385 772 523	102,377,345
Scottish Arts Council	14,639,584	2,529,305

Table (a)

£

Distributing body	Awarded: 2004-05	2005-06
Scottish Screen	4,038,244	1,279,638
Sport England	165,523,562	23,580,559
Sport Scotland	11,077,149	2,179,158
Sports Council for Northern Ireland	456,545	923,315
Sports Council for Wales	4,494,469	2,170,800
UK Film Council	29,022,291	46,204,800
UK Sport	44,621,329	3,476,241

[1] Home Front Recall and the Awards For All Scheme have been included in the figure for the Community Fund.
[2] This includes new programs which have started since the administrative merger of the Community Fund and New Opportunities Fund.

Table (b)

£

Distributing body	Spent: 2004-05	2005-06
Arts Council England	187,259,495	187,611,134
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	8,844,893	10,744,933
Arts Council of Wales	16,044,448	12,715,397
Community Fund	263,685,527	246,852,654
Heritage Lottery Fund	297,713,444	373,082,606
Millennium Commission	54,532,676	51,590,841
New Opportunities Fund	520,000,000	641,200,000
Scottish Arts Council	22,689,783	23,046,339
Scottish Screen	603,632	2,576,787
Sport England	184,000,000	193,100,000
Sport Scotland	28,299,446	21,452,710
Sports Council for Northern Ireland	5,711,573	6,648,731
Sports Council for Wales	17,633,000	12,312,000
UK Film Council	30,637,905	35,581,617
UK Sport	17,252,838	23,245,972

National Sports Foundation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the progress of the work of the National Sports Foundation. [75001]

Mr. Caborn: I am very pleased that the National Sports Foundation has made its first award. This was to the Lords Taverners for £177,500, to support their excellent work to promote the growth of grass roots cricket through the provision of cricket equipment bags to junior cricketers. This funding, which will help ensure that we capitalise on the explosion of interest in cricket among our young people following last summer's Ashes series, was matched by a donation from the England and Wales Cricket Trust.

I understand that the Foundation is in continuing discussions with potential sponsors as well as sporting organisations and they are hopeful that further awards will be announced shortly.

Paddington Station

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans have been made for the conservation of the fourth span at Paddington station; and if she will make a statement on the station's future as a Grade I listed building. [73858]

Mr. Lammy: Paddington station was listed at Grade I in 1961. In March English Heritage received an application to amend the list entry in relation to Span Four. Once we have received English Heritage's advice, the Secretary of State will determine whether the list entry for Paddington should be revised.

Shrewsbury (Sports Village)

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will visit the new sports village in Shrewsbury to see the facilities provided by the borough council. [74185]

Mr. Caborn: I am always keen to visit new sports facilities—especially those that have received significant Government and Lottery investment such as the new sports village in Shrewsbury. I would be delighted to pay a visit if my diary allows.

Small Change Big Difference

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department and its agencies have taken following the launch of the Government's Small Change Big Difference Campaign. [72010]

Mr. Caborn: The Department has not yet taken specific steps as a direct result of the launch of the Small Change Big Difference campaign. However, working largely through Sport England, the lead national body for promoting grassroots participation in sport, we are supporting a range of initiatives to help increase participation in sport and active recreation which reflect and support the campaign's advice.

As the programme of work develops, the Department of Health will be working across all of government to ensure the programme joins up to promote maximum impact. DOH is leading the implementation for this initiative as part of its cross-government commitment to deliver the public health White Paper Choosing Health.

Television (Wales)

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to ensure access to *(a)* BBC Wales, *(b)* ITV Wales and *(c)* S4C in north-east Wales after digital switchover. [72673]

Mr. Woodward: Digital Switchover will enable digital terrestrial coverage to match the current 98.5 per cent. analogue level. Switchover for the HTV Wales region will happen in the second half of 2009.

After switchover, viewers in Wales who currently receive BBC Wales, ITV Wales and S4C in analogue terrestrial form, will continue to receive those services

in digital form. But these services are also available on satellite to the whole country.

Television Advertising

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations Ofcom has met to discuss restrictions on television advertising of food products targeting children since she asked Ofcom to examine the issue on 1 December 2003; and on what dates. [73193]

Mr. Woodward: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to respond directly to my hon. Friend. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Television Licence (Second Homes)

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the BBC raised in licence fees from second homes in each of the last five years. [73548]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* The information requested is not collected centrally. The fact that a property is a second home is not relevant to the television licensing requirements, except for people aged 75 or over, who receive free licences for their main address only.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Commission

25. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what the total cost of the Electoral Commission has been in each financial year since its inception. [74912]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission estimates its net resource out-turn expenditure in 2005-06 to be £21.924 million. The corresponding figures for earlier years are given in the Commission's annual reports and accounts for the years concerned. These have been laid before the House and may be viewed in the Library.

Boundary Proposals (Election Periods)

Paul Rowen: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether it is the policy of the Electoral Commission not to issue Boundary Committee proposals during an election period. [74911]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission's responsibilities in relation to boundary matters extend only to local authority ward boundaries in England. I am informed that its statutory committee, the Boundary Committee for England, has not issued proposals for new local authority electoral arrangements during an election period since April 2002.

Electoral Registration

Mr. Heald: To ask my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what research the Commission has undertaken of the number of *(a)* failed asylum seekers and *(b)* foreign nationals not from the Commonwealth or Irish Republic who are fraudulently on the electoral register. [73920]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has undertaken no research into these issues.

Where it appears to an Electoral Registration Officer that an attempt has been made by any individual to register fraudulently, it would be for them to make inquiries and, if appropriate, alert the police.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Cathedrals

Mark Pritchard: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what central funding the commissioners expect to receive in 2006-07 for repairs to cathedrals. [74916]

Sir Stuart Bell: None. In this period grant aid for repairs paid directly to English cathedrals from English Heritage will be £1 million, which has been the level since 2005.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Bills (Amendments)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will list the occasions when an amendment has been moved by *(a)* a Labour backbencher, *(b)* an Opposition backbencher and *(c)* an Opposition front bench spokesman to a Bill sponsored by his Department that has been accepted by his Department during the current session; and if he will make a statement. [72132]

The Solicitor-General: My Departments have not sponsored any legislation in the current session.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will list those Private Members' Bills in respect of which his Department has adopted a policy of neutrality in each session since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [72130]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is not collected by my Departments and providing it would incur disproportionate costs.

SCOTLAND

Devolution

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what devolution issues the Advocate General has considered since 9 May. [75053]

David Cairns: Since 9 May, 37 devolution issues have been intimated to the Advocate General. Of these 37 devolution issues, 20 arose in civil proceedings and 17 in criminal proceedings.

Eid-Ul-Adha

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff from his Department attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event in London in 2005; and what the total cost was to his Department of their attendance. [73056]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has written to the hon. Member with details of the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

International Meetings

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will encourage the Scottish Executive to participate in UK delegations as appropriate at relevant international meetings; and if he will make a statement. [74672]

David Cairns: Arrangements for the Scottish Executive participating in UK delegations to international meetings are clearly laid out in the Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements—specifically the Concordats on the Co-ordination of European Union Policy Issues and International Relations.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will provide a substantive reply to Question 63598, on electors in Scottish constituencies, tabled by the hon. Member for Glasgow East on 14 April. [74606]

David Cairns: As my hon. Friend is aware, I replied on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1804-05W.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 5 June 2006

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

32 (The Royal) Squadron

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the occasions on which she has used 32 (The Royal) Squadron since 2001; what the approximate take-off and landing times were of each flight; whether the carbon emissions were offset in respect of each flight; which other transport options were considered for each flight; why other transport options were not used; for what official duties each flight was used; and if she will make a statement. [66161]

Barry Gardiner: The rules on the use of special flights, including 32 Squadron, are set out in "Travel by Ministers". The annual lists of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500 set out when special flights are used, and the destination, cost and purpose of each trip. Copies are available in the Library. Carbon dioxide emissions arising from 32 Squadron flights are included in the Government's carbon offsetting commitment. Carbon emissions arising from the use of these flights have been recorded and offset in the same way as the use of scheduled flights since April 2005.

Agricultural Ties

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what restrictions an agricultural tie places on occupants of a house so registered; and if he will make a statement. [74172]

Barry Gardiner: An agricultural tie is a condition attached to the planning consent for a house or another similar dwelling. The precise conditions that the tie brings will vary from case to case. However, these will usually limit occupation of the property to an agricultural worker, or their widow or widower.

Agricultural Waste

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to bring into force regulations to bring agricultural waste within the controls of the waste framework and the landfill directives. [74547]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Waste Management (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 came into force on 15 May 2006. These Regulations apply to agricultural waste the same national waste management controls that have long applied to other sectors of industry. The Regulations comply with the Waste Framework Directive (75/442/EEC as amended) and the Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC).

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Agricultural Waste Stakeholders Forum has determined how farm plastic waste can best be collected and recovered; and if he will make a statement. [74548]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Agricultural Waste Stakeholders' Forum (AWSF) has been awarded £1 million worth of funding under the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme over three years. This is to develop a programme of work examining how farm plastic waste can best be collected and recovered within the formal structure of a producer responsibility scheme. Producer responsibility regulations are already in place for producers placing packaging on the market. It is likely that any new collection scheme will be set up to collect both packaging and non-packaging farm plastics.

This programme of work is feeding into the development of statutory producer responsibility regulations. These are currently being developed to increase the collection and recycling of non-packaging farm plastics.

An advisory group, operating as part of the existing Advisory Committee on Packaging, is also being established to assist with the development of the regulations. This group will include producers of both packaging and non-packaging farm plastics, the farming community, the waste industry and relevant Government Departments and Environment Agencies.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to develop a national producer responsibility scheme for the collection and recovery of farm plastics. [74553]

Mr. Bradshaw: Research has shown that most farmers and growers are keen to recycle waste non-packaging farm plastics.

On 21 March this year, Defra announced plans to develop statutory producer responsibility regulations to increase the collection and recycling of non-packaging farm plastics. This was in response to a consultation carried out in December 2004, which put forward proposals for such a scheme. The regulations will be developed in collaboration with the devolved administrations, covering England, Scotland and Wales. Northern Ireland will consider introducing separate regulations following consultation.

Producer responsibility regulations are already in place for those producers placing packaging on the market. It is expected that any collection scheme would be set up to collect both packaging and non-packaging farm plastics.

Badgers/Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) on what

scientific evidence he based his estimate of culling efficiency in the Krebs Trial; [73570]

(2) what methods of estimating the badger population were used to monitor the effectiveness of badger culling in the Randomised Badger Cull Trial; [73571]

(3) what factors account for the size of the range in his Department's figure for badger culling efficiency; [73874]

(4) whether the Independent Scientific Group validated his Department's badger culling efficiency figure; and if he will make a statement. [73875]

Mr. Bradshaw: Culling efficiency in the proactive trial areas is calculated by taking the proportion of the badger population that is available to be trapped within the whole trial area (the trapping efficacy) and correcting this to reflect the degree of landowner consent.

At the time of publishing the consultation document, "Controlling the Spread of Bovine Tuberculosis in Cattle in High Incidence Areas in England: Badger Culling", experts at the Central Science Laboratory (CSL) estimated the culling efficiency within the proactive areas of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) to have been 20 to 60 per cent. during the initial proactive culling operations. This figure was based on a trapping efficacy of 50 to 80 per cent. and landowner consent of 43 to 82 per cent.

The Independent Scientific Group (ISG) on cattle TB believe the trapping efficiency may be greater than the 20 to 60 per cent. estimate. I have asked CSL to carry out further analysis on both these estimates, using the latest data from the RBCT. Variations in trapping efficiency will reflect the season, the weather, the differing amount of non-consent land within each proactive removal area, and trap interference. The approach and results from the revised estimates will be discussed with the ISG.

At the end of the trial, following the completion of all culling, the relative density of badgers in the proactive and survey only areas was assessed using a technique known as distance sampling. This found that there was an average difference of 58 per cent. (range 26 to 93 per cent.) in the relative density of badgers in the proactive and survey only areas at the end of the proactive treatments.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has collated on the levels of tuberculosis in badgers. [74328]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data from the Road Traffic Accident (RTA) survey and the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) have been used to estimate the prevalence of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in badgers. RTA badger prevalence data for 2002 to 2004 are available on the Defra website: http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/isg/publications/isg1430.pdf

Data on the prevalence of TB in badgers culled in the initial proactive culls of the RBCT can be found in table 2 of the paper from the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB entitled "The Spatial Association of Mycobacterium bovis in cattle and badgers". Further information about this paper is available on the Defra website: http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/isg/isgpublications.htm

Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the occasions when an amendment has been moved by *(a)* a Labour back bencher, *(b)* Opposition back bencher and *(c)* Opposition front bench spokesman to a Bill sponsored by his Department, which has been accepted by his Department during the 2005-06 Session; and if he will make a statement. [72477]

Barry Gardiner: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, has sponsored the following Bills during the current session.

Animal Health and Welfare Bill

Commons Bill

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill (received Royal Assent on 30 March 2006)

Information on amendments moved and accepted during the Committee and Report Stage on these Bills is published in the *Official Report*.

Biomass

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what tonnage of woodchip from forests and woodlands in each region was used in biomass *(a)* boilers and *(b)* electricity generators in the last year for which figures are available. [74100]

Ian Pearson: The Forestry Commission are currently compiling data on the use of forestry woodfuel in each region of England. Usage ranges from 1,000 to 10,000 green tonnes (gt) per region per year. In total each year, around 36,000 gt are estimated to be used for biomass boilers and 50,000 gt for co-firing in electricity generators.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to paragraph 9.5 of the Government's Response to the Biomass Task Force, by what date he expects the planned two million tonnes per annum production to be achieved. [74101]

Ian Pearson: The Forestry Commission will be submitting options for delivery to the Government in its report at the end of September 2006.

Brownfield Development

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations his Department has received on the effect of the definition of waste on the use of soil and aggregates in the context of land remediation and brownfield development. [73839]

Mr. Bradshaw: The most recent representations received by the Department on this issue are contained in a letter dated 4 May from the Environmental Industries Commission, to which I will be responding shortly.

Climate Change

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* companies and *(b)* others with large energy bills on plans to restrict carbon dioxide emissions. [70304]

Ian Pearson: In 2005, the Government commissioned research from the Carbon Trust and Ecofys to assess alternative policies to increase carbon savings from the non-energy intensive business and the public sector. The Carbon Trust held five stakeholder workshops with energy-intensive sectors, non-energy-intensive sectors (hosted by CBI), the public sector, NGOs and suppliers of energy-efficient equipment.

In October 2005, DEFRA, DTI and the Climate Group co-hosted a major international conference for business entitled "Climate Change: The Business Forecast". This was attended by over 300 delegates from the UK, other EU and G8 countries, and the major emerging economies of China, Mexico and South Africa.

Energy-intensive industries are covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. DEFRA and DTI have consulted extensively with industry during the development of the phase 2 National Allocation Plan, which sets out our plans to restrict carbon dioxide emissions between 2008-12. A questionnaire canvassing stakeholders' initial views on the longer term future of the EU ETS, post-2012, has recently issued to feed into the Commission's review of the scheme.

Negotiations are continuing with sectors that became eligible for entry into climate change agreements under S159/2006 and 60/2006, which came into force on 21 January 2006. To date, six new sectors covering approximately 180 companies have joined the agreements. A further six sectors covering approximately 140 companies are awaiting state aid approval and the laying of further regulations before their agreements can be signed.

Correspondence

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what average time was taken by Ministers in his Department to respond to correspondence from hon. and right hon. Members in the last period for which figures are available; and what targets he has set for this process. [72402]

Barry Gardiner: Departmental performance in responding to correspondence to Ministers from hon. and right hon. Members, including Members of the House of Lords, is reported annually to Parliament by the Cabinet Office. The latest annual report shows that Defra received 14,305 letters in 2004 and replied to 81 per cent. of these within the Department's target of 15 working days. In 2005, Defra received 12,051 letters and replied to 75 per cent. of these within its target.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Nottingham, North on organic food dated 16 March. [75063]

Mr. Bradshaw: A reply was sent to my hon. Friend on 11 April 2006. I will arrange for a further copy to be sent.

Departmental Estate

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* land and *(b)* property his Department and its predecessors (i) leases and (ii) leased in (A) Southend, West constituency, (B) Essex, (C) Hertfordshire and (D) the Metropolitan police area of London in (1) 1979, (2) 1983, (3) 1987, (4) 1992 and (5) 1997. [72476]

Barry Gardiner: The Department was not created until 2001. Leased property occupied by its predecessor, MAFF, prior to 1990 was acquired for the Ministry by the Property Services Agency (PSA). The dates on which such property was acquired are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Leased property held in 1992 and acquired between then and 1997 is listed as follows. No land was leased in these areas during the years concerned.

1. Southend, West constituency:

None

2. Essex:

1992

Fisheries Office, Waterside, Brightlingsea

Fairfax House, North Station Road, Colchester

Fisheries Office, Hythe Quay, Colchester

Riverside House, Tilbury Dock, Tilbury

3 Charter Court, Severalls Park, Colchester

1997

Fisheries Office, Hythe Quay, Colchester

Riverside House, Tilbury Dock, Tilbury

3 Charter Court, Severalls Park, Colchester

3. Hertfordshire:

1992

Plant Pathology Laboratory, Hatching Green Drive, Harpenden

Rothampstead Experimental Station, Harpenden

Mardell House, Vaughan Road, Harpenden

77B South Street, Bishops Stortford

1997

Plant Pathology Laboratory, Hatching Green Drive, Harpenden

4. Metropolitan police area of London:

1992

Building 521, Heathrow Airport
3-8 Whitehall Place, London
10 Whitehall Place, London
55 Whitehall, London
Victory House, 30-34 Kingsway, London
Eastbury House, 30-34 Albert Embankment, London
Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London
Ergon House, 17 Smith Square, London
Allen House, 23 Sherrin Road, Leyton, London
Unit 1C, Western International Market, Hounslow

1997

As for 1992

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff from his Department attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event in London in 2005; and what the total cost to his Department was of their attendance. [73096]

Barry Gardiner: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will write to the hon. Member with details of the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event. Copies of her letter will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Funding

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures he will use to assess the socio-economic effects of reductions in funding by his Department to research establishments following the effects of publication of the Research Council Institute's Public Sector Sustainability Survey. [72850]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* Decisions on where to place research contracts are taken on assessment of how the identified research need can best be met. Socio-economic considerations are not part of the scientific review process when assessing research proposals.

Departmental Staff

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff by *(a)* headcount and *(b)* full-time equivalent work on his blog, broken down by (i) grade and (ii) office or directorate of his Department in which the staff work; and if he will make a statement. [72801]

Barry Gardiner: The Secretary of State writes his own blog. Two staff in Defra's Communications Directorate—at Grade 7 and Higher Executive Officer grades—have integrated the blog into Defra's website, and continue to oversee operation. For the two weeks following the recent ministerial changes, approximately 30 to 40 per cent. of their time was spent on work in some way connected to the blog. This is expected to decrease.

The blog promotes a new and more direct form of communication between the public and the Secretary of State.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [73095]

Barry Gardiner: The number of staff in Defra, the State Veterinary Service, the Marine Fisheries Agency and the Government Decontamination Service that had two or more periods of sickness absence of fewer than five days in 2005 was as follows:

Number of periods of absence	*Number of staff*
(a) 5 or more	633
(b) 4	429
(c) 3	682
(d) 2	1,085

The number of staff in Defra, SVS, MFA and GDS in 2005 was 7,315 full-time equivalents.

Data on sickness absences for Defra's other Executive Agencies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Data for other years are unavailable.

In Defra, managers are responsible for managing sick absence levels and encouraging a working environment where people want to come to work and where they support each other. They discuss each occasion of absence with the employee upon their return to work to determine any action or individual support needs. A new contract for the provision of occupational health services ensures that assistance is available to managers who have particular concerns over an individual's general health or sickness absence.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what incentives his Department offers to encourage staff to share vehicles when travelling to work. [73098]

Barry Gardiner: The majority of larger Defra and Agency sites have Green Travel Plans which apart from promoting other forms of travel to work, such as cycling, include local arrangement where priority parking provision for the drivers of shared vehicles is made available where space permits.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension. [73099]

Barry Gardiner: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) can pay additional contributions to top up their pension either through the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme (CSAVCS), a money purchase arrangement, or

by buying added years of service in the PCSPS. As an alternative to membership of the PCSPS recruits from 1 October 2002 have been able to join a stakeholder arrangement, the partnership pension account.

The number and percentage of staff in the department who are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension as at 31 May 2006 are shown in the table.

	Number	*Percentage*
CSAVCS	127	1.6
Added Years	460	5.9
Partnership	172	2.2

These figures, taken from the DEFRA payroll also include agency staff in the: Pesticides Safety Directorate, State Veterinary Service, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine Fisheries Agency and Government Decontamination Service.

Fisheries

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will propose to his EU colleagues a ban on EU fishing in the waters of Western Sahara in view of the fact it is a disputed territory. [74820]

Mr. Bradshaw: The UK's position on the EU-Morocco fisheries agreement remains that Morocco, the de facto administering power of Western Sahara, is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the people of the Western Sahara.

Ivory

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what documentary proof his Department requires to determine the age of an ivory item claimed to be of antique status; [75076]

(2) what action his Department has taken to curb the illegal ivory trade in the UK since 2004. [75080]

Barry Gardiner: The "antiques derogation" as defined in Article 2 of Council Regulation EC 338/97 states that

"worked specimens that were acquired more than 50 years previously shall mean items that were significantly altered from their natural raw state for jewellery, adornment, art, utility or musical instruments"

"50 years previously" is defined as pre 1 June 1947.

An item that satisfies this derogation does not require any application for sale within the ED, and no specific documentary proof is required. Similarly, no permit is needed for re-export, providing that the item is carried in the personal luggage of the traveller. Only where the specimen is being re-exported by an antique dealer and being sent to a purchaser outside the EU is a CITES permit required.

In these circumstances, where an application has been made, it would be usual to accept the assurances of a reputable antiques dealer that an item is pre-1947. However if there were to be any doubt my officials have an agreement with the British Antique Dealers Association (BADA) for an independent expert to make an assessment on our behalf.

It is unrealistic to specify documentary evidence as in many cases this simply will not exist. If documentary evidence is thought necessary an affidavit from an independent expert will usually suffice.

Last year officials prepared a specific guidance note for antique dealers in consultation with the British Antique Dealers Association concerning the control of trade in endangered species. It explains the requirements dealers must comply with when they are engaged in the sale of antique items in the UK, or their export overseas, and the ramifications of non-compliance with the regulations. This has been distributed to trade associations, and to applicants and other people with antique queries.

Statistics from the Elephant Trade Information System (a global monitoring system established to track and assess the scale of illegal trade in ivory) has not revealed any significant problems of illegal ivory trade in the UK.

Ministerial Cars (Fuel Costs)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the fuel costs were for ministerial cars used by her Department in each of the last five years. [67021]

Barry Gardiner: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1226W by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Transport (Dr. Ladyman).

Ministerial Portfolios

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the portfolios of the Ministers within his Department. [74073]

Barry Gardiner: Ministers' portfolios remain substantially unchanged from those held by their predecessors.

Organic Food

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what views *(a)* consumer organisations, *(b)* the Soil Association and *(c)* supermarkets have expressed to him regarding the European Commission's proposal to revise Council regulation 2092/91, on organic production, which will impose a requirement for all organic food produced by British farmers to be labelled with an EU logo and/or the words EU organic. [73242]

Mr. Bradshaw: Stakeholders in the organic sector have been consulted on the possibility of the compulsory use of the EU logo or the indication EU organic through a written consultation and meetings

with the Organic Action Plan group. The Advisory Committee on Organic Standards has also been consulted. In line with the majority of responses we have negotiated on the basis that the UK would prefer a voluntary approach to the use of these indications.

Pest Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will reconsider the decision to ban the use of strychnine for mole control by dairy farmers; and what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of alternatives. [72732]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply

The UK Government have not banned the use of strychnine for mole control by dairy farmers.

The use of strychnine for mole control is controlled under the Biocidal Products Directive administered in the UK by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as the UK Competent Authority.

This Biocidal Products Directive aims to harmonise controls for marketing and use of biocidal products across Europe, while ensuring a high level of protection for human health and the environment. This includes the assessment of the active substances (such as strychnine) in biocidal products, followed by the authorisation of individual products containing those substances. These risks assessments should be based on scientific data packages provided by industry or other interested parties.

Industry did not submit any such data to support the continued marketing and use of strychnine, and so under the requirements of the directive, strychnine must be removed from the market by 1 September 2006.

However, the directive does allow member states, on behalf of applicants, to apply for a temporary exemption for substances considered to have 'essential use' in those member states. The HSE has received an application for the 'essential use' of strychnine to control moles from the British Pest Control Association (BPCA) and will forward this to the European Commission for consideration.

If this application is successful, it will allow strychnine to continue to be used until 14 May 2010. However, in the meantime, industry will need to develop alternative methods for controlling moles in the future.

On research into alternatives to strychnine, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published in 2004 a report produced by the Central Science Laboratory which reviewed the range of mole control methods that exist across the EU. The report is available on DEFRA's website at: (http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/vertebrates/reports/mole-review.pdf).

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list those Private Members' Bills in respect of which his Department has adopted a policy of neutrality in each session since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [72475]

Barry Gardiner: The information requested is not collected by the Department and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Recycling

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to increase recycling in England. [74160]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government's vision for sustainable waste management in England and Wales and their plan of action are set out in their document, "Waste Strategy 2000", available on the Defra website: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/policy.htm. This is currently under review and our revised strategy will put forward a range of measures to build on recent improvements in recycling.

Defra has set national targets to increase household waste recycling to 25 per cent. by 2005-06, 30 per cent. by 2010 and 33 per cent. by 2015. The amount of household waste which is recycled has doubled in the last four years and is continuing to rise.

Local authorities are working hard to improve their performance in household waste recycling, however, Defra is proposing more targeted intervention and engagement with the poorest performers. Those local authorities with the lowest recycling rates in England have had their targets for 2007-08 raised from 18 per cent. to 20 per cent.

The Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund and its successor (the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant) have provided funding totalling £294 million over the three years to 2005-06 for specific projects to expand recycling operations. Through the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), credits worth £355 million have been made available over the same period as an extra source of funding, with a further £535 million available in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme has been developed to give £284 million in additional landfill tax revenues back to business in a revenue neutral way. This is being done by funding resource efficiency and waste projects that will benefit business, including recycling.

On a national basis, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is working to promote sustainable waste management by creating stable and efficient markets for recycled materials and products. WRAP also runs the Recycling and Organics Technical Advisory Team (ROTATE), which is available to all local authorities in England to provide support and advice on the separate collection of dry recyclables and organic wastes.

Rural Enterprise Scheme

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much is

available to support applications to the Rural Enterprise Scheme in the South West in 2006-07; how much has been allocated; which applications are being considered; and what the deadline is for applications. [73273]

Barry Gardiner: The England Rural Development Programme's Project Based Schemes, including the Rural Enterprise Scheme (RES), will close to new applications on 30 June 2006.

RES is a competitive scheme that has been very popular and successful in the South West and across the country. The announcement that the scheme would close on 30 June has lead to an increased number of applications, and that has meant that competition for funding has been much higher than usual.

Over £5.2 million has been allocated to RES in the South West in 2006-07 and a substantial amount of this is now fully committed. Around 100 applications are currently being considered in the South West and the large number of applications will inevitably mean that some projects are unlikely to be funded.

The Rural Development Service is working to make the best use of funds under the current England Rural Development Programme—to ensure that as much of the money allocated to this programme is spent. RDS will continue to review the funding situation across these schemes and across the country as a whole.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the costs to farmers of making applications to the Rural Enterprise Scheme. [74089]

Barry Gardiner: No specific assessment of the cost of making an application to the Rural Enterprise Scheme has been carried out, but we know from our work with applicants to schemes run by my Department that the costs associated with applications can vary considerably from case to case. This will depend on the project size and complexity and is usually in proportion to the amount of grant being requested.

My Department recognises that costs to applicants can be significant. Indeed, the costs of preparing a project and its supporting documentation (which may include feasibility studies, technical development work and preparation of a detailed business case), are themselves eligible for funding. Development costs will not be funded in respect of unsuccessful Rural Enterprise Scheme applications, however; and it is clear throughout the guidance that work is undertaken at the applicant's own risk

In 2003 we introduced a fast-track system for smaller projects to reduce the detail required. This has helped to keep the costs of applying for small amounts of grant to a minimum.

Rural Payments Agency

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what systems have been established to monitor the quality of Rural Payments Agency staff responses to *(a)* telephone calls and *(b)* electronic mail. [71512]

Barry Gardiner: The information is as follows:

(a) Telephone calls

Customer Service Centre (CSC) telephone agents are monitored by their team leaders and given feedback reports each week. Team leaders also listen into calls on a regular basis. From this, agents are given more specific feedback and advice on call handling techniques. The results of these checks are recorded with the weekly feedback to show where development is required and where progress is being made.

Team leaders also carry out sample checks of customer records on the main computer application to ensure that calls are being logged to the required standard and all relevant information is noted.

(b) Electronic mails

A call tracking system logs all incoming e-mails and date stamps their receipt. The e-mail is assigned to the appropriate Rural Payments Agency site for a response and the time taken to reply is tracked against published charter targets. Using this system, RPA can measure its e-mail handling performance and also identify bottlenecks in the process and allocate resources efficiently to remove them.

Once the member of staff has investigated the customer's query and drafted a response it is checked by their line manager to ensure that the reply fully answers the customer's query and that the spelling and grammar is correct. This is then forwarded to the monitoring office for a final review where the reply is checked for plain English, spelling, grammar and layout.

RPA launched a CSC on 14 February 2005. This was done to streamline single payment scheme and customer registration telephone enquiries into the agency through one route, to allow staff to concentrate on processing. More importantly, this system aims to ensure that customers receive consistent answers and any more complex inquiries can be directed to specialist areas of the business to call the customer back.

The main call centre is based in Workington with facilities for calls to be diverted to staff at other RPA sites during periods of unusually high demand.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records he keeps of calls back *(a)* promised and *(b)* made by Rural Payments Agency staff. [71514]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency maintains a central computerised database of callers to its customer service centre that require a return call. The system is used when a member of staff is unable to answer a customer's question during the incoming call. All calls requiring a follow up response are logged on a database. Progress in clearing follow up responses is managed by a central team and reported daily to Senior Managers.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints about Rural Payment Agency (RPA) payments have been received by RPA staff in each of

the last five years; and how complaints were *(a)* identified and *(b)* defined. [71516]

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2006 to Question 66634, on single farm payments, how many such complaints have been received for England. [72291]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) does not separately monitor official complaints made to its Customer Relations Unit that specifically relate to payments.

Since the establishment of RPA in October 2001, 1,325 official complaints have been received covering all areas of its business. The table shows these broken down by calendar year.

	Number
2001	3
2002	212
2003	197
2004	206
2005	424
2006	283

RPA operates an appeal procedure to deal with appeals from customers about decisions reached by RPA which affect the amount of payment which they receive. The Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) appeal procedure in England was introduced on 1 April 2002 and was extended in April 2004 to cover some 60 non-IACS schemes and in November 2004 to cover the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). To date 260 IACS, 15 non-IACS and 51 SPS appeals have been received. In addition, the appeal procedure has dealt with 181 appeals against the Moorland Line and 280 appeals against the historic element of the SPS prior to payments being made.

	IACS	*Non-IACS*	*Moorland Line*	*SPS (Historic)*	*SPS*
2001	—	—	—	—	—
2002	26	—	—	—	—
2003	83	—	—	—	—
2004	78	3	82	11	—
2005	57	10	99	246	—
2006	15	2	—	23	51

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many telephone calls to the Rural Payments Agency Customer Service Centre *(a)* were answered and *(b)* went unanswered in each month since 2001. [71533]

Barry Gardiner: The figures show calls to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) Customer Service Centre (CSC) Number 0845 603 7777. The CSC went live on 14 February 2005 and therefore we only have the number of calls answered for the last two weeks of February.

The figures for May, June and July 2005 are gathered from a number of sources and include the use of an external call centre.

	Calls offered to 0845 603 7777	*Unanswered*	*Percentage unanswered*
February 2005	(Calls answered 12,971	Not available	Not available
March 2005	110,215	74,337	67.45
April 2005	195,007	94,948	48.69
May 2005	93,346	8,705	9.33
June 2005	24,496	2,46	1.09
July 2005	20,199	247	1.22
August 2005	20,780	218	1.05
September 2005	21,752	249	1.14
October 2005	26,150	317	1.21
November 2005[1]	26,289	1,168	4.44
December 2005	18,725	187	1.00
January 2006	26,628	185	0.69
February 2006	28,322	175	0.62
March 2006	52,748	450	0.85
April 2006	68,684	281	0.41

[1]The November 2005 figure was the result of an emergency evacuation when approx 600 calls (with a high number of repeat calls) were lost.

RPA launched a CSC on 14 February 2005. This was done to streamline single payment scheme and customer registration telephone enquiries into the agency through one route, to allow staff to concentrate on processing. More importantly, this system aims to ensure that customers receive consistent answers and any, more complex enquiries can be directed to specialist areas of the business to call the customer back.

The main call centre is based in Workington with facilities for calls to be diverted to staff at other RPA sites during periods of unusually high demand.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average time taken for the Rural Payments Agency to process applications for payments to farmers and agricultural businesses has been in each year since 2001, broken down by scheme. [71537]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency does not hold this information and as such it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the differences between the Rural Payments Agency's computer systems at the offices in Reading and at the offices in Newcastle. [74069]

Barry Gardiner: The primary computer systems used by the Rural Payments Agency are the same at each office, including Newcastle and Reading. A specialist Document Management Unit (DMU), supported by dedicated computer systems, operates only at the Newcastle office. Dedicated teams of staff at each office are assigned to work on specific schemes or supporting activities and they will use the computer system relevant to that scheme or activity.

Sea Turtles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many

live sea turtles were imported into the UK in each of the last five years, broken down by species; from which countries they were imported; how many live sea turtles were exported from the UK in each year, broken down by species; and to which countries they were exported; [73881]

(2) what the weight of sea turtle products *(a)* imported into and *(b)* exported from the UK was in each of the last five years; from which countries such products were imported; and to which countries such products were exported. [73882]

Barry Gardiner: During the last five years, 21 live sea turtles were imported or exported into the UK as follows:

	Species	*Origin*	*Quantity and further information*
2001	Caretta caretta	Israel	One seized by Customs and returned to Israel for re-introduction (re-export)
2006	Chelonia Mydas	Captive bred specimens imported from the Cayman Islands	20 (import)

During the last five years, sea turtle products were imported or exported into the UK as follows:

	Species	*Origin*	*Quantity and further information*
2001	Cheloniidae spp.	—	218 returned used for pre-Convention turtle shell items (import)
2001	Cheloniidae spp.	—	1,510 returned used for the re-export of part and derivatives all for pre-Convention items (re-export)

Imports for scientific purposes (summary and breakdown)

Summary—Total imports for scientific purposes:

2001—79 scientific specimens of the species Chelonia mydas. All quantities were recorded as number of pieces. No net. Mass (Kg.) details are available.

2002—22 scientific specimens of the species Chelonia mydas. All quantities were recorded as number of pieces. No net. Mass (Kg.) details are available.

2003—856 scientific samples as follows:

Chelonia mydas: 412 scientific samples;

Eretmochelys imbricata: 244 scientific samples;

Caretta caretta: 100 scientific samples;

Lepidochelys olivacea: 100 scientific samples.

All quantities were recorded as number of pieces. No net. Mass (Kg.) details are available.

2004—2,300 scientific samples as follows:

Chelonia mydas: 1,390 scientific samples;

Eretmochelys imbricata: 900 scientific samples;

Caretta caretta: 50 scientific samples.

Only the number of items have been added. Net. Mass (Kg.) details are only available for four shipments.

2005—1,500 scientific samples, 1 Kg in total:

Chelonia mydas: 500 tissue samples (0.500 Kg);

Eretmochelys imbricata: 1,000 tissue samples (0.500 Kg).

2006—1 scientific sample of the species Eretmochelys imbricata.

Breakdown—Imports for scientific purposes:

	Species	*Origin (all wild)*	*Quantity and further information*
2001	Chelonia mydas	Comoros	19 skin biopsis
2001	Chelonia mydas	Guinea Bissau	60 skin biopsis
2002	Chelonia mydas	Uruguay	20 skin samples
2002	Chelonia mydas	Israel	2 skin samples
2003	Chelonia mydas	Guernsey	2 skin biopsis
2003	Chelonia mydas	Turks and Caicos	10 skin biopsis
2003	Eretmoch elys imbricata	Turks and Caicos	44 skin biopsis
2003	Chelonia mydas	British Virgin Islands	100 skin pieces
2003	Caretta caretta	British Virgin islands	100
2003	Eretmoch elys imbricata	British Virgin Islands	100
2003	Chelonia mydas	Equatorial Guinea	200 skin pieces
2003	Lepidoch elys olivacea	Equatorial Guinea	50 skin pieces
2003	Eretmoch elys imbricata	Equatorial Guinea	50 skin pieces
2003	Chelonia mydas	Gabon	100 skin pieces
2003	Lepidoch elys olivacea	Gabon	50 skin pieces
2003	Eretmoch elys imbricata	Gabon	50 skin pieces
2004	Eretmoch elys imbricata	St. Helena	50 tissue samples
2004	Chelonia mydas	St. Helena	500 tissue samples
2004	Eretmoch elys imbricata	Montserrat	50 tissue samples
2004	Chelonia mydas	Montserrat	50 tissue samples
2004	Caretta caretta	Montserrat	50 tissue samples
2004	Chelonia mydas	Anguilla	200 tissue samples (1 kg)
2004	Eretmoch elys imbricata	Anguilla	200 tissue samples (1 kg)
2004	Chelonia mydas	British Virgin Islands	600 blood and tissue samples (0.600 kg)
2004	Eretmoch elys imbricata	British Indian Ocean	600 tissue samples (0.600 kg)
2005	Chelonia mydas	British Virgin Islands	500 tissue samples (0.500 kg)
2005	Eretmoch elys imbricata	British Indian Ocean	1,000 blood and tissue samples (0.500 kg)
2006	Eretmoch elys imbricata	British Indian Ocean	225ml

Single Farm Payments

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision the Government have made to reimburse farmers for the interest incurred due to delays in paying the single farm payment; and if he will make a statement. [68901]

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will repay the interest charges on loans

taken out by those farmers who have not received single farm payments. [70755]

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether interest will be paid on any element of single farm payments unpaid after 20 June 2006. [73218]

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether interest will be paid on late payments of single farm payments to farmers across England. [75048]

Barry Gardiner: The question of interest only arises in respect of payments made after the legal deadline of 30 June. We have not reached that point yet and I do not want to deflect from the Rural Payments Agency in the interim period from concentrating on its main priority, which is to ensure that outstanding payments are made as soon as possible.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single farm payments have been made of *(a)* less than £1, *(b)* between £1 and £1.99, *(c)* between £2 and £4.99, *(d)* between £5 and £9.99, *(e)* between £10 and £19.99, *(f)* between £20 and £49.99, *(g)* between £50 and £99.99, *(h)* between £100 and £199, *(i)* between £200 and £499, *(j)* between £500 and £999, *(k)* between £1,000 and £1,999, *(l)* between £2,000 and £4,999, *(m)* between £5,000 and £9,999, *(n)* between £10,000 and £19,999, *(o)* between £20,000 and £49,000, *(p)* between £50,000 and £99,999, *(q)* between £100,000 and £199,999, *(r)* between £200,000 and £499,999, *(s)* between £500,000 and £999,999, *(t)* between £1 million and £1,999,999 and *(u)* between £2 and £5 million; what percentage of total payments each category represents; and if he will make a statement. [73411]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency intends to follow a cycle of publishing single payment scheme payment details in the autumn and payment details of other subsidies in the spring each year.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to help farmers in hardship because of the late payment of single farm payments. [66735]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 27 April 2006]*: To date, over £1.3 billion has been paid out under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS), representing some 88 per cent. of the total sum to disburse. SPS claimants will be best served by the Rural Payments Agency maintaining its focus on ensuring that outstanding sums are paid as soon as possible. In addition, in view of the cash-flow problems faced by some farmers, the Department has substantially increased the amount of funding available to key rural support organisations who help farmers deal with hardship issues.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has undertaken into levels of personal debt incurred by farmers due to the late payment of single farm payments. [66756]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 27 April 2006]*: No specific research has been conducted. However, Ministers keep in close contact with a range of stakeholders, including representatives of the major banks, in order to help ensure that a full picture is maintained of the issues facing farmers in relation to the timing of payments under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government will extend the deadline for making 2005 single farm payments from 15 May to 9 June to avoid paying penalties of 1 per cent. per working day. [75047]

Barry Gardiner: The 15 May 2006 deadline for submitting applications under the 2006 Single Payment Scheme is fixed in EU legislation and is not a matter for national discretion.

However, as my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State explained in his written statement on 9 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 10WS, farmers have been advised that the normal 'late claim' penalties will not apply to applications received between 16 and 31 May 2006.

Small Change Big Difference

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department and its agencies have taken following the launch of the Government's Small Change Big Difference Campaign. [72005]

Barry Gardiner: A number of Defra activities fit well with this important campaign.

Considerable work is being done by Defra to promote healthy living and a better understanding of the natural world through increased access to the English countryside and urban green spaces. This is for people of all ages and backgrounds. Defra has recently launched a public consultation exercise, in collaboration with the Countryside Agency, called "Access for All?". This seeks views on a draft action plan that aims, over a 10 year period, to increase the number of people who choose to make use of outdoor recreational facilities. In particular, the plan is aimed at the nine million disabled people and the five million people from ethnic minority communities in the UK, often living in areas of high urban density, who do not currently access proportionate benefit from England's green areas.

Following the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000, since 31 October 2005, about 750,000 hectares of English land have been made available to the public. This "right to roam" means that walkers can freely explore such land without having to stay on footpaths.

As the programme of work develops the Department of Health (DoH) will be working across all of government to ensure the programme joins up to promote maximum impact. DoH is leading the implementation for this initiative as part of its cross-government commitment to deliver the November 2004 White Paper "Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier".

Our Food Industry Sustainability Strategy (FISS), published in April 2006, shows how we are following up the March 2005 paper "Choosing a Better Diet: a Food and Health Action Plan" that arose from the White Paper. This follow-up action will include Defra membership of a new Government working group to establish and develop nutritional standards for food procured by the NHS, armed forces and HM prisons. Defra will act as the group's link to the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative, which is working with buyers to ensure that as much as possible of the £1.8 billion spent per annum on food supply and catering services for the public sector is sustainably produced.

Sovereign Strategy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates over the last 12 months *(a)* he and *(b)* (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in his Department met a representative of Sovereign Strategy. [72341]

Barry Gardiner: There have been no meetings between any Defra Ministers or officials with any persons in their role as representatives of Sovereign strategy in the last 12 months.

All such contacts are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Civil Service Code, Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and Guidance for civil servants on contacts with lobbyists and people outside Government.

Sustainable Farming

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department has provided for research into sustainable farming in each of the last 10 years; how much of that funding was spent on contracts with the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER); and if she will make a statement on the future of the IGER. [59299]

Barry Gardiner: Figures are provided from 2001-02 (the year when Defra was formed), since it was from this time that sustainable farming became the main objective for R and D programmes in the agriculture area. The figures are:

£ million

	Defra R and D funding into sustainable farming	*Sustainable farming R and D funding with IGER*[1]
2001-02	41.2	5.8
2002-03	39.5	6.1
2003-04	39.2	6.4
2004-05	37.5	6.4
2005-06	37.7	5.8

[1] Figures exclude Defra contributions to consortia projects of which IGER is a partner.

Defra procures research to support Government policies relevant to sustainable farming at a range of research establishments including IGER. As IGER is a Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) research institute, its future is a matter for the BBSRC and the institute.

However, as a customer for the services provided by IGER, Defra has an interest in the maintenance of areas of expertise and service provision that relate to our present and developing needs. IGER is, and will continue to be, a very important research partner for Defra, as reflected in my Department's continuing significant investment; we are committed to investing over £5 million in research programmes at IGER in 2006-07. The reduction in IGER's contractual income from Defra is a consequence of certain projects and programmes reaching their natural end point. No active research programmes are being terminated early.

Television Stand-by Switches

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his Answer of 19 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 729W, on television stand-by switches, what estimate he has made of the percentage of televisions in use which consume three to eight watts in stand-by mode. [74192]

Ian Pearson: The Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) estimates that of the 60 million televisions in UK homes around half use more than 3 watts in stand-by mode. The MTP considers that this percentage will fall as older televisions are replaced with newer models which use on average less than 3 watts in stand-by mode.

Thames Water

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the maximum capacity was of Thames Water storage facilities in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [73824]

(2) what the level of water available in Thames Water storage facilities was on 1 April in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [73825]

Ian Pearson: Annual figures for both the maximum useable volume possible and actual useable volume for water in the Thames Water area for the period April 2001 to April 2006, in mega litres (Ml) are given in the following table which also includes a column depicting the percentage of maximum available water being used.

Useable volume is always less than actual useable volume because of issues such as water quality, location of pumps, etc.

1 April:	*Maximum usable volume possible (Ml)*	*Actual useable volume (Ml)*	*Percentage of total volume being used*
2006	216197	213017	98.5
2005	216173	207476	95.9
2004	214651	210219	97.9
2003	206045	203703	98.8
2002	216162	197400	91.3
2001	216162	204347	94.5

Waste Management

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how his Department promotes reusable products as part of its policies on waste prevention and sustainability; and if he will make a statement; [72555]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the comparative impact of reusable and single-use products on the waste stream; [72554]

(3) what programmes *(a)* run by and *(b)* supported by his Department promote reusable products. [72557]

Mr. Bradshaw: Reuse has an important role in sustainable waste management. It is second only to waste minimisation in the waste hierarchy.

In reviewing the Government's Waste Strategy, we are looking to put greater emphasis on waste prevention and resource efficiency, including re-use. This includes work to improve the evidence base and taking a life cycle approach to identifying priority products so that we target our intervention at the most significant areas. Our existing consultation exercise seeks views on how re-use and re-manufacture could be further stimulated.

Some parts of the waste stream already have well-developed re-use networks, including textiles, second-hand vehicles, electrical and, to a lesser extent, electronic goods. In other areas the voluntary and community sector plays a valuable role through the work of charity shops, furniture and appliance re-use projects, the Community Re-Paint initiative, Fareshare's food programme and scrapstores using spare materials for educational purposes.

The Government's Business Resource Efficiency Programme (BREW) programme will be supporting a number of reuse activities through the Business Reuse Fund in 2006-07. In addition, the Packaging, End of Life Vehicles, and Waste Electrical and Equipment Directives all serve to encourage more re-use.

The Defra-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) also supports a variety of reuse projects, including the Choose To Reuse shopping bag campaign and the use of real nappies. Further information is available on the WRAP website:

www.wrap.org.uk

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of waste created by the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sectors in each of the last five years; what steps he is taking to reduce these amounts; and if he will make a statement. [74648]

Mr. Bradshaw: Various surveys are carried out on the amounts of controlled and non-controlled waste generated. Detailed figures and statistics on waste and recycling in England and Wales are available from the Defra website: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/waste/index.htm.

Good progress has been made on the minimisation and recycling of waste since the publication of the "Waste Strategy for England and Wales 2000", which sets out Government's strategy for sustainable waste management.

Lesser amounts of most kinds of waste are being landfilled, and recycling and composting of household waste has doubled in the last four years. The latest figures show that local authorities in England recycled 22.9 per cent. of household waste in 2004-05 compared to 10.3 per cent. in 2001-02. More packaging waste is being recovered and recycled, rising from 33 per cent. to 56 per cent. between 1998 and 2004. The re-use and recycling of industrial and commercial waste has also increased, together with construction and demolition waste.

However, we still have much more to do. In 2000, our waste strategy set targets to recycle or compost at least 30 per cent. of household waste by 2010 and 33 per cent. by 2015. The Government have provided local authorities with greater levels of funding to enable them to meet their targets, and the majority of local authorities are working hard to improve their performance. Defra is proposing more targeted intervention and engagement with the poorest performers, and those local authorities with the lowest recycling rates in England have had their targets for 2007-08 raised from 18 per cent. to 20 per cent.

A number of programmes including the Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund and its successor the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant, the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme, and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) have been set up to support and increase waste recycling and provide efficient markets for recycled materials.

A review of the Government's waste strategy is currently underway. The new strategy will support the use of waste as a resource. It will also focus on waste prevention and resource efficiency, the development of a recycling culture, and a more joined up approach across waste streams—particularly for business and local authority waste.

Water

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition the Government uses of water poor. [73188]

Ian Pearson: The issue of water affordability is one which the Government takes very seriously, but there is no Government definition of 'water poor'. The percentage of households spending more than 3 per cent. of their income on water charges is used as an indicator of water affordability among DEFRA's sustainability indicators.

The Government are currently working with industry and regulators to follow up the recommendations of the cross-Government Review of Water Affordability in December 2004.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what effect the declaration of a drought situation has on the economic

levels of leakage method of calculating acceptable levels of leakage by water companies. [72854]

Ian Pearson: The declaration of a drought situation will not change a water company's published long-term Economic Level of Leakage (ELL), but it should have an impact on leakage activity in the short-term.

In a drought situation, companies should apply the maximum available effort to reducing demand and increasing supply. This will have the effect of producing a new short-term ELL based on setting the costs of additional leakage reduction options against the economic valuation of other available short-term options such as increasing abstraction and hosepipe bans. As the cheaper longer term options are excluded from this calculation, the short-term ELL in a drought is lower than the published ELL.

TRANSPORT

A21 Dualling

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce his decision on the scheme to dual the A21 between Tonbridge and Pembury and between Kippings Cross and Lamberhurst recommended by the South East England Regional Assembly in January. [73989]

Dr. Ladyman: We are currently considering advice from the South East region on the priority it attaches to these schemes within the indicative regional funding allocations announced in July 2005. We hope to announce our response before the summer recess.

A27 (Folkington Link)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on his plans for the A27 between Beddingham and Polegate, with particular reference to the Folkington link. [73883]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency has completed its initial review of improvement schemes to the A27 at Selmeston and Wilmington. The Folkington link is a sub-section of any improvement at Wilmington. We are currently considering the advice from the regions on transport investment priorities and have yet to make decisions on the extent and future timing of schemes.

Galileo System

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the most recent estimate is of the *(a)* initial development and *(b)* yearly ongoing costs of the EU's Galileo system. [73928]

Dr. Ladyman: The definition and development phase of Galileo is a joint European Commission and European Space Agency project. The cost is expected to be around £1.25 billion. The deployment phase will be a PPP, funded one third by the public sector and two thirds privately.

The draft EC financial instrument for funding Galileo during 2007 to 2013 has yet to be ratified. It is expected to be brought to the Council and the European Parliament around the end of this year. There has been no political discussion of potential funding commitments for the public sector beyond 2013.

The European Commission is taking the position that the overall cost and future commitments for the public sector will not be known, until the detailed contract negotiation are concluded with the consortium bidding for the PPP. My officials, in collaboration with Treasury and other interested departments, continue to press for more transparency on cost. It is agreed that an assessment will be submitted to Council before the PPP contract is signed. We have proposed robust criteria for this assessment and will continue to press them.

Highways Agency Vehicles

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in what circumstances and upon whose authority Highways Agency vehicles use observation parking bays marked 'for police vehicles only' on motorways. [73666]

Dr. Ladyman: The Police are able to stop on any part of a motorway, including the observation platforms, by virtue of Regulation 16 of The Motorways Traffic (England and Wales) Regulations 1982. Regulation 16 allows a Police officer to stop where they do so in the exercise of their duty.

These Regulations were amended by The Motorways Traffic (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 to give Highways Agency Traffic Officers the same ability to stop in the exercise of their duty as the Police.

The use of these observation platforms by Highways Agency Traffic Officers provides a visible reassurance that an official vehicle is available to assist and support road users, if needed, and allows Traffic Officers to park on the motorway, minimising fuel usage, while still maintaining an appropriate response capability in the event of an incident.

MOT Certificates

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many MOT test certificates have been delayed due to computer malfunctions in the last 12 months. [73822]

Dr. Ladyman: During the period April 2005 to date, the 18,300 MOT garages in Great Britain have issued some 15.4 million MOT certificates via the new computer system.

Because the booking of MOT tests is the responsibility of individual garages and is managed outside of the MOT computer system, it is not possible

for VOSA to ascertain if any MOT tests were delayed because of computer malfunctions.

In order to ensure that road safety is not compromised, VOSA has however made contingency procedures available to garages in the event of either hardware failure at an individual site or a more widespread disruption to the MOT service. These arrangements ensure that there should be little or no impact on motorists both in terms of having their vehicles tested and receiving their MOT certificates.

Mr. Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how many days the IT system for MOT tests was not working in the last 12 months. [73823]

Dr. Ladyman: The IT system for MOT tests was rolled out to garages between 18 April 2005 and 29 March 2006. During this period of 378 operational days there has not been an entire day when the system has been unavailable to all garages on-line. There have been 28 days when a technical problem affecting 10 or more garages occurred.

For 20 of these 28 days, at least 95 per cent. of garages on-line experienced no disruption to MOT testing.

Motoring Offences

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were penalised for speeding in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* London in 2004-05. [73128]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Data on speeding offences are not collected centrally by local authority area.

Available information on the number of speeding offences dealt with by official police action within the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas combined for 2004 (latest available) is given in the following table.

2005 data will be available early in 2007.

Speeding offences[1] dealt with by official police action[2], London[3], 2004

	Total offences dealt with[2] (number)
2004	120,700

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 ss. 16, 81, 84, 86, 88 and 89; Motor Vehicles (speed Limits on Motorways) Regs. 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926—byelaws made thereunder.

[2] Includes written warnings, fixed penalty notices and court proceedings.

[3] Metropolitan and City of London police combined.

Resilience Exercises

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* assessment he has made of and *(b)* lessons have been learned from (i) Exercise Atlantic Blue in January 2006 and (ii) Exercise Northern Synergy. [72354]

Derek Twigg: Exercise Atlantic Blue and Exercise Northern Synergy were both classified Government exercises. It is therefore not in the national interest to comment on these exercises.

Lessons learned from these exercises have been fed into classified contingency plans for responding to a wide range of terrorist threats. These plans are regularly tested, reviewed and updated in the light of changing circumstances; this ensures that all agencies involved are prepared to respond to a terrorist incident.

The hon. Member may wish to refer to the generic guidance contained in the publication "Dealing with Disaster", which can be found on the UK Resilience website:

www.ukresilience.info

Road Accident Fatalities

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road accident fatalities there were in Paisley and Renfrewshire, South constituency in 2005-06; [73643]

(2) how many road accident fatalities there were in Hammersmith and Fulham constituency in 2005-06. [73644]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not yet available. Main results on personal injury road accidents reported to the police in 2005 will be published shortly. Figures for 2006 will become available in summer 2007.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accident fatalities there were in Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency in 2005-06. [74333]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not yet available. Main results on personal injury road accidents reported to the police in 2005 will be published shortly. Figures for 2006 will become available in summer 2007.

Road Pricing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the average cost per mile that would need to be charged following the introduction of his proposed national road pricing scheme in order to ensure that the scheme is revenue neutral and all administration and technology costs are covered. [71873]

Dr. Ladyman: The appropriate level of charges for any national road pricing scheme would depend on a wide range of factors. It is not currently possible to estimate what price levels would be appropriate. The costs of any national scheme would depend on technology and systems used and the manner of implementation.

Road Traffic (Cumbria)

Mr. Marlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the total mileage travelled on the roads in Cumbria by *(a)* all vehicles and *(b)* cars in each year between 1995 and 2004. [73873]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table gives the information requested:

Estimated distance travelled in Cumbria: 1995-2004

	All motor vehicles	*Million vehicle miles* *Cars*
1995	2,990	2,324
1996	3,074	2,377
1997	3,179	2,432
1998	3,225	2,461
1999	3,241	2,470
2000	3,261	2,501
2001	3,258	2,487
2002	3,358	2,578
2003	3,390	2,614
2004	3,471	2,651

Source:
National Road Traffic Survey

Travel Statistics (Lancashire)

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the total mileage travelled on roads in Lancashire by *(a)* all vehicles and *(b)* cars in each of the past 10 years. [74827]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table gives the information requested for each year from 1995 to 2004 (the latest year for which estimates are available):

Estimated distance travelled in Lancashire: 1995-2004

	All motor vehicles	*Million vehicle miles* *Cars*
1995	6,674	5,526
1996	6,828	5,643
1997	6,946	5,719
1998	7,094	5,826
1999	7,257	5,957
2000	7,180	5,893
2001	7,278	5,990
2002	7,502	6,186
2003	7,501	6,127
2004	7,762	6,330

Trunk Roads

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on trunk roads in Paisley and Renfrewshire, South constituency in 2005-06. [73641]

Dr. Ladyman: This is a matter for the Scottish Executive and the hon. Member may wish to write to them.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on trunk roads in Hammersmith and Fulham constituency in 2005-06. [73642]

Dr. Ladyman: The Greater London Authority Act 1999 made provision for the transfer of the trunk road network in London from the Secretary of State for Transport to the Mayor. These roads now form part of the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN). Further information on the TLRN in the Hammersmith and Fulham area can be obtained from:

Mr. David Brown
Managing Director of Surface Transport
Transport for London
Windsor House
42-50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

Vehicle Tax Discs

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications for vehicle tax discs the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has received through the online service since its introduction; and how many of those applications resulted in tax discs being delivered within the target of five working days. [74528]

Dr. Ladyman: Since the online service was introduced DVLA has received a total of 2,438,361 transactions of which 2,019,952 were successfully completed. A total of 418,409 transactions failed to process as a result of insurance failures and customers not having the correct MOT certificate. There is no mechanism in place with Royal Mail to monitor the time it takes to deliver individual tax discs to applicants addresses. All tax discs are despatched to Royal Mail by first class mail within one day of the application successfully processing. Royal Mail's first class mail delivery target is 91.5 per cent. within two days of posting.

TREASURY

Capital Gains Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue implications of abolishing capital gains tax taper relief and reducing the annual exempt amount for individuals and trustees to £1,000 in each year from 2004-05 to 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [73828]

Dawn Primarolo: The total estimated yields on an accruals basis from abolishing taper relief and abolishing capital gains tax annual exempt amount (AEA) for individuals and trusts in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are published in table A3.1 in the Budget Report 2006. These figures exclude any behavioural response to the tax change. Similar information for years from 2006-07 onwards is not available.

Figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 regarding revenue implications of reducing the annual exempt amount for individuals and trustees to £1,000 are available only at a disproportionate cost. For current figures for 2006-07 I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to him on 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1132W. Similar information for years from 2007-08 to 2009-10 is not available.

Census

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration has been given to including a question on scheduled caste in the next census. [73901]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 June 2006:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what consideration has been given to including a question on scheduled caste in the next census. (73901)

An extensive consultation exercise was undertaken last year with users of census data which resulted in over 2,000 responses. No requirement for a question on scheduled caste was identified and so such a question is not being considered for the 2011 Census. A report on the findings of the consultation exercise was published on 8 March 2006—'The 2011 Census: Assessment of initial user requirements on content for England and Wales' and can be found on the National Statistics website at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/2011Census_response.asp

It is not possible to confirm what questions are to be included in the 2011 Census until the consultation and testing programme is complete and formal approval is given by Parliament in 2010. A White Paper setting out the Government's proposals is scheduled to be published in Autumn 2008.

Child Poverty

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely change in spending on *(a)* child care, *(b)* child benefit and *(c)* child tax credit required to meet the child poverty reduction target for 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75179]

Dawn Primarolo: Between the mid-1970s and mid-1990s, relative child poverty more than doubled. This Government have committed to halve child poverty by 2010 and to eradicate it by 2020. In 2004-05 there were 700,000 fewer children in relative poverty than in 1998-99.

The Child Poverty Review, published in July 2004, set out a multi-faceted strategy for halving child poverty. Child care, child benefit and child tax credit all have important roles but must be combined with wider interventions such as work for those who can, tackling material deprivation and improving public services for poor children.

As a solid foundation for meeting the target to halve child poverty by 2010, at Budget 2006 it was announced that the child element of the child tax credit would continue to be uprated at least in line with earnings until the end of this Parliament. Any current projection of the number of children in poverty in 2010 would, however, be subject to large uncertainties around future income growth, changes in the income distribution and individual changes in behaviour in response to policy changes.

Civil Servants

Peter Viggers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants were employed in his Department before the Gershon Report; what net reductions were proposed in the Gershon Report; how many reductions have been made; and how many civil servants are expected to be employed in his Department in the Gershon target month of April 2008. [74289]

John Healey: The information requested is given in HM Treasury's Departmental Report which was published on 11 May 2006 and is available at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/departmental_reports/dept_report2006.cfm.

Table 6 in Annex B sets out Treasury Group Staff Numbers between 2001 and 2008, and Annex C sets out plans and progress on Treasury Group's efficiency programme (including headcount reductions).

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 31 March. [74448]

Dawn Primarolo: I have done so.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 8 March, PO reference: 1/43139/2006. [74450]

John Healey: I have done so.

Data Protection Act

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many responses to requests to his Department for information under the Data Protection Act 1998 were completed *(a)* within 40 days, *(b)* between 40 and 59 days, *(c)* between 60 and 100 days and *(d)* over 100 days after receiving the original letter in each of the last five years; and how many are outstanding. [74486]

John Healey: For 2005: *(a)* 8; *(b)* nil; *(c)* nil; *(d)* nil. There are nil responses outstanding.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedure his Department uses to respond to requests for information under the Data Protection Act 1998; and what steps the Department takes to ensure that responses to such requests are completed within 40 days. [74487]

John Healey: The Treasury provides internal guidance to all its staff on both the principles of the Data Protection Act and how to process subject access requests. Requests are routed through a central team to ensure that responses are dealt with within the time permitted.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how and by whom redactions are made to documents to be disclosed following a request under the Data Protection Act 1998; and whether a record is kept of *(a)* who made each redaction and *(b)* why it was made. [74488]

John Healey: Redactions are made by the central unit with responsibility for Information Rights, most commonly redactions protect personal data belonging to another individual, or information that is not relevant.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has a policy of setting a minimum font size at which it prints electronic documents to be disclosed under the Data Protection Act 1998 to assist those with reduced eyesight. [74489]

John Healey: Treasury has a long standing policy to provide enlarged print size on request to assist those with reduced eyesight. Documents that may be within scope of subject access requests are internal by nature, may not be in electronic format and can be very varied as such there is no standard font size applicable to such documents.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the longest period of time elapsed is between his Department *(a)* receiving the administration fee and providing the information requested and *(b)* receiving a request for information and providing the information requested under the Data Protection Act 1998. [74490]

John Healey: Elapsed time for processing subject access requests under the Data Protection Act is:

(a) no request has taken longer than 40 days to process from receipt of the administration fee.

(b) No request has taken longer than 40 days to process.

Departmental Press Office

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his Department's press office. [74348]

John Healey: Three and 14, respectively.

Devolved Countries (Protocols)

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what protocols are in place between HM Treasury and the Scottish Executive on the operations of the devolved countries and regions Treasury team. [74745]

Mr. Timms: The concordat between the Treasury and the Scottish Executive is available on the Treasury website at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./media/7CB/25/scottish_assembly_concordat_070305.pdf and on the Scottish Executive website at http://www.scotland.gov.uk/concordats/hmt.asp.

Financial relations between the Treasury and the Scottish Executive are governed by the Treasury publication "Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly, A Statement of Funding Policy" which is available on the Treasury website (www.hm-treasury.gov.uk).

Discounted Oil

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the potential economic impact on *(a)* London and *(b)* England of the supply to London of oil at discounted prices by Venezuela. [73600]

John Healey: If Venezuela wishes to supply oil or oil products at discounted rates to the UK that is a commercial decision for Venezuela. We are not presently aware of any firm commitment by the Government of Venezuela to do so. In the absence of this and any specific details I am unable to speculate on the potential implications for the UK economy.

Eid-Ul-Adha

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants from his Department attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event in London in 2005; and what the total cost of their attendance was to his Department. [73037]

John Healey: I understand that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has written to the hon. Member with details of the Civil Service Islamic Society id-Ul-Adha event and that a copy of her letter has been placed in the Library.

Election Expenses

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether benefits enjoyed by the spouse of a candidate in an election which have been declared as election expenses, have been paid for by a third party and were provided to the spouse by virtue of his/her relationship to the candidate in connection with their activities as a candidate are taxed as a benefit in kind. [74813]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1079W.

Energy Efficiency

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to launch a further consultation exercise on economic measures to encourage residential sector energy efficiency. [74045]

John Healey: The Government consider consultation exercises an important part of policy development. A number of recent reviews have looked at how to

encourage residential sector energy efficiency, most recently the review of the Climate Change Programme, published in March this year, which was the subject of extensive consultation. Residential energy efficiency was also covered by the Energy Review consultation which closed on 14 April 2006. The Government keep economic measures under review and any further announcements will be made as part of the Budget process.

EU Budget

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the United Kingdom contribution to the European Union budget for the period 2005 to 2008; what changes have occurred in this estimate since the Budget in March; what the reason is for these changes; and if he will make a statement. [74077]

Ed Balls: The Government's latest estimates of United Kingdom contributions to the EU budget are presented in table C11 of the Budget (HC 968). Any revision to these forecasts will be included in the pre-Budget report later this year.

Financial Statistics

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross value added per capita was for *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each NUTS3 region in each year since 2002. [75256]

John Healey: The information requested falls with the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 June 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about Gross Value Added[1] (GVA) per capita estimates for the UK and NUTS3 regions in each year since 2002. (75256)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published NUTS3 GVA data up to and including 2003, the latest year for which data is available, in December 2005. UK and NUTS3 per capita data can be accessed in table 3.2 in the following link: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/NUTS3_Tables_1-12.xls.

[1] Gross Value Added (GVA) is Gross Domestic Product (GDP) less taxes (plus subsidies) on products. These data are current price estimates which are not adjusted for changes in prices over time.

Firearms Seizures

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions firearms were seized by HM Revenue and Customs in each *(a)* region and *(b)* country of the UK in each year since 2000-01. [75245]

Dawn Primarolo: My answer of 20 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 1193W, to the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr. Sanders) provided details of firearms seized by HM Revenue and Customs from 1999 onwards.

This national information for firearms seizures made by HM Revenue and Customs since 2000 is contained in the annual reports for HM Customs and Excise and HM Revenue and Customs. The figures for the year ending 31 March 2006 will be published in the next annual report.

More detailed information cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Gross Domestic Product

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what accumulated growth in gross domestic product has been in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* London and the South East and *(d)* the UK since the second quarter of 1997. [74809]

John Healey: The information requested falls with the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 June 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about accumulated growth in gross domestic product in Wales, Scotland, London and the South East, and the UK, since the second quarter of 1997 (74809). (74809)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) only compile annual estimates of regional Gross Value Added[1] (GVA) covering the countries and regions of the UK. These data are at current basic prices, and so the changes over time shown by these data include the effects of inflation as well as any increases in economic output.

Estimates of annual growth in these regions for the years 1997 to 2004, based on data published by the ONS in December 2005, are shown in table A below.

Table A - Growth in headline[2] GVA at current basic prices by region, 1997 and 2004[3]

Region[4]	*Growth in GVA 1997 to 2004 (Percentage)*
Wales	38.0
Scotland	35.1
London and the South East	48.2
UK	43.5

[1] Information presented here is gross value added (GVA) which is gross domestic product (GDP) less taxes (plus subsidies) on products.
[2] The headline regional GVA series for this publication have been calculated using a five-period moving average.
[3] 2004 data is provisional.
[4] Wales and Scotland are NUTS (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics) regions, but the ONS does not recognise the combined region of London and the South East as a standard geography.

HM Revenue and Customs

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the projections of staffing levels in HM Revenue and Customs are for the next three years. [73634]

Dawn Primarolo: Current projected levels of full time equivalent staff in post in HM Revenue and Customs are:

	Number
1 April 2007	90,034
1 April 2008	86,035

No detailed projection has yet been made of staff levels at 1 April 2009.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of staff reductions in HM Revenue and Customs on tax enforcement. [73635]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC are satisfied that significant improvements in productivity from improvements in risk processes, re-designing audit and inspection processes, reforming HMRC's range of interventions, and developing better electronic tools for communicating with taxpayers will not only mitigate the impact of the staff reduction in tax enforcement but also result in an overall improvement in performance.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed full-time by HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 1997. [74496]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs became a legal entity on 18 April 2005. Before then its business had been conducted by the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise.

The numbers of staff employed in civil service departments and agencies, including the Inland Revenue, HM Customs and Excise and HM Revenue and Customs are available on the Cabinet Office's "Civil Service Statistics" website at http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/index.asp. The effects of changes in departmental responsibilities on staff numbers are also available on the website.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by his Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature of the charges brought against them were. [73960]

John Healey: No illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by HM Treasury since 2001.

Inheritance Tax

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost of abolishing inheritance tax; and if he will make a statement. [74123]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 551W to the hon. Member for Harwich (Mr. Carswell).

Junior Doctors

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will re-designate essential expenses of junior doctors as tax-deductible. [74370]

Dawn Primarolo: Employed junior doctors are subject to the same rules as any other employee and there are no plans to introduce special rules.

Landfill Taxes

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimates he has made of the impact of landfill taxes on the amount of waste going to landfill in each area of the UK. [75182]

John Healey: The increases in the standard rate of landfill tax are contributing to a move away from over reliance on landfill in the UK. Provisional figures show that over the period 1997-98 to 2005-06 the total amount of waste landfilled in the UK at sites registered for landfill tax fell by 25 per cent. while the amount of active waste landfilled fell by 14 per cent.

Regional assessments of the impact of landfill tax are not available.

Large Print Documents

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made towards making all HM Revenue and Customs literature available in large print format. [73821]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) Visually Impaired Media Unit (VIMU) will produce on request any piece of HMRC literature in alternative formats for the visually impaired. This includes large print, Braille and audio versions, and the offer of home visits when more suitable.

Missing Trader Intra-community Fraud

Mr. Davey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what *(a)* human and *(b)* financial resources committed to tackling missing trader intra-community (MTIC) fraud; and what plans he has to allocate more (i) existing and (ii) new staff to investigate MTIC fraud; [74784]

(2) whether he has developed a specific strategy for tackling missing trader intra-community fraud. [74789]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1090W.

HMRC have had a strategy for tackling missing trader intra-community (MTIC) VAT fraud since September 2000. In recent months they have

committed significant additional resources to strengthen their strategy, including re-deploying 420 compliance staff and 55 detection staff, and recruiting 48 new criminal investigators. There are now over 1,000 staff engaged in tackling MTIC fraud. HMRC will continue to review their strategy, including the deployment of resources, to ensure that it remains effective. HMRC's financial accounts do not provide financial resource figures for individual strategies.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how the revenue lost through *(a)* VAT and *(b)* missing trader intra-community fraud is measured; [74785]

(2) what estimate he has made of *(a)* attempted and *(b)* actual missing trader intra-community fraud in each year since 2000; and what the basis for such an estimate is. [74787]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC's latest estimates of attempted MTIC fraud, overall VAT losses, and the methodology for estimating the latter were published in 'Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2005', which is available from the following website: www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2005/mitl2005.pdf.

The methodology for estimating MTIC fraud was first published in 'Measuring Indirect Tax Fraud—2001'. This was updated in 'Measuring and Tackling Indirect Tax Losses—2004', which can be found on the following website: http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageVAT_ShowContent&id=HMCE_PROD_011582&propertyType=document.

Neonatal Mortality Rate

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the neonatal mortality rate among *(a)* premature babies and *(b)* all births was in each of the last five years. [74658]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 June 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the neonatal mortality rate among (a) premature babies and (b) all births was in each of the last five years. (74658)

Information on the neonatal mortality rate among premature babies is not available as gestation is not collected at registration on live births in England and Wales.

The neonatal mortality rate among all live births in England and Wales from 2000 to 2004 (the latest year for which figures are available) are shown in the table below.

Neonatal mortality rate[1], England and Wales, 2000-2004

	Neonatal mortality rate[1]
2000	3.9
2001	3.6
2002	3.6
2003	3.6
2004	3.5

[1] Per 1,000 live births

Public Spending

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the ratio of public spending to gross domestic product was in each of the UK regions in 2005-06. [74807]

Mr. Timms: Total identifiable public expenditure on services by country and region is set out in table 7.1 of "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2006" (Cm 6811). The latest outturn data available are for 2004-05 with data for spending plans provided for 2005-06.

Gross value added (GVA), (which is the Government's preferred measure of economic output), for each region is available on the Office for National Statistics website (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/economic_trends/ET627_Marais.pdf). The latest available data are for 2003-04.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* public spending was undertaken and *(b)* revenue was collected in (i) Wales, (ii) Scotland, (iii) London and the South East and (iv) the UK in 2005-06. [74810]

Mr. Timms: Total identifiable public expenditure on services by country and region is set out in table 7.1 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2006 (Cm. 6811). The latest outturn data available are for 2004-05 with data for spending plans provided for 2005-06.

Current receipts at the UK level are set out in table C8 of the Budget 2006 report (HC 968). Receipts are not hypothecated to particular regions and comprehensive data on the regional distribution of tax receipts are not readily available.

Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what incentives are available to encourage members of his staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75088]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1912W. The Treasury is located in Westminster and is well served by public transport. Very few staff travel to work by car and no special incentives exist to encourage car sharing except when public transport is disrupted.

The Treasury offers all staff interest free loans for the purchase of season tickets and bicycles, and has a designated bicycle parking area within the premises.

Savings Incentives

Natascha Engel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to introduce tax incentives to encourage children under 18 years and born before September 2002 to save. [73803]

Ed Balls: The Government introduced the Child Trust Fund in April 2005. To show we understood the

issue of older children the Government backdated the eligibility date to all children born on or after 1 September 2002 to align with school years. It is important to recognise that to realise the full benefits of the Child Trust Fund for future generations we must draw a line somewhere.

There already exists considerable scope for tax-relieved savings for children. All children have their own personal tax allowance and parents are taxed on income generated from contributions to their child's account only when those gifts produce more than £100 gross income per parent per year.

In addition, the market offers a wide range of savings and investment accounts designed especially for children from a range of financial services providers.

Scottish Executive (Infrastructure Project Funding)

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will take steps to allow long-term borrowing by the Scottish Executive to fund major infrastructure projects; [74746]

(2) if he will make Barnett Formula bypass funding available to the Scottish Executive to fund major infrastructure projects. [74747]

Mr. Timms: There are no plans to give the Scottish Executive borrowing powers to fund infrastructure projects. Scottish local authorities have prudential borrowing powers. The funding arrangements for the Scottish Executive are detailed in the Treasury publication "Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly, A Statement of Funding Policy" published in July 2004.

Stamp Duty

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties sold in England and Wales in 2004 attracted stamp duty at *(a)* 0 per cent., *(b)* 1 per cent., *(c)* 3 per cent. and *(d)* 4 per cent. [73807]

Ed Balls: The following table gives the estimated number of property transactions in England and Wales falling into each stamp duty band in 2004:

Price range	*Stamp duty rate (percentage)*	*Number of property transactions 2004 (thousand)*
£0-£60,000 (residential)	0	481
£0-£150,000 (non residential)		
£60,001-£250,000 (residential)	1	1,076
£150,001-£250,000 (non residential)		
£250,001-£500,000	3	181
£500,001 and above	4	42

The numbers paying stamp duty will be lower due to the use of various reliefs eg disadvantaged area relief, group relief, registered social landlord relief etc.

Standpipes

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with business on the economic impact of a stand-pipe regime introduced under a drought order in London and the South East. [73639]

John Healey: No such discussions have taken place with Treasury Ministers, so far as I am aware.

Student Loans

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of interest incurred by people paying student loans which was attributable to delays by the Inland Revenue in transferring payments to the Student Loan Company in the last year for which figures are available. [74724]

Dawn Primarolo: Student loan borrowers do not pay any additional interest if there is a delay in their repayment information reaching the Student Loan Company. This is because repayments are credited to borrower's accounts retrospectively in the year that they were actually paid. There is no interest penalty because when the credit is made the account is adjusted to reflect the payment date and interest is adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what total amount payable to the Student Loans Company on behalf of graduates was retained at the Inland Revenue for *(a)* one month, *(b)* up to three months, *(c)* up to six months, *(d)* up to 12 months and *(e)* 12 months or more after the end of the tax year in question in each year since student loans were introduced; [74727]

(2) what period of time elapsed between the end of the tax year and payments being made by the Inland Revenue to the Student Loans Company on behalf of graduates in each year for which figures are available. [74730]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not make payments to the Student Loan Company (SLC). Employers deduct student loan repayments from earnings exceeding £15,000 during the year and send these to HMRC who make payments to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) every quarter.

Suicide Statistics

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 26 April 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1177-78W, on suicide statistics, what the circumstances were of each case of death from injury to the ulnar artery; and what contributory factors led to the death in each case. [73990]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 June 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking, pursuant of 26th April 2006, Official Report, column 1177-8W, on suicide statistics, what the circumstances were of each case of death from injury to the ulnar artery; and what contributory factors led to the death in each case. (73990)

ONS does not release details of the circumstances of individual deaths, as this would compromise the National Statistics protocol on data access and confidentiality. However, ONS routinely publishes data by underlying cause and nature of injury. The table supplied in the previous answer were for all injuries occurring to the ulnar artery, of these 3 were suicides, 2 were accidents, and 1 had an underlying cause of injury of undetermined intent.

Background Note:

The table below was supplied in answer to the question '...how many individuals have died as a consequence of their ulnar artery being severed in each year since 1997.'

Number of deaths from injury to the ulnar artery,[1] England and Wales, 1997 to 2004[2]

	Number of deaths
1997	0
1998	1
1999	0
2000	0
2001	2
2002	1
2003	1
2004	1

[1] The cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision(ICD-9) code 903.3 for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes S55.0 and S65.0 for the years 2001 to 2004.

[2] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken to answer a call to the tax credit helpline was in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [70256]

Dawn Primarolo: For April to October 2005 I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 2248W.

The remaining figures are:

2005-06	Average waiting time (minutes: seconds)
June[1]	1:02
November	0:44
December	0:33
January	0:39
February	0:46
March	0:16
April	0:24

[1] The figure for June 2005 given on 26 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 2248W, was only for the period up to 25 June 2005.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many telephone calls there were to the tax credit helpline in each month between January and May 2006; how many of these calls *(a)* were answered, *(b)* were abandoned, *(c)* received an engaged tone and *(d)* were missed; and if he will make a statement. [70257]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the number of tax credit helpline calls that were *(a)* answered, *(b)* abandoned or *(c)* received an engaged tone.

2006	Handled[1]	Abandoned[2]	Thousand Engaged[3]
January	1,771	54	4
February	1,442	47	2
March	1,539	12	6
April	1,571	21	2

[1] Where the caller spoke to an adviser.

[2] Where the caller selected an option from the call steering menu and was put in a queue to speak to an adviser but the call was terminated before the caller spoke to an adviser.

[3] Call attempts where the caller was played an engaged tone, before they were placed in a queue to speak to an adviser.

HMRC contact centres do not report the number of "missed" calls and this information is therefore not readily available.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the correspondence dated 26 January regarding incorrect tax credit payments to a constituent of the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire reference SLD 4/23386/2005, what the *(a)* system fault affecting the calculation of tax credit awards and *(b)* the further system fault affecting HM Revenue and Customs' records of tax credit payments was. [50115]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is as follows:

(a) The hon. Member refers to a system fault that caused details of working tax credit (WTC), payable by his constituent's employer in 2003-04 and 2004-05, to be duplicated on HM Revenue and Custom's (HMRC) records.

(b) The further system fault prevented a 'stop notice' being sent to his constituent's employer and WTC payments continued to be made, after their entitlement had ended.

HMRC are working hard to put things right in the specific case raised by the hon. Member to ensure their constituent receives their correct entitlement as quickly as possible.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many manual payments have been made by the Tax Credit Office in each month since April 2004, broken down by *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit. [73178]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested.

For the estimated number of manual payments between April 2004 and October 2005, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 29 November 2005, *Official Report*, columns 343-44W. The number of manual payments made in each month since November 2005 was around:

	Number of payment (Thousand)
2005	
November	35
December	30
2006	
January	35
February	35
March	30
April	20

The allocation of payments to precise payment dates requires a degree of estimation and are therefore rounded to the nearest 5,000.

Details for May 2006 are not yet available.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of tax credits on *(a)* housing costs and *(b)* basic food costs in areas of high deprivation; and if he will make a statement. [75177]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government have not made any assessment of the impact of tax credits on housing or food costs at a local level, and are not aware of any evidence of such an effect.

However, tax credits have raised the incomes of six million families containing 10 million children, increasing the income available for housing, food and other expenditure.

As a result of the Government's reforms to the tax and benefit system since 1997, and the introduction of the national minimum wage, by October 2006, in real terms, families with children will be, on average, £1,500 a year better off, while those in the poorest fifth will be, on average, £3,400 per year better off.

Recent research by Gregg, Waldfogel and Washbrook has shown that low income families have been able to spend significantly more on housing services, and on food, as a result of tax credits and other financial support.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the total costs of tax credit *(a)* administration and *(b)* write offs of overpayments since April 2001; and if he will make a statement. [63044]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers I gave him on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 101W, 10 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 282W, 18 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 949W, 27 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 497W, 15 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1214W, 26 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2249-50W, and 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 567W, and to the Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG's) standard report for 2003-04 attached to the Inland Revenue's annual report for 2003-04 and the CAG's standard report that formed part of the Inland Revenue's accounts for 2004-05. Both publications are available in the Library of the House. Around £1.65 million was written off in March 2006 due to official error.

Tax Office (Isle of Wight)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1086W, on the tax office, Isle of Wight, what the core catchment area is of the Newport Isle of Wight tax office. [74461]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1086W. HMRC's inquiry centre at Newport serves the whole population of the Isle of Wight.

Tax Receipts

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the income tax receipts from pension income in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [73829]

Dawn Primarolo: The estimated liability to income tax from occupational and personal pensions can be found in table 7.9 "Cost of relief for approved pension schemes" on HM Revenue and Customs website at http://www.hmrc.gov.Uk/stats/pensions/7_9_sep05.xls

VAT Registration Applications

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints HM Revenue and Customs received about the time taken to process VAT registration applications between *(a)* 1 March and 19 May 2005 and *(b)* 1 January and 28 February 2006. [75156]

Dawn Primarolo: Between 1 March and 19 May 2005, around 36 complaints were received by HMRC/ Customs and Excise about the time taken to process VAT registration applications.

Between 1 January and 28 February 2006, HMRC received around 101 complaints about the time taken to process VAT registration applications.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of complete and accurate VAT registration applications have been processed within 21 days of receipt since 1 March. [75159]

Dawn Primarolo: For VAT registration applications received during March and April that were complete and accurate at receipt, HMRC estimate that 65 per cent. were fully processed within 21 calendar days.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2006, to Question 73180, on VAT registration applications, how many such complaints were from companies seeking VAT registration to conduct business activities relating to *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* other electrical equipment and *(c)* other activities. [75215]

Dawn Primarolo: Of the 170 complaints that HM Revenue and Customs received about the time taken to process VAT registrations between 1 March 2006 and 19 May 2006:

(a) 76 were from mobile phone companies;

(b) 26 were from companies related to other electrical equipment;

(c) 68 were from companies related to other activities.

Voluntary Arrangements Service

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance HM Revenue and Customs gives to the Voluntary Arrangements Service with regard to rules for the acceptance of Independent Voluntary Arrangements; and what changes have been made to these rules in the last two years. [74080]

Dawn Primarolo: The criteria for acceptance of a voluntary arrangement are contained in leaflet CWL5 entitled "The Voluntary Arrangements Service - Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise – Working together for you" first published in 2001.

The Voluntary Arrangements Service applies these criteria to proposals for all voluntary arrangements and will support a Voluntary Arrangement where:

There is full and honest disclosure

A fair and optimum offer is made to creditors

Provision is made for payment of all future statutory liabilities on time

There are no overriding reasons for rejection.

A revised version of the leaflet is being produced to reflect the creation of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs which will be issued to Insolvency Practitioners in the summer. The acceptance criteria remain the same but a requirement has been added that all creditors who participate in the arrangement do so receiving equal treatment within their creditor groups.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Claim Processing

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to rate a claim for *(a)* jobseekers' allowance and *(b)* income support was in Ribble Valley in each of the last 10 years. [73201]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 23 May 2006]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the average time taken to rate a claim for Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support in the Ribble Valley in each of the last ten years.

The information is not available in the format you have requested. The information that is available provides details of the average time taken to process claims to Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support. This is known as the Actual Average Clearance Time.

Claims from Ribble Valley residents are handled by the processing team at our Blackburn site and it is not possible to separate the Ribble Valley claims. The information about claims handled in Blackburn is set out below.

Days

	Income support		*Jobseeker's allowance*	
	Standard	*Achievement*	*Standard*	*Achievement*
2002/03	12	11.1	12	11.4
2003/04	12	12.4	12	12.6
2004/05	12	12.5	12	11.3
2005/06	12	14.6	12	13.2

Notes:

1. The figures quoted include claims to Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support made by customers in Accrington, Blackburn, Clitheroe and Darwen. Figures for individual offices/areas are not obtainable.

2. Information is only available from 2002 as clearance times were not measured in this way before then.

I hope this is helpful.

Departmental Programmes

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of his Department's building programme in the 2005-06 financial year included *(a)* energy self-generation and *(b)* water recycling measures. [71463]

Mr. Plaskitt: None of the Department's building programme in the 2005-06 financial year included *(a)* energy self-generation or *(b)* water recycling measures. However, all buildings newly built or acquired for DWP must meet the BREEAM "excellent" standard, which will ensure that opportunities continue to be considered in future programmes. DWP is working under a PFI partnership deal with Land Securities Trillium to deliver energy and water saving projects across its existing estate of approximately 1,500 buildings.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action is being taken through departmental programmes to encourage into work *(a)* those aged over 50 years and *(b)* those above state pension age. [72237]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Like all other customers, people aged 50 and over, including those above state pension age, can benefit from the range of services provided by Jobcentre Plus, including access to jobs and help and support to find work.

Additional help is provided to older people who do not find work quickly. New deal 50 plus, which is a voluntary programme, provides people with advice and guidance from personal advisers, and access to in-work financial help through the 50 plus element of the working tax credit. Since April 2000, the programme has been successful in helping more than 150,000 older workers into employment. Once in work, new deal 50 plus customers can claim a Training Grant of up to £1,500 for training of which up to £300 can be used for life-long learning.

People aged 50 and over are also eligible for help from new deal 25 plus. People who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for 18 months and who have not previously participated on new deal 25 plus, are already required to attend the Gateway stage of the new deal 25 plus programme. This is a period of up to 4 months of intensive job search and specialist help

and support to improve job prospects. This is followed by the Intensive Activity Period (IAP) which is currently voluntary for people aged 50 and over. The IAP provides further support and pre-work training to help people return to work.

Since April 2004, we have been piloting mandatory participation in the new deal 25 plus IAP for people aged 50-59 who have been claiming JSA for 18 months. The pilot has offered people in this age group more extensive help back to work. Interim pilot data has yielded positive results and, as announced in our Welfare Reform Green Paper, we will be commencing a phased national rollout.

New deal 50 plus is a voluntary programme for those who have been claiming benefits, including those claiming the pension credit, for six months. However, our Green Paper also announced our intention to pilot mandatory participation in new deal 50 plus activities for people aged 50-59 who have been claiming JSA for six months. This will involve attendance at work-focused interviews and the development of action plans to help participants move into employment. Pilot locations have not yet been confirmed.

Since October 2004, pension credit has been a qualifying benefit for the majority of Jobcentre Plus programmes. This enables people aged 60 and over who are claiming pension credit to take advantage of the wide range of back to work help available.

In spring 2005 there were three million people claiming incapacity benefits in Great Britain, of which 1.3 million were aged 50 or over. As nearly half of all benefit claimants aged 50 or over are on IB, they will be able to benefit from the rollout of the successful Pathways to Work service across the whole country which will be completed by 2008. Pathways offers new IB customers early support from skilled personal advisers and direct access to a 'Choices Package' of employment programmes and clear financial incentives to make work pay. Any IB customer will be able to access the support and help available on a voluntary basis.

Our Age Positive Campaign works with employers and others to promote the business benefits of an age diverse workforce and best practice on age in recruitment, training and promotion. In May 2005 we launched the 'Be Ready' national information campaign to raise employer awareness of, and ability to adopt, flexible employment and retirement opportunities to support the recruitment and retention of older workers in advance of age legislation due in October 2006.

The number of people working past State Pension Age has been increasing and now stands at over one million. We have introduced more attractive state pension deferral options with a higher rate of increment (10.4 per cent.) and the option of taking a lump sum instead of a weekly increase if individuals defer taking their pension for 12 months or longer.

Framework for Vocational Rehabilitation

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in implementing the Framework for Vocational Rehabilitation. [67424]

Mrs. McGuire: Following the publication of the Framework for Vocational Rehabilitation, the strategy 'Health, Work and Well-being: Caring for our future' launched in October 2005 set out how the Government is working in new ways to rehabilitate people back to employment. A National Director for Health and Work has now been appointed holding specific responsibility for vocational rehabilitation and on 3 May 2006 the Government held a summit for stakeholders.

The Government are also working with stakeholders to find ways to provide earlier and better rehabilitation as part of its wider programme of work on tackling perceptions of a compensation culture and improving the system for valid claims.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will ensure that all Jobcentre Plus staff, including those based in Plymouth, are aware of the provisions of SI 2002 No 2905 which affect hon. Members' ability to make representations on behalf of their constituents. [72023]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about ensuring that Jobcentre Plus staff, including those based in Plymouth, are aware of the provisions of SI 2002 No 2905 which affect Hon. Members' ability to make representations on behalf of their constituents. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

All staff in Jobcentre Plus are aware that they must use the Personal Information Policy Guide when dealing with requests for personal information relating to our customers or staff. This is the primary guidance within the Department for Work and Pensions in respect of dealing with personal customer information and when it may be passed to third parties. The Guide contains specific instructions for staff to follow when a request is received under The Data Protection (Processing of Sensitive Personal Data Elected Representatives) Order 2002: SI 2002 no 2905.

I am sorry that your office has experienced some difficulty in obtaining information in respect of your constituents. To address this, Louise Ferris, Customer Service Manager, Plymouth Benefit Delivery Centre (Tel: 01752 - 272012), has agreed with your office that future requests should be sent to her for a response.

I hope this is helpful.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on providing Jobcentre Plus services in each London Jobcentre Plus district in each of the last five financial years, broken down by *(a)* head count related expenditure, *(b)* non-head count related expenditure and *(c)* capital expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [72747]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the

Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the information requested.

Letter from Leslie Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how much his Department spent on providing Jobcentre Plus services in each London Jobcentre Plus district in each of the last five financial years, broken down by (a) head count related expenditure, (b) non-head count related expenditure and (c) capital expenditure. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table below gives the details of expenditure by District for the last four years. Prior to 1 April 2002, Jobcentre Plus did not exist and therefore there are no corresponding figures available for the 2001/02 financial year.

£000

District (costs include irrecoverable VAT)	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06[1]*
Brent, Harrow and Hillingdon				
(a) Headcount related costs	14,884	18,390	17,211	14,753
(b) Non-headcount related costs	8,351	4,816	7,812	7,601
(c) Capital	25	351	0	0
Central London				
(a) Headcount related costs	32,538	21,445	22,033	19,084
(b) Non-headcount related costs	17,489	14,337	18,606	15,094
(c) Capital	0	30	1	0
City and East London				
(a) Headcount related costs	31,323	31,980	33,252	22,645
(b) Non-headcount related costs	18,891	18,593	24,436	19,380
(c) Capital	0	0	0	0
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth				
(a) Headcount related costs	28,327	32,412	29,681	26,317
(b) Non-headcount related costs	13,268	12,168	14,985	11,734
(c) Capital	38	878	40	0
North London				
(a) Headcount related costs	21,067	22,820	22,822	20,601
(b) Non-headcount related costs	8,136	9,816	14,481	11,012
(c) Capital	0	14	0	0
North East London				
(a) Headcount related costs	21,246	23,935	23,201	16,288
(b) Non-headcount related costs	9,352	8,169	11,197	8,386
(c) Capital	0	0	0	0
South London				
(a) Headcount related costs	22,345	21,241	21,934	20,522
(b) Non-headcount related costs	6,999	8,772	9,821	9,471
(c) Capital	0	23	0	0
South East London				
(a) Headcount related costs	17,576	19,172	19,203	17,940
(b) Non-headcount related costs	8,920	9,803	11,296	10,821
(c) Capital	0	13	0	0
West London				
(a) Headcount related costs	17,403	17,034	16,813	16,097
(b) Non-headcount related costs	8,675	11,754	14,476	13,341
(c) Capital	64	1	0	0

Headcount related costs includes the costs of permanent salaries, casual and temporary staff, superannuation costs and overtime. Non Headcount related cost includes office costs, utilities, telephone costs and the cost of training programmes e.g. New Deal.

The capital figures exclude the cost of Jobcentre Plus Rollout (refurbishment and acquisitions) which is met from a centrally managed national programme budget.

During the period since Jobcentre Plus was created London region has undergone major restructuring to move from one region covering London and South East to two regions. The number of districts in the region has also reduced from 30 to 9. This reorganisation makes comparison of expenditure between years difficult. The continued centralisation of benefit processing has reduced costs directly held in regions over the period.

The 2005-06 figures have not been finalised and may be subject to change following the annual audit.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of maintaining the Job Centre Plus website in each year since its creation. [73922]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the costs of maintaining the Jobcentre Plus website in each year since its creation. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as chief executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information you have requested is in the table.

£

	Total maintenance costs
2002-03	457,000
2003-04	466,500
2004-05	610,200
2005-06	637,000

I hope this is helpful.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have started on

the Pathways to Work scheme in each pilot district since the scheme's introduction. [73573]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 25 May 2006]*: The information requested is in the table.

Individuals starting Pathways to Work, by district

	Number
Bridgend, Rhondda, Cynon and Taf	19,980
Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Argyll and Bute	17,980
Derbyshire	30,010
Gateshead and South Tyneside	12,740
East Lancashire	17,000
Essex	27,420
Somerset	10,680

Notes:
1. Data is to the end of October 2005.
2. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. As requested the answer is based on the number of individuals who have started Pathways to Work. The total number of Pathways starts is higher as an individual can have multiple spells on Pathways.
4. The first three Pathways to Work pilots (Bridgend, Rhondda, Cynon and Taf; Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Argyll and Bute; Derbyshire) commenced on 27 October 2003. The four pilots in the second phase of Pathways to Work (Gateshead and South Tyneside; East Lancashire; Essex; Somerset) commenced on 5 April 2004.

Source:
Pathways to Work Evaluation Database.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arm's Length Management Organisations

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact on tenant *(a)* rents and *(b)* satisfaction with their accommodation of the transfer of housing stock to arm's length management organisations. [71007]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities do not transfer their housing stock to arm's length management organisations (ALMOs). The stock and the ALMO remain wholly owned by the local authorities. ALMOs are set up by local authorities to manage all or part of their housing stock.

There is no direct impact on rents when an ALMO is set up as the power to set rents remains with the local authority. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issues rent setting guidance to all local authorities, whether or not they have an ALMO, on the rent restructuring rules. Rent restructuring will result in actual and assumed rents converging over time.

DCLG as yet does not have sufficient definitive data covering ALMOs to assess the impact of ALMOs on tenant satisfaction.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding will be made available for the next round of transfers to arm's length management organisations. [71018]

Yvette Cooper: The ALMO (Arm's Length Management Organisation) programme has received a budget of £3.7 billion under the two most recent spending reviews for the five years up to 2007-08. £3.3 billion of this has been allocated to existing ALMOs. Spend in 2007-08 by any ALMOs that apply for the next round, along with further allocations for continuing ALMOs, will be met from the remaining provision. Funding for ALMOs beyond 2007-08 will be considered in the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Carol Vincent

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if his Department will investigate the management of the Metropolitan Housing Trust following the discovery of the remains of Carol Vincent in one of the Trust's properties. [66970]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The Housing Corporation is the independent regulator for registered social landlords (RSLs) such as MHT. Its assessment is that no mismanagement has occurred on the behalf of MHT in relation to the case of Carol Vincent. However, I understand that MHT is reviewing its procedures to consider what checks it could or should carry out to try to ensure it has contact with those residents who, though not vulnerable and not in contact with the association because of any repair or maintenance issue, do not contact the association for a significant period of time.

Compulsory Land Purchases

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on compulsory land purchases in *(a)* Guildford constituency, *(b)* Surrey and *(c)* England in 2005-06. [73282]

Yvette Cooper: This information is not collected by the Department.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Minister of State will reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 24 April, about council tax on secondary homes. [73896]

Angela E. Smith: A response was sent to the hon. Member on 31 May 2006. I apologise for the delay.

Council Tax

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of properties in each council tax collecting local authority area were recorded as being entitled to second home council tax relief in *(a)* 1995, *(b)* 2000, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2006. [71603]

Mr. Woolas:

A table detailing the information for 2005 has been made available in the Library of the House. The table gives, for each billing authority, both the number of second homes in the local authority area and the number of second homes as a proportion of the housing stock in the area. The data are from a snapshot taken in October 2005, as recorded on CTB1 forms submitted by each local authority.

Data for 1995 and 2000 are not available on a robust consistent basis. The snapshot for 2006 is not yet available.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list those *(a)* Acts and *(b)* parts of Acts which received Royal Assent between 1976 and 2006 for which her Department has policy responsibility and which remain in force. [70393]

Angela E. Smith: There is no centrally held record of this information and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Transition Costs

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of re-organising her Department. [74696]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave to the hon. Members for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) and North Cornwall (Mr. Rogerson) on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 989W and to the hon. Member for Ryedale (Mr. Greenway) on 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 990W.

Deprivation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the local authority wards in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire which are in the top 30 per cent. of wards in England by multiple deprivation indicators; and if she will make a statement. [71244]

Mr. Woolas: The following table lists the super output areas (SOAs) in Tamworth constituency and Staffordshire that fall within the 30 per cent. most deprived SOAs in England. The most deprived SOA in the area is located in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

SOA code	*Parliamentary constituency*	*Rank of IMD where1 = most deprived*
E01029468	Burton	2666
E01029445	Burton	2918
E01029450	Burton	3232
E01029427	Burton	3518
E01029453	Burton	3655
E01029408	Burton	4523
E01029437	Burton	5472
E01029447	Burton	5615
E01029421	Burton	5686
E01029426	Burton	6398
E01029436	Burton	6399
E01029409	Burton	6498
E01029410	Burton	6641
E01029429	Burton	7577
E01029448	Burton	8023
E01029472	Burton	8349
E01029452	Burton	8364
E01029407	Burton	9592
E01029358	Cannock Chase	3026
E01029372	Cannock Chase	3755
E01029390	Cannock Chase	4789
E01029397	Cannock Chase	5220
E01029350	Cannock Chase	5465
E01029356	Cannock Chase	5800
E01029362	Cannock Chase	6023
E01029351	Cannock Chase	6071
E01029373	Cannock Chase	6323
E01029359	Cannock Chase	6926
E01029346	Cannock Chase	7209
E01029357	Cannock Chase	7473
E01029388	Cannock Chase	8693
E01029360	Cannock Chase	8883
E01029355	Cannock Chase	9110
E01029354	Cannock Chase	9530
E01029404	Cannock Chase	9590
E01029496	Lichfield	6648
E01029492	Lichfield	7727
E01029554	Newcastle-under-Lyme	927
E01029566	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2496
E01029548	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3587
E01029547	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4288
E01029538	Newcastle-under-Lyme	5207
E01029560	Newcastle-under-Lyme	5519
E01029598	Newcastle-under-Lyme	5601
E01029558	Newcastle-under-Lyme	5989
E01029553	Newcastle-under-Lyme	6163
E01029593	Newcastle-under-Lyme	6165
E01029604	Newcastle-under-Lyme	6304
E01029602	Newcastle-under-Lyme	8246
E01029535	Newcastle-under-Lyme	8258
E01029611	Newcastle-under-Lyme	8462
E01029591	Newcastle-under-Lyme	8999
E01029552	Newcastle-under-Lyme	9325
E01029568	Newcastle-under-Lyme	9382
E01029567	Newcastle-under-Lyme	9500
E01029635	South Staffordshire	7550
E01029679	South Staffordshire	8774
E01029717	Stafford	4880
E01029734	Stafford	5890
E01029727	Stafford	6732
E01029720	Stafford	7373
E01029701	Stafford	8802
E01029725	Stafford	9696
E01029692	Stafford	9740

SOA code	Parliamentary constituency	Rank of IMD where1 = most deprived
E01029765	Staffordshire Moorlands	3206
E01029543	Staffordshire Moorlands	3892
E01029763	Staffordshire Moorlands	4988
E01029564	Staffordshire Moorlands	6692
E01029809	Staffordshire Moorlands	7101
E01029810	Staffordshire Moorlands	7224
E01029561	Staffordshire Moorlands	7541
E01029766	Staffordshire Moorlands	8757
E01029541	Staffordshire Moorlands	9297
E01029782	Stone	7486
E01029787	Stone	8274
E01029783	Stone	9708
E01029845	Tamworth	2727
E01029828	Tamworth	3525
E01029842	Tamworth	4262
E01029840	Tamworth	4264
E01029835	Tamworth	5543
E01029824	Tamworth	5721
E01029859	Tamworth	5930
E01029843	Tamworth	6329
E01029827	Tamworth	7011
E01029849	Tamworth	9174

Euro-preparation Group

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the local authorities' euro preparations group will next meet. [70591]

Ed Balls: I have been asked to reply.

The Euro Preparations Unit (EPU) in HM Treasury takes the lead in co-ordinating appropriate euro preparations across the economy. As part of its regular programme of activities with stakeholders, EPU intends to host a further meeting between local authorities and central Government officials in the autumn.

Fire Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments have been made by her Department to the Chief Fire Officers' Association in each year since 2002. [73401]

Angela E. Smith: Grants to Chief Fire Officers' Association or its predecessor organisation, Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association were as follows:

	£ Amount
2006-07	203,750
2005-06	815,000
2004-05	687,842
2003-04	404,317
2002-03	150,000

The 2006-07 payment is the first of four proposed payments totalling £815,000.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* staffing and *(b)* administrative costs of its Fire Service Group have been since 2002. [73402]

Angela E. Smith: Since 2002 responsibility for fire services within the Department has been restructured several times and historic figures are not available in the form requested. The current staffing in relation to fire and rescue service is 173 and expenditure for 2005-06 on administration was £9.4 million.

Flood Protection

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list those councils which offer their council taxpayers a flood protection product discounted scheme. [74326]

Mr. Woolas: The Department is not aware of any local authority which offers assistance to residents for the purchase of flood protection products by means of council tax discounts.

Growth Areas Fund

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding will be allocated to the Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough Growth Corridor by her Department for public parks and green spaces under the auspices of the Growth Areas Fund in the next five years; and if she will make a statement. [73074]

Yvette Cooper: The London Stansted Cambridge Peterborough Growth Area will benefit from £17.7 million investment in 17 projects over the period 2004 to 2008, for the improvement and creation of new green spaces. This includes £1 million for the Peterborough Green Park South project, which compliments other flagship projects such as Coton Countryside Reserve and the Wicken Fen Vision. These projects will be delivered by local authorities and a number of specialist organisations, including the Wildlife Trusts and Groundwork.

This significant funding package represents part of the £38 million the Department for Communities and Local Government is investing in the three newer growth areas through the Growth Areas Fund (GAP) to support the delivery of green infrastructure, meeting our 10 per cent. funding commitment set out in the Government's response to the Barker report. Growth Area Funding post 2008 is subject to the outcome of the comprehensive spending review 2007.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Government have made of the number of individuals likely to be fined each year for attempting to sell a

home without a home information pack once the proposal is implemented. [70602]

Yvette Cooper: Home information packs offer benefits for sellers as well as buyers. We do not expect widespread failure to comply with the home information pack duties. The main focus of enforcement by local weights and measures authorities will be aimed at providing information and advice to help estate agents and others to comply with the duties. Penalty charges are likely to be reserved for serious breaches—for example a persistent failure to comply with home information pack obligations.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of including information on water metering in the home information pack. [71032]

Yvette Cooper: A drainage and water search is obtained by most buyers now and will therefore be a required document in the home information pack. The search currently costs around £30 plus VAT and includes information on a range of matters relating to drainage and water other than water metering. The search will include information on the location of water meters, whether the water supply is currently metered and whether this arrangement is likely to change following a change of occupancy.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will delay the introduction of home information packs to take account of concerns expressed by the industry. [73898]

Yvette Cooper: We have published the timetable for implementation and are on track to meet the 1 June 2007 target. Home information packs are being introduced to benefit consumers.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to review the requirements for home information packs; and if she will make a statement. [73907]

Yvette Cooper: The regulations which we plan to lay shortly will contain details of the content of home information packs. These have been widely consulted upon, and are well understood by the principal stakeholders, the details of the home information packs will be tested as part of the dry run.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received expressing concerns about the introduction of home information packs; from which organisations such representations have come; and what the nature is of the concerns expressed. [73908]

Yvette Cooper: A wide variety of views have been received over many years and discussions take place regularly with all the major stakeholders. Some of those who make money out of the current system for buying and selling homes are opposed to home information packs and have always been. The main organisation representing consumers is strongly in favour of home information packs.

Home Inspectors

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the candidates registered for home inspector training have no *(a)* previous qualification and *(b)* practical work experience related to property (i) surveying and (ii) construction. [72421]

Yvette Cooper: The latest figures provided by the assessment centres in May indicate that 60 per cent. of the candidates were chartered surveyors. We have no detailed breakdown of the remainder. All those qualifying as home inspectors will have reached the appropriate national standard irrespective of their experience or previous qualifications.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether an individual convicted of a criminal offence will be eligible to become a certified home inspector. [46947]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

Currently, there are no checks on the criminal records of people conducting home surveys and valuation inspections. The 2004 Housing Act requires home inspectors to be fit and proper persons to carry out inspections. Those wishing to become home inspectors will therefore be subject to a full background investigation, involving a Criminal Records Bureau check. We are working with the Home Office on developing an approach similar to that used for people wishing to become police officers.

Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings would be constructed in an acre of residential development with a density of *(a)* 30, *(b)* 50 and *(c)* 70 dwellings per hectare. [70697]

Yvette Cooper: One acre is 0.405 hectare and therefore basic maths shows that the number of dwellings on one acre of land, on the basis set out, would be: *(a)* 12, *(b)* 20 and *(c)* 28 dwellings.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which councils have firm plans in place to meet the decent homes standard for existing housing stock. [71024]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 12 May 2006]:* The majority of councils now have time plans in to meet the decent homes standard for existing stock. Seven councils have plans for delivery but are awaiting Government Office sign off (Birmingham, East Devon, Stroud, Isles of Scilly, North Tyneside, Ribble Valley and the London borough of Merton) 46 authorities have firm plans in place but are waiting for the bidding round for arms length management organisations and stock transfers which will be launched shortly. Two currently have no plans in place (Camden and Ellesmere Port.)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she make a statement on the provision of affordable housing in Coventry South. [70956]

Yvette Cooper: It is not possible to provide separate figures for Coventry South.

Allocations to provide new affordable housing are made from the national Affordable Housing Programme, on the recommendation of the Regional Housing Board, and through a local bidding process to the Housing Corporation.

For 2004-06 the city of Coventry was allocated £7.4 million from the Housing Corporation to provide 174 units of affordable housing.

For 2006-08 just over £9 million has been allocated to fund 255 units, and this represents a 21 per cent. increase in funding from the Affordable Housing Programme to Coventry city council.

During 2004-06 the city delivered 208 new affordable homes in Coventry, of which:

95 were achieved through planning gain (section 106 agreements), providing 64 homes for rent and 31 for shared ownership;

An additional 57 homes for rent were provided through an acquisition and refurbishment programme.

During 2006-08 the city council expects to provide 320 new affordable homes in Coventry, of which:

160 are expected to be achieved through planning gain (section 106 agreements); providing 80 for rent and 80 for shared ownership;

An additional 30 homes for rent are expected to be delivered through an acquisition and refurbishment programme.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with church authorities on releasing land and buildings for social housing. [72499]

Yvette Cooper: My officials have had occasional discussions with a number of housing providers and landowners, including the Church Commissioners, on the issue of affordable housing provision. The Church Commissioners consider that they have a legal obligation to obtain the best possible long term return on property disposals.

Jaywick

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funds have been made available for the regeneration of Jaywick; over what period of time these funds may be spent; from what sources the funds have been provided; and if she will make a statement. [74000]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is subject to the Jaywick Options Assessment Report which has been prepared by the consultants Llewelyn Davies Yeang. The report has been circulated to the Jaywick Agencies Group who will decide on a way forward for Jaywick and the project on these matters at their next meeting, due to take place before the end of June 2006. I have asked my officials to write to the hon. Member once this information is available.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of the proposals outlined for consultation in the Jaywick regeneration plan for the compulsory purchase of homes; and if she will make a statement. [74001]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is subject to the Jaywick Options Assessment Report which has been prepared by the consultants Llewelyn Davies Yeang. The report has been circulated to the Jaywick Agencies Group who will decide on a way forward for Jaywick and the project on these matters at their next meeting, due to take place before the end of June 2006. I have asked my officials to write to the hon. Member once this information is available.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of the agencies involved in the Jaywick master plan will take overall responsibility for ensuring that the plan takes the concerns of local residents into account. [73197]

Yvette Cooper: Tendring district council and EEDA have joint responsibility for managing the master plan project and ensuring that the plan takes the concerns of local residents into account.

The master plan tender contract with the consultants Llewelyn Davies Young included a clause about the need for community engagement to ensure that the interests of all residents are taken into account. The consultants have organised and held a number of public meetings in 2006 to gain an understanding of local needs. The outcome of these meetings will inform the detailed masterplanning, due to be completed in June 2006.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether overall responsibility for the Jaywick master plan proposal lies with *(a)* the East of England Development Agency, *(b)* the Government Office of the East of England (Go-East), *(c)* Tendring district council, *(d)* her Department and *(e)* another organisation. [73198]

Yvette Cooper: Responsibility for the master plan project lies jointly with of the East of England Development Agency and Tendring district council, on behalf of the Jaywick Agencies Group (East of England Development Agency, GO-East, Essex county council, Tendring district council, Environment Agency). The project is being funded by EEDA.

Local Government Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what was the total cost of *(a)* collecting and *(b)* administering council tax in each of the last five years. [55766]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The total cost of collecting council tax (including administration costs) in England in each of the last five years is as follows:

	£000
2000-01	301,539
2001-02	301,535
2002-03	311,135

	£000
2003-04	333,197
2004-05	340,911

Notes:
1. The data include the administration costs of collecting council tax. They are not available separately.
2. The total cost of collecting council tax in England is local authority gross expenditure net of any income relating to the collection of council tax. Gross expenditure on council tax collection includes the cost of sending out bills and pursuing late payers. The related income is mainly made up of recovered court costs.

Source:
ODPM Revenue Outturn (RO) returns—RO6 data.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changes in the method of reporting the information. In particular, the outturn data for 2000-01 to 2002-03 have been calculated on a non-FRS (Financial Reporting Standard) 17 basis while the outturn data for 2003-04 to 2004-05 have been calculated on an FRS 17 basis.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much central Government funding Shropshire received in 2005-06. [73397]

Mr. Woolas: In 2005-06, Shropshire county council received £176,106,706 in formula grant, comprising revenue support grant and redistributed business rates.

In addition Shropshire county council will have received some special grant. Information on authorities income from special grants will be collected and available later in the year.

Lyons Inquiry

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the council tax liability of landlords of student properties is being considered by Sir Michael Lyons' Inquiry into local government. [75262]

Mr. Woolas: The terms of reference for Sir Michael Lyons' independent inquiry into local government require him to make recommendations on how best to reform council tax. It is for Sir Michael to consider what particular aspects he should consider within those terms of reference.

Milton Keynes South Midlands Growth Area

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether the work being undertaken by the West Midlands Regional Assembly into the implications of the Milton Keynes South Midlands growth area for the West Midlands region will be integrated into the national spatial approach and the developing Midlands Way strategy; [73061]

(2) whether the Milton Keynes South Midlands growth area plans will take specific cognisance of the needs of the West Midlands region, as illustrated by the West Midlands Economic Strategy and the West Midlands Spatial Strategy; [73063]

(3) what monitoring mechanisms will be put in place to measure the impact of the Milton Keynes South Midlands growth area in spatial and economic terms on the West Midlands region; [73064]

(4) what consideration has been given to planning in the Milton Keynes South Midlands growth area for commercial developments in response to representations by the regional business community, and work undertaken by the West Midlands Regional Assembly on economic linkages between the West Midlands region and the Milton Keynes South Midlands growth area. [73065]

Yvette Cooper: The Milton Keynes South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy sets out plans for growth in one of the four key areas identified in the Government's Sustainable Communities Plan 2003. The Strategy recognises the important connections that already exist with other areas—notably London and the West Midlands conurbation—and that these must continue to be developed. Local partners will continue to work together across the regions to ensure these connections are strengthened.

The growth area provides opportunities for businesses in the East and West Midlands. Consultants are currently developing proposals for the Midlands Way on behalf of a Steering Group which is led by the two Regional Development Agencies and includes the Government Offices, Assemblies, business and local authority partners. The West Midlands Business Council has been leading a group which is considering the implications of the Milton Keynes South Midlands Growth Area and the results are being fed through to the Midlands Way Steering Group. The Midlands Way is likely to have a strong economic focus and links to neighbouring areas, both north and south will be reflected in its actions.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what criteria the decision was made not to include West Midlands regional public agencies on the Inter Regional Board for the Milton Keynes South Midlands growth area; and whether this decision will be reviewed. [73062]

Yvette Cooper: The Milton Keynes South Midlands Inter-regional Board was established in 2004 to facilitate the delivery of sustainable growth within the Milton Keynes South Midlands growth area. The Inter-regional Board brings together senior representatives from agencies with responsibility for growth points within the growth area, which includes the relevant agencies from East of England, East Midlands, and South East regions.

There are no current plans to review the membership of the Inter-regional Board.

New Deal (Liverpool)

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of provision for black and ethnic minority communities in the Kensington New Deal Project in Liverpool. [74556]

Mr. Woolas: Last year Kensington Regeneration undertook the annual performance management framework assessment, which included the mandatory theme of diversity and equality. Kensington Regeneration's self-assessed score was good and this was confirmed by the Audit Commission's moderation.

The partnership has taken a mainstreaming approach to black and ethnic minority provision but additional customised support is provided in areas of employment, housing and adult learning.

Planning (Chester)

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment his Department has made of the capability of Chester city council adequately to address planning applications for developments with national environmental and employment implications [64158]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

Local planning authorities such as Chester city council are responsible for day-to-day planning matters in their administrative areas, including the determination of planning applications. Successive governments have taken the view that local authorities should be free to carry out their responsibilities with the minimum of interference from central Government since they are ultimately answerable to their electorate for discharging their duties.

The First Secretary of State has no powers under statute to investigate the manner in which local authorities conduct their affairs.

Planning Policy Statement 3

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received regarding draft Planning Policy Statement 3, on housing density and infill development. [74075]

Yvette Cooper: The former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister received a number of representations, following the consultation exercise which closed on 27 February, on the application of the density policies set out in draft Planning Policy Statement 3 "Housing" (PPS3) to small scale infill development. The Department for Communities and Local Government will be taking these representations into account in finalising the draft policy, and will publish a summary of them when publishing PPS3 in its final form later this year.

Regional Assemblies

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there are plans to give further powers to regional assemblies. [73437]

Yvette Cooper: The 2004 Barker Review of Housing Supply recommended that Regional Planning Bodies and Regional Housing Boards be merged. The Government have now formally invited the eight regional assemblies to add this housing responsibility to their existing planning role later this year.

The Government have no current plans to give further powers to regional assemblies.

Urban Regeneration

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what funds his Department provided to urban regeneration companies in each of the last eight years. [67106]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not normally provide funding directly to any Urban Regeneration Company (URC). Instead, funding is provided by the partners in each URC; this covers, separately, revenue and capital costs. The usual partners of a URC comprise the local Regional Development Agency (RDA), the local authority or authorities, and English Partnerships (EP). The table shows the estimated revenue funding provided to the individual URCs for the latest financial year, 2005-06. Allocations for previous years were of a similar order for each URC. Note that URCs have been created at different times over the past seven years.

Information on funding allocations for capital projects in each URC is not held centrally. Funding for capital projects is not normally provided directly to the URCs; rather, expenditure on projects is incurred by the partners themselves, on the basis of strategies agreed with the URCs.

Exceptionally, and in addition to the above quoted data, ODPM does provide special direct funding to the URC in Peterborough, under the Growth Areas programme, and to the URC in Southend, as part of the Thames Gateway programme; this is done to support the work that these two companies are carrying out under these initiatives, in addition to their standard URC regeneration activities.

Revenue Allocations to URCs, 2005-06

URC	*EP*	*RDA*	*LAs*	*£000 Total*
Blackpool	0	450	450	900
Bradford	400	400	400	1,200
Camborne	250	250	250	750
Corby	250	250	250	750
Derby	250	250	250	750
Gloucester	250	250	250	750
Hull	250	400	250	900
Leicester	250	250	250	750
Liverpool	400	400	400	1,200
Manchester	440	440	440	1,320
Peterborough*	250	250	250	750
Salford	250	250	250	750
Sandwell	250	250	250	750
Sheffield	400	400	400	1,200
Southend*	125	125	125	375
Sunderland	330	330	330	990
Swindon	250	250	250	750
Tees Valley	330	330	330	990
Walsall	250	250	250	750

Revenue Allocations to URCs, 2005-06

URC	EP	RDA	LAs	£000 Total
West Lakes	0	500	250	750
Yarmouth	0	250	315	565
All 21 URCs	5,175	6,525	6,195	17,895

Notes:
1. Blackpool, Lowestoft/Yarmouth and West Lakes do not receive revenue funding from English Partnerships (EP).
2. Southend gets another £250,000 from ODPM directly, as part of Thames Gateway operation; Peterborough gets another £315,000 from Growth Area funds.
3. Blackpool, Peterborough, Salford, Southend and Lowestoft/ Yarmouth were established only towards the end of FY 2005-06.
4. In addition to the above, funders pay the URCs' VAT on their contributions.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries have funded alternative livelihoods programmes in Afghanistan; what funding each provided in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005; and what funding is forecast for 2006. [74141]

Hilary Benn: Alternative livelihoods help people in the transition from income from poppy to income from legal activities. Alternative livelihoods activities include assisting farmers to acquire assets and creating a favourable regulatory and institutional environment for non-poppy farming.

According to the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) a total of US$490 million of international aid was committed to Alternative Livelihoods in Afghanistan in the Afghan year 2005-06. There are no reliable collective figures for international aid prior to this date.

The details for 2005-06 are as follows:

	US$ million
Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, managed by the World Bank, funded by 25 donors (including the UK) to Afghanistan	158
Additional funding for Alternative Livelihoods includes:	
USA	154
UK	67
European Commission	41
Other (Japan, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Aga Khan Foundation)	70

Responsibility for collection of the data for 2006-07 has been transferred from UNODC to the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics. A UK-funded consultant is supporting ministry staff to do this. The results are planned to be released at the end of June.

Grenada

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much humanitarian aid and financial assistance the UK has given to Grenada since 2001; and when he expects an assessment team to be sent to Grenada to determine whether further financial or humanitarian aid is necessary. [73836]

Mr. Thomas: Between the financial years 2000-01 and 2004-05, the UK has provided a total of £8.15 million of aid to Grenada. Of this total, £1.65 million was provided over the period as financial assistance, and £6.5 million was provided as emergency assistance following the impact of Hurricane Ivan on the country in September 2004.

Following Hurricane Ivan in 2005, DFID committed a total of £325,000 to provide: consultancy support in the forestry sector; a chartered surveyor to assess the hurricane damage done to the Governor-General's compound and Parliament; and, with the US Agency for International Development, co-finance debt advisers to develop proposals for the restructuring of Grenada's debt. In addition, our share of the European Commission's humanitarian support and additional reconstruction funds following the impact of the hurricane was £1.18 million.

Since Hurricane Ivan, we have remained closely engaged with the Government of Grenada, with regular visits to the island by DFID staff based in the Caribbean. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for International Development, made it clear in meetings with Prime Minister Keith Mitchell in 2005, that DFID recognised the Government's success at leading the reconstruction efforts, and the continuing challenges facing Grenada. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for International Development, made a commitment to review the case for additional budget support to Grenada. We will keep the situation under close review and, in the absence of another disaster, make any future judgment based on input from the Government of Grenada, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the European Commission, and other development partners.

India

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the projects in India that are supported by his Department that are specifically aimed at Dalit peoples. [73902]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is committed to supporting the Government of India in its efforts to combat caste discrimination and social exclusion in all its forms. Dalits (also known as Scheduled Castes), like other minorities, have a right to be included in all the mainstream Government programmes that DFID supports. DFID does not support particular programmes aimed at minority communities but promotes social inclusion in all its programmes.

India's constitution safeguards the rights of all its citizens and the Government of India's policies provide the necessary framework to tackle discrimination. The

challenge is to implement these policies effectively and for this reason DFID is engaging with the Government of India and other development partners to help to implement their commitments.

For example, in education, DFID supports India's National Programme for achieving universal primary education (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan—SSA). One of the objectives of this programme, which was launched in September 2004, was to narrow the gaps that existed between the enrolment of Scheduled Caste and other children.

The recent mid-term review of SSA indicates that the programme has been effective in increasing the enrolment of Scheduled Caste children into mainstream education. The proportion of Scheduled Caste children in the school population has increased from 19 per cent. in 2003 to 21.3 per cent. in 2005. This means that millions of Dalit children are now in schools alongside other children and the proportion of Dalit children in mainstream Government schools now exceeds the proportion of Dalit children in the general population. This success has been achieved through a range of strategies that have helped to tackle discrimination at all levels.

Special efforts are needed to ensure that Dalits are able to exercise their rights to access mainstream services. DFID is providing £75 million over five years to UNICEF in India to help reduce child mortality to tackle social exclusion in health and education services. Under this partnership, UNICEF has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies. This will increase understanding of how to tackle the constraints and barriers that Dalits face in accessing services.

Maldives

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with President Gayoom on the matter of political reform in the Maldives. [74438]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had discussions with President Gayoom of the Maldives on political reform. Our new High Commissioner in Colombo, also accredited to the Maldives, presented his credentials to the President on 22 May. The High Commissioner subsequently met with Government Ministers, members of the Maldivian Democratic Party and others for discussions. Additionally, there have been a number of recent meetings between officials and Maldivian Ministers in London and Malé. All of these discussions included the subject of political reform. I also refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him today (UIN 74794).

Nepal

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the Government have provided to the UN Human Rights monitoring mission in Nepal. [74179]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has provided substantial funding for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) operation in Nepal. This was the largest single project in the Global Conflict Prevention Pool's (GCPP) Nepal Strategy for 2005-06, from which we made a contribution of £610,000. We also provided a further £200,000 from the Global Opportunity Fund.

Particularly since the King's take-over of power in February 2005, human rights have been a major area of focus of our policy, which is reflected in the projects we have funded.

Using GCPP funds we have appointed a human rights adviser who works closely with OHCHR providing reports and analysis of human rights developments and recommendations to ensure due regard for human rights is mainstreamed into policy making in Nepal.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the Private Members' Bills on which his Department has adopted a policy of neutrality in each session since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [72103]

Hilary Benn: Since the 2001-02 parliamentary session, the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Bill is the only Private Members' Bill related to international development that has reached its Second Reading (in January 2006). The Government support this Bill.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Broadband

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to expand the *(a)* roll-out and *(b)* take-up of broadband in rural areas. [71633]

Margaret Hodge: 99.8 per cent. of UK households can now access broadband. Broadband coverage in rural areas stands at 99.2 per cent. of households. Some households are, however, not able to receive broadband services, or only at very low speeds, due to local technicalities such as distance from a home to the local exchange or because of the poor quality of networks.

The broadband market is dynamic, where research and competition are stimulating rapid developments and innovative solutions to technical problems. There is a range of private and public sector funded pilot projects emerging across the UK aiming to identify solutions to further improve access to broadband services.

The DTI and DEFRA produced a CD-ROM "A New Way to Live, Work and Play" last year. It contains hundreds of stories and examples of how people obtained and gained benefits from broadband. The

CD-ROM was sent to parish councils, rural community councils, regional development agencies, devolved Administrations, intermediary organisations and other interested parties. The material is also available via the DTI website. The Department also has regular contact with the regional development agencies and devolved Administrations to discus future broadband developments and the impact of initiatives to promote its take-up.

In addition, the DTI continues to explore broadband deployment in the UK and has initiated a debate and review of next generation access for broadband in the UK, through the Broadband Stakeholder Group, involving public and private sector stakeholders and including exploring technical solutions to the inhibitors of broadband access, such as line lengths.

The DTI is separately engaging organisations such as the Royal National Institute for the Deaf; Help the Aged, the Royal National Institute for the Blind and organisations such as Citizens on-line and the Alliance for Digital Inclusion and other industry organisations to develop options for disadvantaged people to access ICT and broadband.

"Connecting the UK: The Digital Strategy", launched in April 2005, is the Government's initial response to bridging the digital divide. It sets out a number of actions aimed at driving take-up and use of ICT, particularly among typically excluded groups.

The DTI is working in partnership with other Government Departments to assist delivery of their programmes including the DfES's e-Strategy 'Harnessing Technology: Transforming learning and children's services', the DCLG's Digital Challenge, to which the DTI has committed £250,000 for the prize fund, and the Cabinet Office's 'Transformational Government'.

The DTI is also working with stakeholders to develop and promote the support services, which enable access for those without their own equipment, or necessary IT skills such as UK On-line Centres. The Department is active in a European context in supporting the European Commission's i2010 initiative, including supporting the recent Commission communication on Bridging the Broadband Gap, which aims to promote the use of existing measures and initiatives to further broadband access within the European Union.

Cold Calling

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to combat cold calling by telephone to British citizens by foreign companies; and if he will make a statement. [73971]

Margaret Hodge: The Department introduced the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) scheme in 1999, under the Telecommunications (Data Protection and Privacy) Regulations, which were updated by the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations in 2003. The TPS scheme provides protection to UK consumers from cold calling by foreign companies if the calls are made on behalf of UK companies and the consumer has previously notified the caller that they do not wish to receive such calls or has been registered with the TPS for at least 28 days. Therefore, those making cold calls are legally required not to call a number that has registered on the TPS list. The Information Commissioner has responsibility for the enforcement of the TPS scheme and considers complaints about breaches. However, cold calls from non-UK companies marketing a service or product are not covered by the TPS scheme, as the companies and products have no link with the UK.

Company Closures

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for trade and Industry, how many firms in the UK have ceased trading in each year since 1997, broken down by region. [71353]

Margaret Hodge: Value added tax (VAT) de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business closures. DTI data on VAT de-registrations in the UK from 1997 to 2004 are shown in the following table. For comparison, data on each year's VAT registrations and the ratio of de-registrations to registrations are also shown.

VAT de-registrations and registrations 1997-2004

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
North East								
de-reg	3,795	3,660	3,695	3,655	4,000	3,815	3,990	4,090
reg	4,050	4,110	4,185	4,255	4,125	4,355	4,790	4,290
ratio	0.94	0.89	0.88	0.86	0.97	0.88	0.83	0.95
North West								
de-reg	15,465	15,385	15,185	15,590	15,075	15,505	16,000	16,890
reg	17,670	17,535	16,840	17,140	16,390	17,260	18,430	17,640
ratio	0.88	0.88	0.90	0.91	0.92	0.90	0.87	0.96
Yorkshire and the Humber								
de-reg	10,610	10,260	10,535	10,760	10,870	11,115	11,195	12,230
reg	11,860	11,805	11,705	11,990	11,660	12,355	13,670	12,835
ratio	0.89	0.87	0.90	0.90	0.93	0.90	0.82	0.95

VAT de-registrations and registrations: 1997-2004

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
East Midlands								
de-reg	9,620	9,415	9,520	9,845	9,625	9,730	10,805	11,330
reg	11,455	11,510	11,170	11,585	11,225	11,930	12,700	12,205
ratio	0.84	0.82	0.85	0.85	0.86	0.82	0.85	0.93
West Midlands								
de-reg	12,070	11,945	12,310	12,155	12,370	12,565	14,365	14,975
reg	14,530	14,675	14,370	14,535	14,070	14,530	15,640	14,855
ratio	0.83	0.81	0.86	0.84	0.88	0.86	0.92	1.01
East								
de-reg	13,780	13,555	13,830	14,585	14,860	14,820	16,280	17,495
reg	18,320	17,545	16,785	17,595	16,555	17,710	18,510	17,580
ratio	0.75	0.77	0.82	0.83	0.90	0.84	0.88	1.00
London								
de-reg	25,455	27,220	28,065	30,100	30,115	31,240	32,435	35,925
reg	35,890	37,770	36,340	36,405	33,260	33,045	35,905	35,460
ratio	0.71	0.72	0.77	0.83	0.91	0.95	0.90	1.01
South East								
de-reg	22,030	21,005	22,485	23,785	23,345	24,425	26,875	28,245
reg	30,110	29,690	28,710	28,770	27,200	28,540	30,470	28,360
ratio	0.73	0.71	0.78	0.83	0.86	0.86	0.88	1.00
South West								
de-reg	12,660	12,545	12,960	13,535	12,745	13,205	14,455	14,970
reg	15,840	15,600	15,285	15,340	14,350	15,445	16,380	15,310
ratio	0.80	0.80	0.85	0.88	0.89	0.85	0.88	0.98
Wales								
de-reg	5,840	5,855	6,050	5,680	5,310	6,145	6,715	6,650
reg	6,300	6,135	6,090	6,265	5,965	6,355	7,050	6,900
ratio	0.93	0.95	0.99	0.91	0.89	0.97	0.95	0.96
Scotland								
de-reg	10,635	10,615	10,840	10,615	10,655	10,395	11,130	11,980
reg	12,460	11,905	11,500	11,305	10,950	11,080	11,790	11,845
ratio	0.85	0.89	0.94	0.94	0.97	0.94	0.94	1.01
Northern Ireland								
de-reg	2,840	2,785	3,035	3,000	2,910	2,685	3,395	4,595
reg	3,920	3,710	3,635	3,410	3,495	3,540	3,770	4,140
ratio	0.72	0.75	0.83	0.88	0.83	0.76	0.90	1.11
England and Wales								
de-reg	131,325	130,850	134,630	139,685	138,305	142,570	153,105	162,790
reg	166,030	166,370	161,480	163,880	154,800	161,535	173,555	165,435
ratio	0.79	0.79	0.83	0.85	0.89	0.88	0.88	0.98
United Kingdom								
de-reg	144,800	144,250	148,500	153,300	151,870	155,650	167,630	179,370
reg	182,410	181,985	176,615	178,590	169,250	176,150	189,115	181,415
ratio	0.79	0.79	0.84	0.86	0.90	0.88	0.89	0.99

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2004, Small Business Service, available at http://www.sbs.gov.uk/vats

In England and Wales together and the UK as a whole, the stock of VAT registered businesses has increased each year since 1997, as registrations have exceeded de-registrations throughout this period.

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register will not necessarily have closed. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million businesses (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

Barclays Bank provides estimates of the total number of business closures each quarter in England and Wales, based on closures of business bank accounts. Barclays estimate that there were 321,500 business closures in England and Wales in 2004. However, Barclays does not publish a regional breakdown of closures.

Competition Authorities

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which of the competition authorities is responsible for monitoring *(a)* regulatory compliance of companies involved in the food supply chain and *(b)* fair trade between suppliers and retailers. [72822]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Supermarket Code of Practice which seeks to put transactions between supermarkets and their direct suppliers on a clearer and more predictable basis. The Competition Commission is responsible for the undertakings that form the basis of the code.

Any evidence of alleged anti-competitive practices it should be sent to the OFT.

Computer Sciences Corporation

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with (i) the Computer Sciences Corporation and (ii) trade unions on a support package for those affected by redundancies; [72143]

(2) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) on the implications of the announcement to cut 1,200 jobs for the agreement reached between CSC and Amicus in August 2005. [72144]

Margaret Hodge: There have been no discussions between Ministers or officials and either Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) or the trade unions in respect of a support package for those potentially affected by the announced redundancies. There have also been no discussions on the implications of the announcement on the agreement CSC reached with Amicus in 2005.

However, we do know that CSC notified the Insolvency Service of its intention to make some of its employees redundant, as all companies planning to lay off 20 or more people from any one site are legally required to do under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Under the Employment Rights Act 1996, the DTI is permitted to offer redundancy support packages for employees of companies that become insolvent. In this particular case CSC has not become insolvent and we are therefore not able to offer financial support to those affected. Support is offered to individuals through the Jobcentre Plus network to help those individuals return to work.

I am also aware that CSC struck an agreement with Amicus, but the detail of this remains between the interested parties concerned.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Computer Sciences Corporation on the implications of the announcement to cut 1,200 UK jobs for (i) the UK economy and (ii) trends in the outsourcing of UK jobs in the computing industry. [72147]

Margaret Hodge: There have been no recent discussions between Ministers or officials with Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC). Prior to the UK announcements, officials were in touch with the company headquarters concerning the implications of their global announcement, including possible effects in the UK.

Clearly, I very much regret any job losses, and the impact this has on individuals and their families.

However, recent Labour Market Statistics data (May 2006) show that employment levels remain around record levels, with nearly 2.5 million more people in work then there were in 1979. The loss of jobs with the Computer Science Corporation needs to be seen in the context that every month there are approximately 200,000 people moving into, and out of, work.

The Office for National Statistics does not record the number of jobs outsourced. However in ICT-enabled jobs, which are among those more likely to be affected by outsourcing, employment has over the last four years grown by 8.8 per cent., nearly three times the national average of 3.2 per cent.

Globalisation is changing the shape of skills requirements in the UK workforce. The Department is working with e-skills UK as the lead UK body in addressing these skills challenges. Ministers and officials have supported the work to improve professionalism in IT led by the British Computer Society and other UK bodies. These and other initiatives aim to improve the competitiveness of the UK's skills as well as enhance the basis for lifelong learning and career development. The Department also continues to monitor information from the IT industry in the light of offshoring as an input to policy.

Consumer Protection

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the operation of the Consumer Protection (Distance Selling) Regulations 2000; and what recent

representations he has received about the operation of the Regulations. [72465]

Mr. McCartney: The Consumer Protection (Distance Selling) Regulations 2000 implement European Council Directive (97/7/EC) to increase consumer protection throughout the EU and give consumers confidence when buying at a distance. Distance selling is where there is no face-to-face contact between the supplier and consumer, such as by phone, mail order, via the internet or digital TV.

It lays down basic requirements to suppliers of goods and services on the information to be given to consumers before and after they buy, including deadlines for the delivery of goods or performance of services and protection against credit card fraud. The Regulations provide a seven day "cooling off period" during which the consumer can withdraw from the contract, this gives consumers an opportunity to examine the goods. Consumers who exercise their right to cancel must be refunded all money paid within 30 days.

Following representations from stakeholders, the Regulations were amended on 6 April 2005, making changes to the requirements to provide information and to cancellation periods for the supply of services.

Designated enforcers such as the Office of Fair Trading and Trading Standards Services have a duty to consider complaints about possible breaches of the Regulations. To ensure compliance enforcers may apply for a court injunction or accept undertakings from a supplier that they will comply.

The European Commission has begun a review of eight consumer directives known as the Consumer *Acquis*, which includes the Distance Selling Directive. The review of the *Acquis* aims to simplify and improve these eight directives. The Commission will review each Directive looking at how successful they are at protecting consumers and enhancing the internal market across the EU. My Department has consulted and continues to consult UK business and consumer stakeholders as part of this process.

Copyright, Designs and Patents Act (Section 107A)

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when section 107A of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 will be implemented; when trading standards authorities will be provided with related funding; and if he will make a statement. [73430]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Effective implementation of this provision requires agreement with local authorities on how it will be funded and implemented. The Patent Office is working together with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Authority Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services on a number of proposals to achieve this.

Digital Television (Yorkshire)

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people in *(a)* Beverley and Holderness and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber have switched to digital television; what percentage of the population this represents; and if he will make a statement. [73578]

Margaret Hodge: Ofcom collates and publishes information on the take-up of digital television as part of their "Communications Market: Nations and the Regions—English regions" report. Their latest report shows that by the end of 2005, 67 per cent. of all households in the Yorkshire and Humberside region had converted at least one television set in the house to digital TV via either satellite, cable or terrestrial. This is an increase of 10 per cent. since December 2004.

It is not possible to extrapolate how many people in Beverley and Holderness have switched to digital TV.

Domestic Fuel

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many households in England spent over 10 per cent. of their disposable income purchasing fuel for their homes *(a)* in 2003 and *(b)* in the last period for which figures are available. [74113]

Malcolm Wicks: The proportion of households in England that spent over 10 per cent. of their disposable income purchasing fuel for their homes was 5 per cent. in 2003-04 and was also 5 per cent. in 2004-05. There was no statistically significant change between 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Energy Policy

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will place in the Library the evidence obtained from the public consultation run by his Department on energy policy from May 2002 to the publication of the Energy White Paper in March 2003, including the results of polling and focus group research. [73226]

Malcolm Wicks: A written statement by my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, West (Ms Hewitt) (the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry), and a summary of the White Paper were placed in the Libraries of the House in February 2003. Supporting analysis for the 2003 White Paper is available on the DTI website at:
www.dti.gov.uk/energy/policy-strategy/energy-white-paper/supporting-analysis/page21345.html

Environmental Technology Industries

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the potential for job creation from the environmental technology industries; and if he will make a statement. [73227]

Margaret Hodge: The Government's manifesto says that we will work with the environmental goods and services sector to promote new green technologies and industries. We are working with the Environmental Innovations Advisory Group to enable greater innovation in the environmental industries sector. This includes work on procurement, technology support, state aids, finance and regulation. We also work with

the regional development agencies and the devolved Administrations to estimate the size of the sector, and we published data in 2004 showing that the sector already employed over 400,000 people.

EU Anti-dumping Legislation

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the European Commission on which additional sectors will be covered by future EU anti-dumping legislation. [70094]

Mr. McCartney: The European Commission website (europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/respectrules/anti_dumping/stats.htm) lists the following current anti-dumping investigations. EU member states were consulted when each of these investigations was initiated. In cases marked with an asterisk (*) provisional anti-dumping measures have, after consultation with member states, been imposed by means of a Commission regulation. Member states will be consulted on all cases when the Commission has completed its investigation on a proposal either to terminate the investigation or to impose definitive anti-dumping measures by means of a Council regulation.

Current European Commission anti-dumping investigations

Product name	*Exporting country(ies)*
Cathode-ray colour picture tubes	People's Republic of China, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand
Recordable compact discs (CD-Rs)	People's Republic of China, Hong Kong and Malaysia
Recordable versatile digital disks (DVD+/-R)	People's Republic of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan
Footwear with a protective toecap	People's Republic of China and India
Ironing Boards	People's Republic of China and Ukraine
Pentaerythritol	USA, People's Republic of China, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine
Certain plastic sacks and bags	People's Republic of China, Malaysia and Thailand
Polyester staple fibres	Malaysia and Thailand
Saddles (bicycle)	People's Republic of China
Certain seamless pipes and tubes of iron or steel	Croatia, Romania, Russia and Ukraine
Silicon carbide	Romania
Strawberries (frozen)	People's Republic of China
Certain prepared or preserved sweet corn in kernels	Thailand
Side-by-side refrigerators	Korea
Chamois Leather*	People's Republic of China
Certain footwear with uppers of leather*	People's Republic of China and Vietnam
Lever arch mechanisms*	People's Republic of China
Refrigerators (side by side)*	Korea
Certain tungsten electrodes	People's Republic of China

EU Exports

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the percentage of EU exports to Vietnam coming from *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Germany, *(c)* France and *(d)* Italy in 2005. [74335]

Mr. McCartney: Information on the shares of EU exports of goods to Vietnam in 2005 is given in the following table:

Shares of EU25 exports of goods to Vietnam—2005

	Percentage
Germany	28.9
France	16.6
Italy	11.6
UK	6.3
EU25 Total	100.0

Source:
Eurostat Intra and Extra EU Trade (Comext).

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the percentage of EU exports to China which came from *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Germany, *(c)* France and *(d)* Italy in 2005. [73499]

Mr. McCartney: Information on the shares of EU exports of goods to China in 2005 is given in the following table:

Shares of EU25 exports of goods to China—2005

	Percentage
Germany	41.0
France	12.5
Italy	8.9
UK	7.9
EU25 total	100.0

Source:
Eurostat Intra and Extra EU Trade (Comext)

European Energy

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether his Department has undertaken research on the extent to which other European Union countries *(a)* are self-sufficient in gas and oil production and *(b)* have nuclear power stations. [74317]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department's preferred approach when making international comparisons with other EU countries is to rely on data compiled by the International Energy Agency (the IEA) or the European Commission. The IEA conducts periodic reviews of member countries' energy policies, which are published in a variety of forms. A review of a member country's energy policies will typically include an analysis of supply, demand and energy mix including whether the country uses nuclear power to generate electricity.

Franchising

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps *(a)* to examine the contents of his Department's file originally referenced as FT851 and *(b)* to re-examine his Department's view that the two master franchiser companies in the UK of a foreign-based franchise-trading scheme were both exempt from the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973 Part XI and its amendments, including the Trading Schemes Act 1996. [72827]

Mr. McCartney: The matter has been reviewed and it remains the Department's view that it is possible for two identical but separate trading schemes, each with one master franchiser and a number of franchisees at the same level below that franchiser to operate in the UK in such a fashion as to be exempt from the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973 Part XI and its amendments, including the Trading Schemes Act 1996.

Furniture Industry

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what advice and support his Department has given to the furniture industry; and if he will make a statement. [73831]

Margaret Hodge: Since September 2003 UK First, the Furniture Industry Forum, has been supported by DTI with £1.75 million over 41.5 years, to introduce productivity and process improvements to the sector. Savings to date for companies in the sector have exceeded £2.5 million. We also supported the establishment of the Furniture Industry Strategy Group in 2003 to help the sector to address key areas affecting productivity and competitiveness. The Strategy Group has led to the establishment recently of the British Furniture Confederation which is working to promote the interests of the sector.

Grant Applications

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will put in place measures to ensure that where, during any grant application process, *(a)* a person and *(b)* a business discloses required technical innovation information to a UK Government official outside the Patent Office, prior to a related UK patent application, that patent cannot subsequently be invalidated on the grounds of public disclosure; and if he will make a statement. [74131]

Margaret Hodge: The sharing of technical information with UK Government officials does not constitute public disclosure.

UK Government officials have a duty to protect all confidential information they receive in the course of their duties. This responsibility extends to unprotected intellectual property disclosed during the process of applying for Government grants. Staff employed by non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) have the same duty of confidentiality.

In the case of external advisers, confidentiality agreements are in place to ensure there is no public disclosure.

No further measures are needed and I have no plans to make a statement.

Illegal Internet Traffic

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what guidance his Department has issued to internet service providers on their responsibilities for illegal traffic hosted on their networks. [72674]

Margaret Hodge: The Department works closely with internet service providers, both in a number of initiatives to deal with disruptive internet traffic such as spam, and to combat illegal content such as child abuse images.

In matters regarding internet content, the general law applies on-line as it does off-line. For example, the Obscene Publications Act 1959 applies to material published on the internet and the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 extended the laws on obscenity to cover material available on computer networks. Similarly laws relating to such subjects as sales of goods, copyright and libel, apply on-line as much as off-line.

The Department provides guidance to industry, including ISPs, on its website regarding the Electronic Commerce (EC Directive) Regulations 2002 (http://www.dti. gov.uk/sectors/ictpolicy/ecommsdirective/ecommsdirectiveguidance/page10142.html) which, under certain circumstances, exempt on-line service providers from liability for information they host until they are made aware of it, at which point they are required to act expeditiously to remove or disable access to it.

Illegal Shipments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has undertaken investigations into recent illegal shipments of goods between Bangladesh and the UK. [74114]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs is responsible for investigating alleged illegal importation of goods into the UK, and they inform me that some 10,800 investigations have been mounted in connection with goods unlawfully shipped to the UK from Bangladesh since 2003.

Israel/UK Trade

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to increase trade between Israel and the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [72177]

Mr. McCartney: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) provides a range of support services to British companies wishing to trade with or invest in Israel, through commercial teams based in both the UK and the British embassy in Tel Aviv.

UKTI support focuses, in particular, on business opportunities in high technology sectors, including Biotechnology, Healthcare, Aerospace, Information and Communication Technology, the Environmental Industries and Financial and Legal Services. Recent initiatives have included trade missions to Israel, inward missions by Israeli firms to trade fairs in the UK and promotional events aimed at encouraging Israeli companies to list in London.

Further information on business with Israel is available on the UKTI Portal at www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk

Miners' Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many of the vibration white finger claims submitted by the 50 solicitors making the most claims on behalf of miners include a claim for services;

and what percentage of the total claim was represented by services in each case. [73182]

Malcolm Wicks: The following table of the 50 solicitors who have submitted the most vibration white finger claims provides the number of claims for general damages and services submitted; the number settled by payment; the compensation paid for general damages and services; and the proportion of total compensation represented by services and general damages.

Solicitor	*Claims registered*	*Services claims registered*	*Settled by payment (gens and services)*	*Total damages (settled claims) (£)*
Thompsons Solicitors	21,050	11,605	4,169	74,333,218
Browell Smith & Co	16,468	1,934	333	5,796,532
Beresfords Solicitors	11,632	2,238	530	8,195,951
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	11,545	3,200	1,634	23,150,459
Raleys Solicitors	11,277	3,168	898	16,258,451
Hugh James	10,637	2,825	794	14,882,433
Graysons Solicitors	8,700	4,011	1,200	18,347,624
Moss Solicitors	7,295	1,322	381	5,509,686
Watson Burton	5,936	2,589	637	11,419,587
Ashton Morton Slack Solicitors	5,382	459	56	928,979
Towells Solicitors	5,346	1,472	636	11,409,042
Kidd & Spoor Harper Solicitors	3,670	927	151	3,242,860
Atteys	3,095	1,333	548	11,221,073
O H Parsons & Partners Solicitors	2,702	333	49	745,673
Corries	2,376	1,250	255	5,202,149
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors-Sheffield	2,363	1,100	468	8,261,755
Shaw & Co	2,263	1,224	355	7,519,165
Saffmans Solicitors	2,233	478	165	3,353,502
Capital Law	1,884	235	63	1,441,681
Latham & Co Solicitors	1,842	1,067	418	6,897,197
McLeish Carswell	1,628	106	48	1,072,298
Oxley & Coward Solicitors	1,575	546	209	4,405,261
Randell Lloyd Jenkins & Martin	1,515	542	93	1,476,855
Mortons Solicitors	1,504	217	60	1,138,930
T S Edwards & Son Solicitors	1,440	233	83	1,764,131
Hickmotts Solicitors	1,363	43	9	141,821
Morisons Solicitors	1,188	409	101	2,415,435
Thompson & Co Solicitors	1,161	538	219	4,799,294
Marrons	1,160	183	49	963,341
German Hamilton Solicitors	1,113	635	213	4,235,819
Hopkins	981	603	344	6,660,643
Meloy Whittle Robinson	816	167	22	395,277
Keoble Hawson Moorhouse	813	220	128	2,443,407
The Legal Warehouse	796	309	178	1,817,887
Furley Page	738	64	23	387,933
Gabb & Co	630	243	34	812,878
Endlars Solicitors	601	219	57	1,057,522
Russell Young Solicitors	587	0	0	—
Frank Allen Pennington Solicitors	513	218	64	1,131,401
Gorvin Smith Fort	446	113	19	408,782
Branton Bridge	396	34	8	87,572
Mincoffs	367	187	78	1,773,901
Ross Harper Solicitors	347	21	9	211,710
Blackett Hart and Pratt Solicitors	338	196	61	1,219,824
Wake Smith	334	62	22	400,423
Holmes & Hills Solicitors	318	1	0	—
Robinson King Solicitors	300	61	13	292,938
Simpson Millar Solicitors	285	81	18	313,442

Solicitor	Claims registered	Services claims registered	Settled by payment (gens and services)	Total damages (settled claims) (£)
McConville O'Neill	276	72	16	236,468
Treanors Solicitors	271	79	32	803,960
Total	161,496	49,172	15,950	280,986,172

Solicitor	Services damages (£)	General damages (£)	Percentage services damages	Percentage general damages
Thompsons Solicitors	36,885,625	37,447,594	50	50
Browell Smith & Co	2,877,322	2,919,210	50	50
Beresfords Solicitors	3,844,792	4,351,159	47	53
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	10,266,304	12,884,154	44	56
Raleys Solicitors	8,659,167	7,599,284	53	47
Hugh James	7,623,440	7,258,994	51	49
Graysons Solicitors	9,528,540	8,819,084	52	48
Moss Solicitors	2,484,429	3,025,257	45	55
Watson Burton	5,925,283	5,494,304	52	48
Ashton Morton Slack Solicitors	461,019	467,960	50	50
Towells Solicitors	5,652,285	5,756,757	50	50
Kidd & Spoor Harper Solicitors	1,678,389	1,564,471	52	48
Atteys	5,701,758	5,519,314	51	49
O H Parsons & Partners Solicitors	349,624	396,049	47	53
Corries	2,809,171	2,392,979	54	46
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors-Sheffield	4,075,402	4,186,353	49	51
Shaw & Co	3,549,870	3,969,295	47	53
Saffmans Solicitors	1,689,997	1,663,505	50	50
Capital Law	697,426	744,255	48	52
Latham & Co Solicitors	3,212,640	3,684,557	47	53
McLeish Carswell	522,399	549,899	49	51
Oxley & Coward Solicitors	2,373,430	2,031,831	54	46
Randell Lloyd Jenkins & Martin	666,171	810,684	45	55
Mortons Solicitors	561,120	577,810	49	51
T S Edwards & Son Solicitors	884,261	879,871	50	50
Hickmotts Solicitors	70,030	71,792	49	51
Morisons Solicitors	1,296,521	1,118,914	54	46
Thompson & Co Solicitors	2,323,633	2,475,661	48	52
Marrons	496,006	467,336	51	49
German Hamilton Solicitors	2,049,870	2,185,949	48	52
Hopkins	3,353,323	3,307,320	50	50
Meloy Whittle Robinson	191,464	203,812	48	52
Keeble Hawson Moorhouse	1,231,265	1,212,142	50	50
The Legal Warehouse	811,987	1,005,900	45	55
Furley Page	164,453	223,480	42	58
Gabb & Co	422,823	390,055	52	48
Endlars Solicitors	527,823	529,699	50	50
Russell Young Solicitors	—	—	0	0
Frank Allen Pennington Solicitors	596,134	535,266	53	47
Gorvin Smith Fort	198,410	210,372	49	51
Branton Bridge	37,611	49,962	43	57
Mincoffs	810,020	963,881	46	54
Ross Harper Solicitors	126,631	85,079	60	40
Blackett Hart and Pratt Solicitors	569,363	650,461	47	53
Wake Smith	176,763	223,660	44	56
Holmes & Hills Solicitors	—	—	0	0

Solicitor	Services damages (£)	General damages (£)	Percentage services damages	Percentage general damages
Robinson King Solicitors	137,101	155,837	47	53
Simpson Millar Solicitors	148,953	164,489	48	52
McConville O'Neill	131,312	105,156	56	44
Treanors Solicitors	408,174	395,786	51	49
Total	139,259,535	141,726,638	50	50

Noise-induced Hearing Loss

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1125W, on noise-induced hearing loss (mining), how many of the agreements had fixed costs in excess of £1,000 per claim. [73187]

Malcolm Wicks: One agreement had fixed costs in excess of £1,000 per claim.

Npower Renewables

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what level of public funding the company Npower Renewables will receive in connection with the development and operation of the Rhyl Flats offshore wind farm. [73774]

Malcolm Wicks: Npower Renewables will receive a capital grant of £10 million towards the development of the Rhyl Flats offshore wind farm.

The Government have committed a total of £107 million in grant support towards the capital installation of 11 early offshore wind farm developments.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the company Npower Renewables have applied for public funding in respect of the development of the proposed Gwent y Mor offshore wind farm. [73775]

Malcolm Wicks: Npower Renewables have not made an application for public funding for the Gwent y Mor offshore wind farm.

Nuclear Safety

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research has been conducted by his Department into the threat posed to the stability of coastally-located licensed nuclear sites from *(a)* coastal erosion and *(b)* inundation due to sea level rise. [73605]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI does not conduct research into the threat to coastally-located licensed sites from coastal erosion and inundation due to sea level rises.

Operators such as British Nuclear Group and British Energy are responsible for flood defences and coastal erosion at nuclear sites. Nearly all the sites are situated on the coast and rest behind sea defences, which are maintained to a very high standard. Reviews are made periodically to monitor long-term protection, and regional shoreline management plans have been developed on behalf of the coastal authorities.

Parcelforce

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the options for the long-term ownership structure of Parcelforce. [73590]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have made it clear that it will not privatise Royal Mail. Parcelforce is an operating division of Royal Mail (and there are no plans to privatise it).

Patent Applications

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many patent applications were made by *(a)* individuals and *(b)* small and medium sized enterprises in each of the last three years; and in how many of these cases an application had previously been made for Government grant support. [74130]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of UK patent applications filed by individuals in each of the last three years was 10,292 in 2003, 9,626 in 2004 and 8,624 in 2005. Patent law does not require applicants for patents, where they are not individuals, to disclose the size of their company, and so the Patent Office does not have data on the number of small and medium sized enterprises which applied. Moreover, information is not held centrally which would show in how many of these cases the patent applicants have also previously applied for Government grants. This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pensioners (Internet Access)

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate his Department has made of the number of pensioners who *(a)* have and *(b)* do not have access to internet services in (i) England and (ii) Beverley and Holderness; and if he will make a statement. [73576]

Margaret Hodge: The Department does not collect information of this nature. However, the Office for National Statistics provides statistics regarding internet access broken down by region and age group on its website (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/).

Personal Debt

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps the Government are taking to reduce levels of personal debt; and if he will make a statement. [73348]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* Personal debt has risen substantially over the last 10 years, both in real terms and as a proportion of income. By the end of 2005 borrowing stood at approximately £1.3tn, or 151 per cent. of income. This compares to a real value of £530 billion in 1995, or 75 per cent. of income.

Despite these significant rises in the uptake of borrowing in the UK we do not believe that personal debt constitutes a major problem. The large majority of consumers continue to use credit in a productive and prudent way.

However, the Government recognise that for a small but significant number of individuals debt causes serious problems. Current estimates suggest that the number of individuals experiencing such debt problems stands at around 5 per cent. of the adult population.

In recognition of these problems we are doing much to help those with personal debt problems as outlined in the Government's 2004 "Tackling Over-indebtedness: Action Plan" and the subsequent 2005 Annual Report. DTI examples include the recently launched £45 million Face-to-Face Debt Advice Project, which will result in hundreds of new debt advisers, and the multi-million pound support given to the National Debtline phone service.

The DTI also recognizes that over-indebtedness is an issue that can only be resolved through the close co-operation of a number of different Government bodies, and actively supports programmes by other Departments including major financial education policies currently being implemented by the Financial Services Authority and Department for Education and Skills.

Furthermore, the DTI is committed to the continued monitoring of the over- indebtedness picture in the UK and will report again in early 2007 on the extent of the problem.

Post Office

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what capital assets have been transferred from public ownership to private companies under the post office franchise arrangements. [58248]

Barry Gardiner: Transfers of capital assets are operational matters for Post Office Ltd. and details are commercially confidential. However, I understand that the company's chief operating officer has written to the hon. Member about this and other matters he has raised about post office franchising arrangements, and that a meeting has also been arranged with him.

Private Copying Levy

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the merits of a private copying levy on blank recording media and devices; and if he will make a statement. [74933]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No assessment of the merits of private copying levies on blank recording media and devices has been made since the introduction of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act in 1988 in the UK. However, the European Commission has commissioned a study which will look at the whole body of copyright legislation in Europe and has indicated it will review levies in 2007. Currently, the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property is looking at the whole UK IP framework, and analysing a number of copyright issues, including private copying. The Review will report to Government in the autumn.

Royal Mail

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to change the rules which prevent the Royal Mail taking out a fully commercial loan from the private sector. [73592]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Changes to guidelines on the ability of public sector bodies to borrow from the private sector are a matter for the Treasury. The Treasury's policy on commercial lending is set out in DAO GEN1304 and can be found at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/meddia/698/21/6982130E-BCDC-D4B3-lC19D3292B571825.pdf

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether any of the operating profit made by the Royal Mail in the 2005-06 financial year will be returned to the Government. [73995]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None of Royal Mail's operating profit will be returned to the Government.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the statement by Adam Crozier, chief executive of the Royal Mail, that he could meet the legal obligations for post office service provision with approximately 4,000 post office branches. [73996]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The minimum legal obligations for post office service provision are determined according to the universal service obligations set by the postal services regulator, Postcomm and are reflected in Royal Mail's licence. The Royal Mail chief executive's reference to a network of 4,000 post office branches reflects a hypothetical network geared solely towards fulfilling licence criteria for provision of mail services. However, the Government's track record shows that it has made a substantial investment in the post office network in recognition of the many more services it provides, for example access to cash and other Government services.

Sunday Trading

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he received on the Sunday Trading Act 1994 from *(a)* retailers and *(b)* others prior to 13 January. [72552]

Mr. McCartney: On 14 November the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry announced that he was asking officials to carry out a full cost benefit analysis of the scope for further liberalisation of Sunday trading. This led to representations from a range of stakeholders, including retailers.

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* plans to conduct on the likely impact of proposed changes to the Sunday Trading Act 1994 on shops of under 3,000 square feet. [72593]

Mr. McCartney: The DTI appointed Indepen Consulting Ltd. to produce an economic cost benefit analysis of easing the restrictions on Sunday shopping. We published Indepen's report on 5 May on the DTI website:

www.dti.gov.uk/consumers/buying-selling/Sunday%20Shopping

This includes analysis of the impact on small and large stores.

From 13 January to 14 April we asked for views and evidence on all aspects of extending Sunday shop opening hours. We are currently analysing the large number of responses we received. We intend to publish a summary of the responses on the DTI website within three months of the close of this consultation. Ministers and officials also met with a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of small retailers, to discuss Sunday shopping.

In addition, on 8 February the DTI held a focus group for small retailers specifically exploring the impact of liberalising Sunday shopping. We intend to publish a report of this event on our website shortly.

Also, on 10 May the DTI held a stakeholder conference where Indepen presented their cost benefit analysis and participants were able to discuss the assumptions and findings. This was followed by optional forums on specific themes; one of the themes was the impact on the retail sector. We intend to publish a report of this event on our website shortly.

Should we decide to proceed with the review of the current legislation restricting Sunday shopping hours, we will formally consult.

UK Trade and Investment

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Government have any plans to give regional development agencies any greater control over UK Trade and Investment's remit in respect of inward investment. [73498]

Mr. McCartney: No. We have no plans to alter current arrangements involving UKTI's leadership of the UK inward investment network through the Committee on Overseas Promotion.

UK Trade Targets

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list his targets relevant to UK trade with *(a)* India, *(b)* China, *(c)* the EU and *(d)* the USA. [72081]

Mr. McCartney: In 2004, DTI's Five Year Programme set the framework to create the right conditions for business success, including when trading with other nation states. The relevant targets to UK trade with the countries listed that underpin this are:

1. PSA 3: To promote fair competitive markets by ensuring that the UK framework for competition and for consumer empowerment and support is at the level of the best by 2008, measuring the effectiveness of the regime through international comparisons, supported by a broader evidence base.

2. PSA 5: To ensure that the EU secures significant reductions in EU and world trade barriers by 2008 leading to improved opportunities for developing countries and a more competitive Europe. Joint with the Department for International Development (DfID).

3. PSA 8: To deliver by 2008 a measurable improvement in the business performance of UK Trade and Investment's international trade customers, with an emphasis on new to export firms; and maintain the UK as the prime location in the EU for foreign direct investment. Joint with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Union Recognition (Retail Industry)

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of relevant employees who are members of unions which are formally recognised by retailers. [72060]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Unfortunately the DTI does not hold this type of information.

VAT De-registration

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many VAT de-registrations there were in the retail sector in the county of Northumberland in each year since 1995. [71511]

Margaret Hodge: Information on VAT de-registrations in the retail sector in Northumberland for 1994 to 2004 (2005 figures are not yet available) is set out as follows:

Analysis showing the count of VAT de-registrations in Northumberland County SIC2003 Division 52-Retail, data taken as at May 2005

	Northumberland County
1995	130
1996	120
1997	110
1998	100
1999	105
2000	85
2001	95

Analysis showing the count of VAT de-registrations in Northumberland County SIC2003 Division 52-Retail, data taken as at May 2005

	Northumberland County
2002	105
2003	105
2004	100

Notes:
The figures presented here are at enterprise level and roughly equate to the number of independent retail shops. The data also differ slightly from those published by the Small Business Service (SBS) as adjustments for death lags have been applied only to the published data. Further information on business start ups and closures can be found in the National Statistics publication "VAT Registrations and De-registrations: Business Start-ups and Closures" available on the SBS website: www.sbs.gov.uk
Source:
Office of National Statistics. IDBR

Venezuelan Discounted Oil

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) if he will make a statement on the President of Venezuala's offer of subsidised oil for London; [73645]

(2) what account he has taken of the offer from the President of Venezuela to supply London with oil at a discount in the Government's review of energy policy; and if he will make a statement. [73648]

Malcolm Wicks: If Venezuela wishes to supply oil or oil products at discounted rates to the UK that is a commercial decision for Venezuela. But we are not presently aware of any firm commitment by the Government of Venezuela to do so. In the absence of this and any specific details I am unable to speculate on the potential implications for UK energy supplies.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Bullying/Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 43W, on harassment, what assessment she has made of the reasons for the change in *(a)* the number of complaints of bullying in the last year and *(b)* the percentage of complaints of bullying that have been upheld in the last year; what anti-bullying measures were in place in each of the last three years; and what new anti-bullying measures have been introduced following the increase in the number of upheld complaints of bullying in the last year. [65932]

Ms Harman: The information is as follows:

(a) In the last year 21 complaints of bullying were made.

(b) The percentage of those complaints that were upheld was 61 per cent.

(c) Over the last three years the Department for Constitutional Affairs has taken the following anti-bullying measures:

In 2002 the Department for Constitutional Affairs trained all staff in raising awareness of equality and diversity issues.

In 2003 the Department for Constitutional Affairs introduced a policy of zero tolerance of certain sorts of unacceptable behaviour, including bullying and all forms of discriminatory behaviour.

In 2004 Workplace Mediation was introduced across the Department. This offers an informal way to resolve disputes between people who work together, with the assistance of trained mediators.

Coroners' Inquests

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many inquests are open in each coroner's area in England. [70319]

Ms Harman: Data collected as part of coroners' regular annual statistical returns include the number of cases reported to coroners which have proceeded or will proceed to inquest, the number of inquests held, and the outcome of those inquests. Coroners are also asked to report the number of inquests outstanding at the end of the calendar year, but this figure might also include inquests not yet opened.

In order to ascertain the number of inquests currently open it would be necessary for every coroner to submit an extraordinary return, which would involve disproportionate cost.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1667W, on inquests, how many inquests in Oxfordshire are open; and how many of these were opened in each month from January 2000 to date. [70326]

Ms Harman: This information is not collected centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many staff from her Department attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event in London in 2005; and what the total cost was to her Department of their attendance. [73004]

Ms Harman: I refer the hon. Member to the letter to him by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Copies of her letter have been placed in the Library.

Electoral Registration

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what checks local electoral registration departments are required to make of individuals' *(a)* nationality and *(b)* eligibility to vote when they receive applications to go on the electoral roll from foreign nationals residing in the UK. [74084]

Bridget Prentice: Entitlement to vote in elections in the UK is based in large part on nationality but is not restricted only to those holding British citizenship. In recent years the addition of a "nationality" box in the registration form provides an opportunity for electoral registration officers (EROs), who would otherwise have no reason to know, to determine an individual's eligibility for inclusion on the basis of their stated nationality. Electoral registers are available for public inspection and anyone who believes that an ineligible person has been included may object and notify the ERO who may then make further inquiries as to the eligibility of that individual. The Electoral Administration Bill, currently under consideration, strengthens the objection process and creates a new offence of supplying false information of any kind to an ERO, or failing to supply information, in connection with registration.

Magistrates Courts

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her Department's policy is on local provision of magistrates courts. [74144]

Ms Harman: The Government are committed to provide through their Executive Agency, Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS), a modern high quality court service to local communities. This includes mobile court services, and the use of alternative venues for court hearings.

Postal Voting

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what estimate she has made of the number of postal votes that did not arrive at the home of the elector in each set of local elections in England since 2000; [70686]

(2) how many postal votes in each set of local elections in England since 2000 were cast fraudulently. [70690]

Bridget Prentice: The Government do not hold this information.

Estimating the number of postal votes that did not arrive at electors' addresses would require every elector with an undelivered postal vote to report this to their local authority, who would in turn have to report a figure to central Government. Estimating how many postal votes were cast fraudulently would require a full knowledge of the nature of every postal vote cast at an election, whether fraudulently or not.

The Government take election fraud seriously, and encourage anyone who did not receive their postal vote to report this to their local authority, and if they believe that a postal vote has been cast fraudulently they should report this to the police.

Separating Couples

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make early intervention and mediation mandatory for separating couples; and if she will make a statement. [74846]

Ms Harman: The Government believe that family mediation has significant advantages in resolving disputes, particularly in relation to children. The Government are taking forward a number of measures to give the strongest possible encouragement to mediation as an alternative to contested court proceedings. However, for mediation to be successful both parties have to enter into it freely and without constraint, and therefore the Government do not believe mediation should be made compulsory.

Under the provisions of the Children and Adoption Bill the courts will be able to direct people in disputes over contact with children to attend contact activities, which will provide a range of interventions including programmes, counselling and classes to facilitate contact and also meetings to receive information about mediation. The court will be able to direct people to the most appropriate intervention for the dispute concerned.

Special Advisers

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much has been paid in *(a)* salary, *(b)* travelling expenses, *(c)* subsistence allowances and *(d)* removal expenses to special advisers in her private office in each of the last five years. [69028]

Bridget Prentice: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each payband. For information relating to the last financial year I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 158-61WS. Information on special advisers for this financial year is currently being collected and will be published in the normal way when it is ready.

All official travel by special advisers is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Travel and subsistence claims by special advisers are extremely rare. During 2005-06, one travel claim of £13 was made by a special adviser in respect of a taxi journey. Examining previous financial records for any similar claims would have to be done manually and this would incur disproportionate costs.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs has not paid any removal expenses to special advisers.

Victims Advocate

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether there are any plans to extend the Victims Advocate pilot schemes for murder and manslaughter cases to other types of cases. [73917]

Ms Harman: No. Decisions will be taken about the future of Victims' Advocates scheme when we have assessed the pilot schemes.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Victims Advocate pilot schemes for murder and manslaughter cases. [73981]

Ms Harman: The pilot schemes have only started recently so I cannot make an assessment of their effectiveness at this stage. The pilots will be independently evaluated.

Victims of Crime

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether *(a)* judges and *(b)* magistrates are required to meet victims of crime as part of their training process. [73974]

Ms Harman: There is no current requirement on either judges or magistrates to meet victims of crime as part of their training. However, they will be aware of local victim support schemes and local magistrates training often provides an opportunity to groups such as Victim Support, to give information and input as part of a general induction process.

Victims of crime must be informed of their option to submit a 'Victim Personal Statement' to be read by the judge/magistrates before sentencing. The statement focuses the Court's attention on the effect of the crime upon the victim. Given the number of judges and magistrates that there are nationally, it is quite likely that a number of them, or those personally known to them, have been victims of some form of crime at some point in time.

CABINET OFFICE

Cabinet Committees

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when a list of members of the Cabinet Committee on Post Offices will be deposited in the Library. [74561]

Hilary Armstrong: My right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, placed an updated list of Cabinet Committees, including their membership, in the Library on Thursday 25 May.

Committee on Standards in Public Life

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the expenditure was of the Committee on Standards in Public Life in each financial year since its creation; and what the Committee's budget is for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [73933]

Hilary Armstrong: Resource expenditure incurred by the Committee on Standards in Public Life since its creation to 2005-06 and forward budget is shown in the table.

	Expenditure (£)
1994-95	[1]269,800
1995-96	473,489
1996-97	484,700
1997-98	521,000
1998-99	[2]676,400
1999-2000	447,232
2000-01	419,989
2001-02	448,895
2002-03	[2]638,451
2003-04	480,927
2004-05	475,628
2005-06[3]	573,566
2006-07[4]	577,000

[1] October 1994 to March 1995.
[2] This increase in spend reflected the fact that the Committee carried out two parallel inquiries in this particular year.
[3] Budget figure. Final outturn figures are not yet available.
[4] Budget figure.

Cabinet Office budget allocations for 2007-08 have not yet been finalised.

Merseyrail

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether Merseyrail is classed as a Category 2 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. [72943]

Edward Miliband: Merseyrail operates under Section 8 of the Railways Act 1993 and is therefore classed as a Category 2 responder under Part 1 of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. A list of the types of organisations given Category 1 and 2 status can be found in Schedule 1 of the Civil Contingencies Act.

The roles and responsibilities of Category 1 and 2 responders are described in the Act's supporting guidance "Emergency Preparedness". Copies of this document are available in the Library.

Private Sector Fund Recipients

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from her Department in each of the last five years. [71785]

Edward Miliband: The 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from the Department in each of the last five years are shown as follows:

2001-02

Chessington Computer Services
Balfour Beatty Refurbishment
Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd.
Computacenter (UK) Ltd.
HP Ltd.

Cable & Wireless Communication
PA Consulting Group
Capital Business Services Ltd.
Syntegra
GSL UK Ltd.
2002-03
Chessington Computer Services
Computacenter (UK) Ltd.
Microsoft Ltd.
Ecovert FM
HP Ltd.
Balfour Beatty Refurbishment
Cable & Wireless Communication
Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd.
Capital Business Services Ltd.
BT Plc
2003-04
Computacenter (UK) Ltd.
Ecovert FM
HP Ltd.
IT Net
Capital Business Services Ltd.
Electronic Data Systems Ltd.
BT Plc
Microsoft Ltd.
City of Westminster
Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd.
2004-05
Ecovert FM
Computacenter (UK) Ltd.
HP Ltd.
Electronic Data Systems Ltd.
BT Plc
Capital Business Services Ltd.
Cable & Wireless Communication
City of Westminster
Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd.
Parity Training Ltd.
2005-06
Ecovert FM
Hewlett Packard Ltd.
Electronic Data Systems Ltd.
Computacenter (UK) Ltd.
Xansa
Turner & Townsend Project Management
Capital Business Services Ltd.
Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd.
City of Westminster
Cable & Wireless Communication

Sickness Absence

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Cabinet Office staff have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [73042]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is shown in the table.

	5 or more absences lasting less than 5 days	*4 absences lasting less than 5 days*	*3 absences lasting less than 5 days*	*2 absences lasting less than 5 days*
2005	51	52	102	206
2004	64	65	118	219
2003	62	59	125	264

Cabinet Office is committed to managing sick absence effectively by making sure that managers proactively manage sickness absence and that they have the tools and training to do so.

Voluntary Sector

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether her responsibility for volunteering and voluntary organisations extends to the churches and other faith organisations. [73970]

Edward Miliband: My responsibilities for volunteering and voluntary sector organisations extend to all types of organisations in the Third Sector, including those associated with churches and other faith-based organisations. However, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government leads on general engagement with faith communities.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Advisers/Officials

Norman Baker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* full-time equivalent officials will be working for him; and what their tasks will be. [73884]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Members for Reading, East (Mr. Wilson) and for South Swindon (Anne Snelgrove) in the House on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 979-980.

As a Cabinet Minister, and in accordance with the terms of the Ministerial Code, I have two special advisers to assist me in the discharge of my official duties.

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his press office. [74350]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Staffing arrangements to support me in my new role are still being finalised.

As an interim measure, I am being supported by press officers from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Information on staff ethnicity is, in any case, collected only on a voluntary basis.

Dorneywood

Norman Baker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if he will list the guests he has entertained at Dorneywood since 1 January 2005. [73886]

(2) whom he last entertained officially at Dorneywood; and on what date. [73888]

The Deputy Prime Minister: This information is not collected centrally.

Ministerial Offices

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1385W, on ministerial office/staff, in which Government building his private office is based while administrative support arrangements are being finalised. [75285]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My private office is based in an office at 26 Whitehall, as it has been since September 2002.

Ministerial Responsibilities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what official duties he carried out in 2006 in furtherance of his role to promote the interest of the North across Government; and whether he has retained this responsibility within Government since 4 May. [70026]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out details of my new role and responsibilities in his answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 985W. It is a wide-ranging brief, focusing on improving the effectiveness of policy development across Government and carrying out international duties on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. As part of this cross-cutting brief, I shall continue to champion the interests of the North in all aspects of the Government's work.

So far this year, I have visited a number of towns and cities in the North of England, to see for myself the progress that has been made since 1997 in regenerating our cities and making them places where people want to live and work. I am also very proud of the advances being made in growing the North's economy, improving its local environments and providing affordable and decent housing, for example through initiatives such as Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders and the Northern Way, which have demonstrated how the public, private and voluntary sectors can work together towards a common vision for creating sustainable communities. For instance, I continue to follow with interest the pilot projects being taken forward by the Northern Way, with funds from the £100 million Northern Way Growth Fund, to demonstrate how things can be done differently in the North to improve people's lives and how the £1.2 billion Housing Market Renewal Fund continues to turn around neighbourhoods which people were previously leaving, but where house prices have now doubled.

The Government and our partners have achieved a lot, but we are aware of the need to deliver even more, and to ensure we narrow the economic gap between north and south. We need to work across Government Departments to maximise the benefits of our policies. My new role will enable me to ensure that Cabinet Committees work even more effectively to deliver more integrated solutions across the full range of Government programmes and spending.

Ministerial Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what role he has in overseeing the efficient development of Government policy on ensuring ministerial standards within Government are maintained and improved. [73887]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 985W, which sets out the responsibilities the Prime Minister has asked me to fulfil.

Official Engagements

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what domestic official engagements he will carry out in his new role. [69876]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out the new responsibilities that he has asked me to undertake in his answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 985W. I shall carry out domestic engagements as appropriate to best enable me to fulfil this new role.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Academies (West Midlands)

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many academies there are in the West Midlands region; and how many are planned. [73916]

Jim Knight: There is one Academy open currently in the West Midlands: Walsall Academy in Walsall. There are two Academies currently being built: Grace Academy in Solihull and Sandwell Academy in Sandwell, both due to open in September this year. There are five Academies in the feasibility stage of development in Herefordshire, Sandwell, Coventry, Staffordshire and Solihull. Discussions are currently

taking place for a further nine potential Academy projects in Birmingham and Dudley.

Adult Education

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effects of his skills strategy on adult education in Liverpool. [74598]

Phil Hope: The Government's skills strategy is aimed at supporting low skilled adults to acquire basic skills and progress to level 2 and above, and ensuring employers have the skills they need to compete effectively. The strategy is vital to our continued economic success, and is supported by a funding strategy which gives clear priority to these areas.

Funding for colleges and other providers in Liverpool will be confirmed shortly, and will reflect these priorities for the funding of adult learning, as well as safeguarding funding for Personal and Community Development Learning. The Learning and Skills Council will continue to work closely with local colleges and other providers to review local provision, and to ensure that there continues to be a wide range of choice for learners in all areas.

Alcohol/Drugs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are being taken to educate young people on the adverse effects of *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drugs. [74532]

Jim Knight: All maintained schools must provide drug education, including information about alcohol, as part of the National Curriculum. We recommend that schools deliver drug and alcohol education through the non-statutory framework for Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE).

Since 2003, we have supported over 5,000 teachers in the PSHE certificate for teachers which supports standards in the teaching of drug and alcohol education. Over 2,000 teachers will be supported in 2006-07. We have also issued comprehensive guidance to schools on drugs including alcohol to help schools deliver more effective drug and alcohol education.

Together with the Home Office and the Department for Health, DfES is supporting the FRANK campaign which provides information, support and advice for young people on drugs and alcohol.

Asiatic Languages

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to his answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 967-8W, on Asiatic languages, how many students have been awarded *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level examination grades A to C in (i) Chinese, (ii) Arabic and (iii) Japanese since 1994. [74497]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be found as follows:

(a) GCSE Full Course attempts and achievements of 15 year old pupils[1], 1994-2005[2]

	Number of entries	Number achieving A*-C	Percentage achieving A*-C
Chinese			
2005	822	768	93.4
2004	1,748	1,651	94.5
2003	1,686	1,623	96.3
2002	1,443	1,384	95.9
2001	1,348	1,289	95.6
2000	1,190	1,142	96.0
1999	1,193	1,124	94.2
1998	1,257	1,198	95.3
1997	1,204	1,118	92.9
1996	1,135	1,042	91.8
1995	1,093	1,002	91.7
1994	925	861	93.1
Arabic			
2005	1,072	806	75.2
2004	1,215	886	72.9
2003	1,297	958	73.9
2002	1,078	812	75.3
2001	977	742	75.9
2000	855	657	76.8
1999	755	573	75.9
1998	645	493	76.4
1997	641	471	73.5
1996	517	387	74.9
1995	434	331	76.3
1994	437	323	73.9
Japanese			
2005	622	462	74.3
2004	648	565	87.2
2003	557	522	93.7
2002	512	472	92.2
2001	485	444	91.5
2000	423	404	95.5
1999	336	316	94.0
1998	246	234	95.1
1997	278	254	91.4
1996	283	247	87.3
1995	259	238	91.9
1994	199	159	79.9

[1] Age at start of academic year i.e. 31 August.
[2] Includes attempts and achievement by these pupils in previous academic years.

(b) GCE A level attempts and achievements of 16-18 year old students[1], 1994-2005

	Number of entries	Number achieving A - C	Percentage achieving A - C
Chinese			
2005	1,607	1,516	94.3
2004	1,677	1,586	94.6
2003	1,496	1,420	94.9
2002	1,400	1,311	93.6
2001	1,102	1,017	92.3
2000	1,185	833	70.3
1999	1,122	791	70.5

(b) GCE A level attempts and achievements of 16-18 year old students[1], 1994-2005

	Number of entries	Number achieving A - C	Percentage achieving A - C
1998	1,017	754	74.1
1997	826	581	70.3
1996	920	658	71.5
1995	693	501	72.3
1994	624	464	74.4
Arabic[2]			
2005	259	225	86.9
2004	218	186	85.3
2003	181	159	87.8
2002	188	160	85.1
2001	167	112	67.1
Japanese			
2005	199	210	94.8
2004	184	203	90.6
2003	214	232	92.2
2002	179	201	89.1
2001	176	183	96.2
2000	204	273	74.7
1999	227	279	81.4
1998	236	317	74.4
1997	229	282	81.2
1996	198	277	71.5
1995	229	282	81.2
1994	170	245	69.4

[1] Age at start of academic year i.e. 31st August.
[2] Please note that data on Arabic are not available prior to 2001.

Children's Homes

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children's homes have *(a)* closed and *(b)* been de-registered by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in each of the last three years. [69337]

Mr. Dhanda: I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection that the number of children's homes de-registered for the last three years is as shown in the following table:

Inspection Year (1 April to 31 March)	Children's homes de-registered
2003-04	203
2004-05	220
2005-06	284

De-registrations occur for a number of reasons, including: the voluntary closure of a home; enforced closure resulting from regulatory action; change of ownership; and change in the category of service provided. However, as details relating to the reason for de-registration are not recorded, the information requested on closures cannot be provided.

Departmental Bills (Amendments)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the occasions when an amendment has been moved by *(a)* a Labour backbencher, *(b)* an Opposition backbencher and *(c)* an Opposition front bench spokesman to a Bill sponsored by his Department that has been accepted by his Department during the current session; and if he will make a statement. [72120]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills has sponsored the following Bills during the current session: the Children and Adoption Bill, the Childcare Bill, the Education and Inspections Bill, and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill.

Information on amendments moved and accepted during the Committee and Report Stage on these Bills is published in the *Official Report.*

Education Spending

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on education for pupils aged *(a)* five to 10, *(b)* 11 to 15 and *(c)* 16 years and over in (i) Cornwall and (ii) England in each year since 2002. [72791]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect the information in the form requested. However, the following table gives a breakdown of the available information. The information for 2005-06 is not due to be collected until August 2006.

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Cornwall LA			
Primary[1]	103,587,000	117,504,000	122,296,000
Secondary[2]	107,661,000	129,068,000	134,689,000
Other[3]	26,214,000	43,193,000	47,770,000
England			
Primary[1]	11,116,730,000	12,097,710,000	2,640,294,000
Secondary[2]	11,020,969,000	12,408,018,000	13,259,547,000
Other[3]	3,087,400,000	4,156,160,000	4,433,327,000

[1] Includes net current expenditure incurred directly by local authority maintained primary schools as well as any central local authority expenditure which can be attributed specifically to primary schools.
[2] Includes net current expenditure incurred directly by local authority maintained secondary schools as well as any central local authority expenditure which can be attributed specifically to secondary schools.
[3] Includes central spending by the LA that cannot be directly attributed to a specific school sector. Includes pupil support, private/voluntary/independent provision of education for under-fives, independent/non-maintained schools fees, education out of school, home to school transport, home to college transport (16-18), schools meals/milk, central administration, other support services, teacher development and HE/FE sources run on behalf of the authority.
Notes:
1. Does not include any capital expenditure from revenue (CERA).
2. Cash figures as reported by local authorities in their section 52 Out-turn Statements as at 25 May 2006.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £1,000.

Educational Funding

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects schools in

Nottinghamshire to receive funding from the Building Schools for the Future programme. [74617]

Jim Knight: In February 2005, we informed Nottinghamshire that it has been allocated five Building Schools for the Future projects. The programme was prioritised on the educational and social needs of geographically coherent groupings of schools proposed by authorities. The following table gives details of when each of Nottinghamshire's groupings is currently expected to be invited to join the national programme. This timetable is subject to future public spending decisions.

BSF Tranche	*Area*	*Estimated year*
B	Rural Coalfields-phase 1	2006-07 to 2008-09
C	Ashfield North Broxtowe	2009-10 to 2011-12
D	Rural Coalfields-phase 2	2012-13 to 2014-15
E	South Nottinghamshire-phase 1	2015-16 to 2017-18
E	South Nottinghamshire-phase 2	2015-16 to 2017-18

Green Corns

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received about the children's home operator Green Corns. [67825]

Mr. Dhanda: My predecessor met with six Members of Parliament from the West Midlands in June 2005 to discuss concerns raised by their constituents about specific proposals by Green Corns to develop children's homes in the West Midlands. In April 2006, my predecessor was contacted by my hon. Friend the Member for Wolverhampton, South-West (Rob Marris) and the Black Country Action Group about the issues raised by the development of children's homes, by providers such as Green Corns, and how these would be considered as part of the review of the Children's Homes National Minimum Standards.

Independent Children's Homes

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* planned and *(b)* unannounced inspections of independent children's homes took place in 2005. [69336]

Mr. Dhanda: I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the Commission does not collect the data requested by calendar year. However, CSCI carried out 1,273 announced and 1,302 unannounced inspections of independent children's homes (those run by the private and voluntary sectors) between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005; and 775 announced and 2,227 unannounced inspections of such homes between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on information technology (IT) sourced from outside his Department in each of the last five years; who is responsible for such projects in his Department; and what IT *(a)* expertise and *(b)* qualifications they possess. [71795]

Phil Hope: The information as requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Education and Skills. To respond fully would involve an extensive internal and external information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

However, to be helpful, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children Young People and Families on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 192W; and, 3 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1314W.

Merseyside Learning and Skills Council

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many redundancies he expects to take place as a consequence of the restructuring of the Merseyside Learning and Skills Council. [72831]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council is undertaking a major restructuring programme designed to streamline the organisation and give local offices a more strategic role. The changes are expected to require 1,100 fewer staff across the whole organisation, and the LSC is doing all it can to avoid making compulsory redundancies.

Mark Haysom, the chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council, has written to the hon. Member explaining the more detailed arrangements for Greater Merseyside and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 1 June 2006:

I write further to your question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on restructuring at Greater Merseyside LSC.

It is currently not possible to give a figure for the number of redundancies in any part of the LSC although it is our policy to ensure that we minimise the number of job losses wherever possible. In Merseyside, we are proposing that the 106 staff presently employed will reduce to 40. Although this initially looks like a significant reduction, job losses in real terms will be much smaller. As part of our restructuring, we are ensuring that where it makes sense to carry out an activity at 9 regional sites as opposed to 47 individual sites, we will do so. A number of the roles presently carried out at the Greater Merseyside LSC will transfer to the North West Regional Centre, but will continue to support the Greater Merseyside LSC. The North West Regional Centre will be established in Manchester, which is approximately 35 miles from the Greater Merseyside LSC.

At the same time, we are recruiting staff into new roles both in Greater Merseyside and in the North West Regional Centre, which will also have an impact on the final number of redundancies. In addition, we are seeking volunteers for early

retirement or voluntary severance. We have had 47 applications for voluntary severance from staff at the Merseyside office and all have been supported.

I trust this answers your question.

Mr. Des Smith

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when his Department first employed Mr. Des Smith; and in what capacity. [74605]

Jim Knight: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 472W, which states the basis on which Mr. Smith was employed by the DfES. Mr. Smith was first employed through Veredus Resourcing on 5 January 2004 under contract to support the City Academy, Bristol.

Northern Way

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what role his Department plays in the delivery of the Northern Way initiative. [74041]

Phil Hope: The Department welcomes the priority attached to skills in the Northern Way's Business Plan. We are committed to working with the Northern Way partners to ensure each of the Regional Economic Strategies for Yorkshire and Humber, the North West and North East are mutually reinforcing and maximise the opportunities offered by cross-regional working.

The Northern Way is a pan-regional growth strategy being taken forward by the three northern Regional Development Agencies and their partners. Its work has potential to play an important role in delivering Government's Regional Economic Performance Public Service Agreement. The Department for Communities and Local Government co-ordinates Government involvement with the Northern Way. The Department for Education and Skills works with the Northern Way where its activities relate to our responsibilities.

Out-of-classroom education

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment his Department has made of the barriers to out-of classroom education; and if he will make a statement; [73566]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effects of educational field courses on the academic performance of pupils. [73567]

Jim Knight: Over the past few years the Department has both commissioned and jointly funded external studies to examine the benefits and potential barriers to out-of-classroom learning. We have commissioned a survey of schools and local authorities to assess the extent of education outside the classroom, gather their views on the benefits and look at some of the barriers. The results will be published in the autumn.

The Department has recently supported an Ofsted survey to be published in the autumn of effective fieldwork practice in schools and how this supports pupils' motivation and learning in geography. As part of the emerging Education Outside the Classroom Manifesto, 10 working groups of leading organisations from different out-of-classroom learning sectors (including field studies) submitted reports to the Department on the benefits of out-of-classroom learning, barriers to participation and practical recommendations to remove those barriers.

Personalised Learning

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to encourage the take-up of *(a)* high speed mobile technology and *(b)* other wireless technology in the education system to enhance personalised learning for students; and if he will make a statement. [74751]

Phil Hope: The Department encourages the appropriate use of a range of technologies, including high-speed mobile and wireless, to enable improvements in personalised learning, teaching and institutional management.

First, within an institution, current guidance recommends the provision of wireless access for learners to complement wired technologies.

Secondly, to support access to resources from outside the institution, Becta (British Educational Communications and Technology Agency) will this year carry out an investigation into the potential future use of WiMAX wireless microwave access technologies, as well as continuing discussions with mobile operators about the use of future generation wireless telecommunications technologies.

Other examples of work under way to explore the impact of mobile and wireless technologies include:

a pilot of an ultra-mobile personal computer (UMPC) with schools in Nottingham and Southwell

work with Traveller children in Leicestershire to enable pupils to access their work and keep in touch using laptops and GPRS general packet radio service connectivity

use of mobile units (equipped with laptops and GPRS) in the East Midlands to deliver courses in locations without internet connections e.g. church halls

use of mobile telephony in Essex to support the curriculum

a pilot in Babington Community College in Leicester to test the potential of using wireless technology with a group of students and their families in a deprived area

the Learning2Go project in Wolverhampton, involving provision of handheld devices to 1,100 students and their teachers across a range of institutions.

Physical Education (North Somerset)

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of schoolchildren in North Somerset meet the Government's target of two hours physical education each week in schools. [73984]

Jim Knight: Data from the 2004/05 survey of schools in school sport partnerships found that 75 per cent. of five to 16-year-olds in North Somerset took part in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport each week. This means that schools in North Somerset have

reached the Government's PSA public service agreement target a year early.

Science and Geography

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the contribution of science and geography field courses in schools to sustainable development goals. [73810]

Jim Knight: The Department works closely with organisations such as the Field Studies Council (FSC), National Association of Field Study Officers (NAFSO), Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), Geographical Association and Association for Science Education on field work in schools. As part of the emerging Education Outside the Classroom Manifesto, a group of leading organisations from the fieldwork sector (including those listed) submitted a report to the Department on the benefits of fieldwork including its contribution to sustainable development education.

Staff Vetting

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals have been employed in his Department in each of the last five years; what vetting procedures are in place for each category of staff; and whether those procedures include liaison with foreign law enforcement agencies. [68012]

Mr. Dhanda: The information could be obtained in the form requested only at disproportionate cost.

All potential new appointments to DfES are subject to nationality, passport, proof of identity and reference checks before contracts of employment are issued. The need for an individual to undergo national security vetting, and the level of vetting that is appropriate depends on the particular post they are going to fill. For example, all post holders in Private Office, Board Members' Offices and the Security Team are vetted. Individuals who need regular access to Downing street and/or the Palace of Westminster are also vetted as are people who require substantial access to Secret and Top Secret assets.

The Department also has robust contractual arrangements in place and assurances from our suppliers that their non-EC national staff working in our buildings have UK residency and entitlement to work.

University Placements (Medicine)

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students with four A grade A-Levels were refused places to study *(a)* medicine, *(b)* dentistry and *(c)* veterinary science in 2005; and if he will make a statement. [66612]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not held centrally. Admissions policies and practices are entirely the responsibility of the higher education institutions. The Government have no remit over admissions although they do have a legitimate interest in ensuring that admissions are fair and command the confidence of prospective students, parents and teachers.

DEFENCE

Army Parachute Association

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what security measures are taken when *(a)* civilians join the Army Parachute Association (APA) and *(b)* civilian members of the APA use military airfields. [75078]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence does not undertake any security measures/vetting procedures in relation to civilians joining the Army Parachute Association (APA) as it is a private club and it would be inappropriate for us to do so.

When civilian members of the APA use military airfields they undergo security procedures similar to those which apply to any visitors entering any Ministry of Defence establishment. This includes booking in at the establishment's Guard House, and producing proof of identity and membership of the APA.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) at Aldermaston spent on hydrodynamic testing in each of the last 20 years; and how many scientists were employed by AWE on hydrodynamic testing of nuclear weapons in each year. [73815]

Des Browne: Over the past 20 years, Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) has spent approximately £5 million per year on hydrodynamic testing. The number of scientists employed by AWE on hydrodynamic testing over the past 20 years has remained stable at around 70, although not all are employed exclusively on these activities.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on the Atomic Weapons Establishment's core punch facility at Aldermaston in each of the last 20 years. [73819]

Des Browne: Core punch diagnostics was established at Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) in the early 1980s. Annual maintenance costs are in the order of £1 million.

Ballykelly Army Base

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* process and *(b)* timescale will be for the disposal of the married quarters accommodation associated with the Ballykelly army base. [74423]

Mr. Watson: As announced by my right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, on 10 May 2006, Shackleton Barracks Ballykelly is scheduled for closure as part of the on-going normalisation programme. It will then be passed to Defence Estates (DE)—the Ministry of Defence (MOD) agency responsible for the defence estate—for disposal no later than April 2008. This will include the associated married quarters.

DE will "trawl" the property under local arrangements. These allow for surplus MOD sites in Northern Ireland to be offered to Northern Ireland Government Departments before being offered to former owners or on the open market.

Biological Diversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Minister in his Department is responsible for monitoring his Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if he will make a statement. [73946]

Mr. Watson: As the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, I have ministerial responsibility for the defence estate which includes the monitoring of the Department's obligations under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to him comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74405]

Mr. Watson: This Department is currently establishing which public bodies reporting to the Secretary of State for Defence will be required to comply with section 40 of Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. We will develop audit and review mechanisms to ensure compliance as appropriate.

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his Department's press office. [74358]

Mr. Watson: Information on ethnicity is collected on a voluntary basis. As there are less than five individuals from black and Asian backgrounds currently employed in the Ministry of Defence press office, the precise number has been withheld to preserve the individuals' confidentiality. The total number of people employed in the Department's press office, as at 25 May, was 23. This excludes the Director of News, who has wider responsibilities than overseeing the press office.

Conscientious Objectors

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what rights to be recognised as a conscientious objector an individual has *(a)* before and *(b)* during military service. [74092]

Mr. Watson: The right to establish a conscientious objection to military service has long been recognised by the armed forces. As conscription no longer exists, it is unlikely that anybody who has an existing conscientious objection to military service would join the armed forces. Those who develop a genuine conscientious objection during service in the armed forces are able to follow well established procedures for their service to be terminated, and this includes an independent appeals procedure in any case where an application has been rejected. Information about the procedures is readily available.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 6 April, reference: 02321/2006. [74445]

Mr. Watson: I replied to the hon. Member on 15 May.

Departmental Estate

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what land in Oxfordshire his Department has *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* rented and *(d)* otherwise had (i) use of and (ii) access to at any point since 1 January 2003. [73994]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence has owned, leased, rented or otherwise used, numerous separate areas of land and buildings in Oxfordshire since January 2003. Full details are not held centrally and to provide them in the format requested would incur disproportionate costs.

However the information that is available has been placed in the Library of the House.

Gurkhas

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he intends to publish the review of the terms and conditions which apply to Gurkha pensioners. [74146]

Mr. Watson: I have assumed that the hon. Member is referring to the review of Gurkha Terms and Conditions of Service (GTACOS) announced on 11 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 9WS, and that he is asking about pensioners, rather than prisoners. I refer the hon. Member to the written statement that I made to the House on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 92WS.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what distinction he makes between Ghurka soldiers who retired *(a)* pre-and *(b)* post-1997 in terms of their (i) status and (ii) pensions. [74147]

Mr. Watson: All Gurkha soldiers who retire after service in the British Army do so under Gurkha Terms and Conditions of Service, including the Gurkha Pension Scheme. These differ from those applying to the wider British Army

1 July 1997 was the date when the Gurkhas became a UK-based force, on completion of the withdrawal from their previous base in Hong Kong. Under the terms of the HM Forces Immigration Rule (HMFIR), announced on 30 September 2004, a Gurkha discharged from the British Army on or after that date may apply for indefinite leave to enter the UK, and settle and work here. This requires the applicant to have completed at least four years service as a Gurkha with the British Army and to have been discharged in Nepal on completion of his engagement. HMFIR is based on the general principle of granting settlement on the basis of close personal ties with the UK, which Gurkhas are assumed to have developed as members of a UK-based force. Those who retired before 1 July 1997 and are not covered by the new Rule, can still apply, but would be expected to demonstrate that such ties exist.

The review of Gurkha Terms and Conditions of Service announced by the then Secretary of State on 11 January 2006 is looking again at the pension arrangements for those who retired on or after 1 July 1997. Pension arrangements for those who retired before that date will not be affected.

Iraq

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the circumstances in which Private Adam Morris and Private Joseva Lewaicei died in Basra, Iraq. [74190]

Des Browne: Private Adam Morris and Private Joseva Lewaicei were killed in a suspected Improvised Explosive Device attack in Basra City, Iraq on Saturday 13 May 2006. The circumstances surrounding the incident are currently under investigation and it would be inappropriate to comment any further until our investigations are complete.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his oral answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1183, on Iraq, what assessment he has made of the potential for partition of Iraq as a direction of travel to achieve permanent peace and stability should the present levels of violence continue or worsen into the long term. [74272]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence is engaged in Iraq in support of the wider UK Government's objective of ensuring a stable, united and federal Iraq, providing effective, representative and inclusive Government for all its people. The UK Government's policy reflects our support of the current Iraqi Constitution.

Low-flying Aircraft

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flights in each tactical training area in the UK, excluding the central Wales tactical training area, flew at between 250 and 100 feet between 1993 and 2005. [73292]

Mr. Watson: The statistics for the amount of military low flying that takes place in the tactical training areas in the UK is held in hours rather than by number of flights. The information is only available from the 1999-2000 training year as previously the data were compiled in a different manner. The figures for the training year 2005-06 are given in the table and will be published in the next statement on the pattern of military low flying that will be available in the House in summer 2006.

The information following reflects the actual amount of operational low flying carried out between 100 and 250 feet within 14T and 20T, the tactical training areas in northern Scotland and the southern Scotland/ Anglo-Scottish border area. These statistics are consistent with the information provided annually in the statement on the pattern of military low flying.

	LFA14T		*LFA20T*	
Training year	*Hours*	*Minutes*	*Hours*	*Minutes*
1999-2000	254	59	280	59
2000-01	179	36	205	28
2001-02	236	16	297	33
2002-03	161	45	188	18
2003-04	197	40	276	11
2004-05	138	7	209	8
2005-06	161	48	202	53

Marine Salvage

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* listed and *(b)* designated maritime war graves are scheduled under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. [74292]

Mr. Watson: To date a total of 17 wrecked vessels, in military service when lost, have been designated under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. Statutory Instruments 2002 No. 1761 and 2003 No. 405 refer. The places containing the remains of HMS A7, HMS Affray, HMS Bulwark, HMS Dasher, HMS Exmouth, HMS Formidable, HMS H5, HMS Hampshire, HMS Natal, HMS Royal Oak and HMS Vanguard are designated as controlled sites. The wrecks of HMS Gloucester, HMS Hood, HMS Prince of Wales, HMS Repulse, RFA Sir Galahad and the U-boat U-12 are designated as protected places.

On 31 May I announced that the wrecks of the fourteen British ships sunk at the Battle of Jutland would be designated as protected places under the Act. The designations will come into effect later this year. Further designations will be considered as part of a rolling programme.

Nepal

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy that no further support will be provided to the Army of Nepal until arrangements have been put in place to ensure democratic accountability. [74178]

Mr. Ingram: The new Government in Nepal has already made significant steps towards achieving democratic accountability over its defence and security forces. On 18 May 2006 the Nepalese House of Representatives unanimously passed an historic declaration which announced itself as the sovereign body of the country, and renamed His Majesty's Government of Nepal as "Government of Nepal" and the Royal Nepal Army as the "Nepal Army". The King is no longer the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Army and the Nepalese Army are now subordinated to democratic control. Her Majesty's Government's goal in Nepal remains to help the country emerge from the current conflict with a sustainable peace, based on the principles of a civilian, accountable and democratic Government, as the necessary foundation on which to build a viable economy and climate for recovery and reform. Although much remains to be done, this can best be achieved through engagement by the international community with the new democratic Government and with the new Nepal Army to help it adjust to the new accountability. Our current support to the Nepalese Army includes help towards the development of democratic control of the military, human rights training and explosive ordinance disposal training (in support of their post-conflict role).

Nuclear Accident Exercises

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what basis Z Berth nuclear accident exercises do not rehearse arrangements for a worst case scenario (category B6) within a 40 kilometre diameter affected area; and if he will make a statement. [73796]

Mr. Ingram: Rehearsals of Z Berth nuclear accident response plans are undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001. They are designed to test the detailed emergency plans for responding to a reasonably foreseeable radiation emergency. Any questions relating to the requirement to rehearse arrangements for events that are not reasonably foreseeable should be referred to the Health and Safety Executive, Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

RAF (Northern Ireland)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the RAF's future requirement for *(a)* accommodation and *(b)* land in Northern Ireland. [74416]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces' written ministerial statement of 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 19-21WS, about the future requirement for defence estates in Northern Ireland which included the military site at Aldergrove.

Work leading up to this announcement took into account the overall need for accommodation and land which was one of the factors in the retention of the RAF Station at Aldergrove as the base for the Joint Helicopter Force (Northern Ireland).

Recruitment

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Army has reduced its recruiting targets. [73792]

Mr. Watson: Recruiting targets for the Army fluctuate in accordance with the Army's staffing planning assumptions for inflow and outflow of soldiers to trained strength across the Army. Targets for enlistments in the current financial year and previous two years are as follows:

Financial year	Enlistment target
2004-05	11,580
2005-06	12,680
2006-07	12,610

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Sickness Absence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [73089]

Mr. Watson: The following tables show the number of non-industrial and industrial MOD staff who had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Non industrial absence occurrences of less than five days for calendar year 2003, 2004 and 2005

Headcount

Number of occurrences less than five calendar days	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Periods:			
Two	9,860	9,680	9,300
Three	5,780	5,650	5,480
Four	3,440	3,190	2,990
Five or more	4,090	3,870	3,680

Industrial absence occurrences of less than five days for calendar year 2003,2004 and 2005

Headcount

Number of occurrences less than five calendar days	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Periods:			
Two	2,540	2,200	2,010
Three	1,460	1,350	1,160

Industrial absence occurrences of less than five days for calendar year 2003, 2004 and 2005

Number of occurrences less than five calendar days	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
			Headcount
Four	870	730	570
Five or more	1,150	970	730

Notes.
1. Figures listed above have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data used exclude Royal Fleet Auxiliary staff and locally engaged civilians for whom sickness absence data are not available.

Woodbury Common

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether military training on Woodbury Common, East Devon has ever involved use of *(a)* toxic and *(b)* allergenic substances being used for chemical experimentation by his Ministry. [73890]

Mr. Watson: Woodbury Common has been used for military training since Napoleonic times. Neither Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM), who currently conduct training on the common, nor Defence Science and Technology Laboratory Porton Down have any record of using toxic or allergenic substances for chemical experimentation. CTCRM use CS canisters as part of routine training, but there is no risk associated with CS gas used in this way.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Testing

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent research he has assessed on animal testing and carcinogenicity. [74003]

Joan Ryan: Since humans can be exposed to low levels of chemicals in their diet, or in their environment, over a significant proportion of their lifespan, studies to evaluate lifetime exposure are conducted in animals to ascertain the potential for the chemical to cause cancer. The objective of carcinogenicity studies is to identify the potential of test materials to cause tumours in animals and to assess the relevant risk in humans. Carcinogenicity studies are time consuming and resource intensive and are only performed when potential or actual human exposure warrants the need for this information to be generated. Our implementation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 ensures that this is the case, and that the studies that are undertaken avoid unnecessary animal use, do not cause unnecessary suffering and provide data of a sufficiently high quality to inform risk assessments and regulatory decisions.

We make every effort to keep abreast of developments in this and other areas relevant to the use of animals under the 1986 Act. For example, issues relating to the use of animals for carcinogenicity studies fall within the broader remit of the Inter-departmental Group on the 3Rs, which the Home Office leads and membership of which includes relevant United Kingdom regulators. We are informed of work on validation within Europe through the United Kingdom representative to the Scientific Advisory Committee to the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM). In addition, our professional inspectorate maintains awareness of developments taking place within United Kingdom research laboratories, and of relevant publications.

In this latter context, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have recently published a report entitled "Creative Accounting" looking at carcinogenicity studies. We have referred the technical issues contained in the PETA report to the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC) for scientific evaluation. We will consider any issues relevant to the implementation of the 1986 Act when we have received the Committee's advice.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department within what timescale he plans to roll out the facility across the country if the pilot in Southampton to provide a dedicated telephone line for reporting antisocial behaviour is successful. [72819]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* The 101 single non-emergency number service for community safety action, information and advice will be rolled out across England and Wales in a number of waves. The first wave will see the service launch in Hampshire (including Southampton) and four other areas in summer 2006. The service will be available across England and Wales by the end of 2008.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued to 10 to 17-year-olds since 1999 broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* local authority area; how many have been breached in each case; and in what percentage of cases where a breach occurred a parenting order (i) had been and (ii) had not been applied; [71743]

(2) in how many antisocial behaviour orders issued to 10 to 17-year-olds since 1999 *(a)* a parenting order has also been applied and *(b)* no parenting order has been applied; [71744]

(3) how many custodial sentences have been imposed on 10 to 17-year-olds for breaching conditions of an antisocial behaviour order since 1999; [71745]

(4) how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued to 10 to 17-year-olds since 1999, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* offence; [72417]

(5) what the maximum length of time is for which the terms of an antisocial behaviour order can apply to a child under 18 years; [72280]

(6) how many under 18-year-olds have a criminal record as a result of breaches of the terms of an antisocial behaviour order. [72282]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 May 2006]:* From commencement, 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000,

Antisocial Behaviour Order (ASBO) data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area. Tables A to H give the number of ASBOs issued to 10 to17-year-olds at all courts, as notified to the Home Office, from 1 June 2000 to 30 September 2005 (latest available), by individual age and the local authority area in which prohibitions have been imposed. Data collated centrally for statistical purposes do not identify the type of antisocial behaviour that led to the issuing of an ASBO.

ASBO breach data only cover breach proceedings where there has been a conviction. These data are available at criminal justice system area level only and are currently available from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2003 for ASBOs issued since 1 June 2000. During this period, of the 392 persons aged 10 to 17 convicted for breaching their ASBO, on one or more occasions, 179 received a custodial sentence, of which 30 were for breach of ASBO alone. Within the same period and, as notified to the Home Office, no notification was received of the breach of an ASBO made at the same time as a parenting order.

The minimum duration of an ASBO is two years but there is no maximum period. It is for the court to decide the duration of the order depending on the severity of the anti social behaviour. The latest published figures up to September 2005 show that 62 per cent of anti social behaviour orders issued to young people aged 10 to 17 were for a period of less than three years. On 20 December 2005 we announced that we would put on a statutory footing the exisiting good practice guidance that agencies should conduct a one year review of ASBOs issued to children and young people, in order to ensure that they are receiving the help and support they need in order to avoid breaching the terms of the ASBOs.

In addition, it is always open to the defendant or the applicant authority to go back to the court to vary or discharge the ASBO if one or more of the terms is no longer needed or needs strengthening.

Copies of all the relevant tables have been placed in the Library.

Table A: The number of ASBOs issued to persons aged 10 years, as reported to the Home Office by all courts, where restrictions are imposed within local government authority areas, from 1 June 2000 to 30 September 2005—England and Wales

Local Government Authority Area	*Number issued*
Barking and Dagenham LB	1
Bassetlaw DC	1
Bath and North East Somerset Council	1
Birmingham CC	2
East Cambridgeshire DC	1
Leeds CC	3
Liverpool CC	1
Manchester CC	2
Medway Council	1
Newport CBC	1
Plymouth CC	1
Rochdale MBC	1
Rushcliffe BC	1
Salford MBC	1
Southend-on-Sea BC	1
St. Helens MBC	2
Stoke-on-Trent CC	1
Trafford MBC	2
Walsall MBC	1
Total	25

Note:
1. Between 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area.
2. Some of the local authority areas defined in the table may not be classified as formally listed borough, city, district or unitary authorities.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been issued with an antisocial behaviour order in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* London since its inception. [73127]

Mr. McNulty: Data on antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) are available at criminal justice system area and local government authority (LGA) area level only. A table giving annual data on the number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, up to 30 September 2005 (latest available), broken down by the LGA area in which restrictions are imposed is available on the Crime Reduction website at www.crimereduction.gov.uk.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* Coventry South and *(b)* the Midlands since 2002. [72304]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* Data on antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) are available at criminal justice system area and local government authority (LGA) area level only. A table giving annual data on the number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, up to 30 September 2005 (latest available), broken down by the LGA area in which restrictions are imposed is available on the crime reduction website at www.crimereduction.gov.uk.

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual support orders attached to antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in each local authority area. [72441]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the following table.

Number of individual support orders[1] given at the magistrates courts in addition to an ASBO, as reported to the Home Office, where restrictions are imposed within local authority areas from 1 May 2004 to 30 September 2005: England and Wales

Local authority area	*Individual support orders issued*
Bassetlaw DC	1
Bolton MBC	1
Camden LB	2
Chester-le-Street DC	1
Derwentside DC	1
Gloucester CC	1

Number of individual support orders[1] given at the magistrates courts in addition to an ASBO, as reported to the Home Office, where restrictions are imposed within local authority areas from 1 May 2004 to 30 September 2005: England and Wales

Local authority area	Individual support orders issued
Great Yarmouth BC	6
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk BC	2
Kirklees MC	1
Leeds CC	1
Manchester CC	2
Mansfield DC	3
Medway Council	1
Newham LB	1
North East Lincolnshire Council	1
Salford CC	1
South Tyneside MBC	1
Southampton City Council	1
Southwark LB	1
Torfaen CBC	1
Wolverhampton CC	1
Total	31

[1] Available at magistrates courts only for juveniles (10 to 17) with ASBOs issued on application. Commencement date 1 May 2004

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how relevant requests made to the non-emergency 101 number will be passed on to services provided by local authorities. [60105]

Mr. McNulty: 101, the single non-emergency number will be delivered by local authorities and police working in partnership to handle calls and coordinate corresponding services. They will agree which partner is responsible for delivering which service. Requests for service will be passed to each partner accordingly in the most effective way using either existing information technology infrastructure and capability or through the provision of new solutions where necessary or appropriate.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parenting orders have been breached since December 2004. [71832]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 18 May 2006]:* Information notified to the Home Office Court Proceedings Database shows that 21 breach proceedings leading to conviction occurred for parenting orders during 2004, three of them in December.

Data for 2005 are not yet available.

Asylum Claims (Effect of Prison Sentence)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a prison sentence affects an individual's outstanding claim for asylum; and if he will make a statement. [73346]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 24 May 2006]:* The Refugee Convention contains a number of exclusion provisions under which claimants will be refused asylum even if they have a fear of persecution in their own country.

Where an individual has committed a crime in the UK consideration will be given to the application of Article 33(2) of the Refugee Convention. This provides that an asylum seeker or recognised refugee may be expelled where there are reasonable grounds for regarding them as a danger to national security or who, having been convicted of a particularly serious crime, constitutes a danger to the community.

Section 72 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 provides an interpretation of Article 33(2) and defines the term "particularly serious crime" as one for which the person concerned has received a sentence of imprisonment of at least two years, or has been convicted of an offence specified by order of the Secretary of State, whatever the length of sentence imposed. It also contains a rebuttable presumption that such a person is a danger to the community.

A claimant would also be refused asylum where the crime committed is a crime against peace a war crime or a crime against humanity, or where it involves acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Charitable Status

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to change the procedures for *(a)* applications for and *(b)* granting charitable status. [67219]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

Ministers have no power to change the procedures for applications for, or granting of, charitable status. Those procedures are administrative matters for the Charity Commission as the independent registrar and regulator of charities.

Contracts (Voluntary Sector)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts are let by his Department to voluntary sector organisations; how many of those are let on an annual basis; and how many of those had received finalised contracts for 2006-07 by 31 March. [63206]

Mr. Byrne: Funding for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations may come from various parts of the Home Office itself or from money which the Home Office has provided for other bodies to buy services on its behalf.

The Department is, however, moving towards multi-year funding relationships with the VCS. The recently announced strategic grants to representative parts of the VCS now cover a three to five-year period and involve over £5 million. Our grant funding of the charities Crime Concern and Crimestoppers now also provides three-year strategic partnership agreements which total nearly £5.3 million over three years. The recent National Offender Management Service programme of grant funding for VCS organisations totalling nearly £900,000 provided up to three-year grants where they were requested. Of the grants awarded six organisations received them for three

years, five for two years and two for one year. The provision of drug treatments by Drug Action Team partnerships is funded through the Home Office and we have issued guidance to them advocating a minimum period of two years for contracts and preferably longer.

Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality will reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate of 31 January 2006 on behalf of Jeffrey Tichaendepi Zungunde (Home Office reference Z10635301). [72828]

Mr. Byrne: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood on 22 May 2006.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter of 18 April from the hon. Member for Walsall, North about a constituent, reference M9535/6. [73122]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* I wrote to my hon. Friend on 25 May 2006.

Criminal Justice Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what amendments have been made to the Criminal Justice Act 2003; for what purposes; and when. [70084]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I am arranging for the information requested to be placed in the Library.

Criminal Records Bureau

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many applications for compensation were received by the Criminal Records Bureau in each year since the office was set up; and how many were successful; [72369]

(2) what the value is of compensation paid by the Criminal Records Bureau due to maladministration in each year since it was set up. [72370]

Joan Ryan: The CRB operates a Redress Scheme which was implemented in September 2002. The following table provides a breakdown of the number of claims made, the number of awards made for maladministration and the sum of redress awarded in each year to December 2005.

The total number of awards made represent some 0.017 per cent. of the total number of disclosures issued during the same period.

	Number of disclosures issued	*Number of claims*	*Number of awards*	*Total redress paid (£)*
2002	927,163	366	293	31,970
2003	2,158,149	533	310	87,913
2004	2,082,728	415	331	68,981
2005	2,690,009	513	417	111,995

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the Criminal Records Bureau has dealt with since its inception; how many errors have been made in identification in that period; and if he will make a statement. [73502]

Joan Ryan: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has issued 8.9 million Disclosures since its launch in March 2002 to 31 March 2006. In that time, there have been 2,273 occasions where Disclosure applicant details were matched by the CRB to a person with the same or very similar details who has a criminal record and, where the details had been challenged by the applicant, their dispute was subsequently upheld.

These cases are clearly regrettable, but represent a very small proportion of cases—0.025 per cent. of the total number of Disclosures issued. The CRB is acutely aware of the human consequences of making an incorrect matching decision and does not do so lightly.

However, the CRB must err on the side of caution when an individual has the same or very similar personal details to those of someone who has a criminal record. This is because it is better to be safe than run the risk of letting an inappropriate person through.

When a Disclosure is disputed it is resolved by asking the applicant to have their fingerprints taken at a local police station to help either confirm or overturn the original matching decision.

The CRB will always apologise if the original matching decision is later found to be incorrect. In the event of a dispute the CRB notifies the prospective employer who would be aware of the CRB's Code of Practice that asks them not to take any precipitative action and defer any employment decision until the dispute is resolved. When a Disclosure is disputed the CRB will inform all parties that this is the case, including the employer. Where the information contained in the Disclosure is found not to relate to the applicant, a fresh Disclosure will be issued free of charge to both the applicant and the Registered Body. 90 per cent. of disputes are resolved within 21 days.

A public consultation exercise was conducted in October 2003 about making greater use of fingerprinting at an earlier stage in the application process and to aid the matching and decision-making procedures. The overwhelming response was not in favour of such a measure.

It is worth noting that under the previous police checking arrangements, individuals were not able to see the criminal records information disclosed about them. The information would have been passed only to the prospective employer and not to the job applicant and the prospective employer would have had no obligation to pass on the contents of the information to the individual.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals in Wales have received an incorrect assessment from the Criminal Records Bureau since 1997. [73730]

Joan Ryan: The information sought by the hon. Member is not available. The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is unable to provide information on Disclosure applications based on geographical areas.

In order to identify how many applicants reside in Wales and received an incorrect assessment, the CRB would need to perform a manual trawl, at disproportionate cost, of each application to ascertain whether the postcode falls within Wales. Furthermore, this may not provide a conclusive figure as applicants may live on the borders of England and Wales.

Departmental Estate

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* land and *(b)* property his Department (i) leases and (ii) leased in (A) 1979, (B) 1983, (C) 1987, (D) 1992 and (E) 1997 in (1) the Southend, West constituency, (2) Essex, (3) Hertfordshire and (4) the Metropolitan Police area of London. [72099]

Mr. McNulty: Records of leases held in previous years are not maintained by my Department.

Other than land or properties where addresses cannot be disclosed for security reasons the Department leases no land, but leases property in the following locations:

Southend, West

Nil.

Essex

Southend Airport, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6YH

Stansted Airport, Bassingbourn Road, Stansted, Essex CM24 1RW

Enterprise House, Stansted Airport, Essex CM24 1QW

Harwick International Port, Harwich, Essex CO12 4SX

Southern Lodge, Tilbury, Essex RM12

Unit 6, Woodbrook Crescent, Billericay, Essex CM12 0EQ

9a Reeds Farm, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3SB

4th Floor, Ashby House, Brook Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1PP

Unit 9, Reunion House, 35 Jackson Road, Clacton, Essex CO15 1JA

Unit G2 and G3, Jarmin Road, Colchester, Essex CO1 1XW

23 St. Peters Street, Colchester, Essex CO1 1HL

3rd Floor, Market House, Stone Cross, Harlow, Essex CM20 1AA

49 Braintree Road, Witham, Essex CM8 2DD

11 Cranes Farm Road, Basildon, Essex SS14 3DB

Hertfordshire

North Park House, The Precinct, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire EN10 7HY

Mid Herts Centre, 62-72 Victoria Street, St. Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3XH

16-22 Kings Street, Watford, Hertfordshire WD1 8BP

Graham House, Yeomans Court, 2 Block A Ware Road, Hertfordshire SG13 7HJ

Metropolitan Police area of London

88 Clapham High Road, London SW9 0JT

Floors 1, 2 and 3,34 Greenwich High Road, SE10 8LW

Hope House, 32-34 Greenwich High Road, London SE10 8LW

34-36 Englefield Road, Hackney, London N1 4EZ

377-383 Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9RD

121A Church Walk, Hackney, London N16 8QW

1-5 Dorset Close, London, NW1 5AN

71 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2BN

Autophone House, 73 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2BN

Harpenden House, 248-250 Norwood Road, London SW27 9AZ

474-480 Holloway Road, London N7 6HT

143 Nottinghill Gate, London W11 3LE

1 Reed House, 2-4 Rectory Road, London N16 7QS

Riverside House, Beresford Street, London SE18 6DH

401 St. Johns Street, London EC1 4QE

208 Lewisham High Street, London SE13 5JH

79 East Hill, Wandsworth, London SW18 2QE

Units 4 and 5 Mitre House, 223-227 Great Dover Street, London SE1 1JD

175-177 Seymour Place, London W1H 4PL

Ellison House, 370 Albany Road, London SE5 0AJ

Lancaster House, Leeland Road, Ealing, London W13 9HH.

The Old Court House, Windmill Hill, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 6SA

Rosslyn Crescent, Harrow, London HA1 2SR

Banklabs House, 41a Cross Lances Road, Hounslow, London TW3 2AD

71 Lordship Lane, London, N17 6RS

90 Lansdowne Road, London N17 9XX

Unit 5, Atlas Business Centre, Oxgate Lane, London NW2 7HJ

Harrow Magistrates Court, Rosslyn Crescent, Middlesex HA1 2SD

15 Belton Road, Forest Gate, London E7 9PF

Norwich Place, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7ND

Crosby House, 9-13 Elmfield Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 1LT

1 London Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 1BY

111 Chertsey Crescent, New Addington, Surrey CR0 0DH

Room 203,2 Barclay Road, Croydon, Surrey CR9 3NE

Church House, 1A Old Palace Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1AX

51 Wandle Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1DF

16 High Street, Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 4DB

45 High Street, Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 1LQ

Newton House, 1 Commonside West, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4HA

103 Westmead Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4JD

296a Kingston Road, London SW20 8LX

Colnbrook Bypass, Harmondsworth, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 0FX

Harmondsworth, Longford, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 0HB

Queens Building, Terminal 2, Heathrow Airport, Middlesex TW6 1EN

Grenadier House, 99-105 HorseferryRoad, London SW1P 2DX

84-85 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6PD

Allington Towers, Allington Road, Victoria, London SW1

10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE

AMP House, Dingwall Road, Croydon CR20 2LX

Heathrow Airport, Terminal 1, Hounslow, Middlesex TW6 1BN

Heathrow Airport, Terminal 2, Hounslow, Middlesex TW6 1ND

Heathrow Airport, Terminal 3, Hounslow, Middlesex TW6 1ND

Heathrow Airport, Terminal 4, Hounslow, Middlesex TW6 3XB

Building 820, Terminal 3, Hounslow, Middlesex TW6 1SX

Eaton House, 581 Staines Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 5DL

Feltham Green, 21 High Street, Hounslow, Middlesex TW13 4AG

Hanover House, Units 4 and 5, Aspen Way, Feltham Middlesex TW13 7JJ

Beckett House, 60-68 St. Thomas Street, London Bridge, London SE1 3QU

London City Airport, Royal Docks, Silvertown, London E16 2PX

Status Park 1, 1 Noble Drive, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 5EY

Status Park 2, 6 Noble Drive, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 5EY

Status Park 3, 4 Noble Drive, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 5EY

Status Park 4, 3 Noble Drive, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 5EY

Stockley Park, 1 Furzeground Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB1 1ID

Apollo House, 36 Wellesley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 9YA

Beddington Cross, Unit 17, Beddington Lane, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4XH

Bedford Point, 34-35 Dingwall Road, Croydon Surrey CR0 9XG

Christopher Wren House, 113 High Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1QG

Electric House, 3 Wellesley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR9 2AT

Canterbury House, 2-6 Sydenham Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 9XE

Green Park House, 29 Wellesley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR9 2BY

Lunar House, 40 Wellesley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR9 2BY

Metro Point, 49 Sydenham Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 2EU

Quest House, 11 Cross Road, Croydon, Surrey CR9 6EL

St. Anne House, 20-26 Wellesley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR9 2HL

Whitgift Blocks A-E, 15 Wellesley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR9 1AT

2 Marsham Street, London SW1 P4DF (PFI)

277-289 High Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1QQ

28-42 Clements Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1BA

29-33 Victoria Road, Romford, Essex RM1 2JT.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the responsibilities which his Department has lost since 1997; what the *(a)* date and *(b)* destination Department was in each case; what responsibilities the Department has taken on since 1997; and what the (i) date and (ii) source Department was in each case. [71134]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* Ministerial responsibilities are set out in the List of Ministerial Responsibilities, which is updated regularly. A revised version will be published shortly. Copies of previous versions are available in the Library.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff from his Department attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event in London in 2005; and what the total cost to his Department was of this attendance. [73018]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will write to the hon. Member with details of the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event. Copies of her letter will be placed in the Library.

Disability Access

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any buildings in his Department fall short of disability access regulations. [73020]

Mr. Byrne: Building by building information on compliance with disabled access legislation is not held centrally. The Home Office has a large and varied estate comprising approximately 1,900 major sites and individual buildings. Some buildings inevitably are better suited than others for access by disabled people. The Home Office has carried out a significant amount of work in recent years to improve its facilities for those who are disabled. Policy is for all buildings to comply with all relevant legislation.

Dr. David Kelly

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which individual decided that Dr. Nicholas Hunt should be the pathologist chosen to investigate the death of Dr. David Kelly in July 2003. [73992]

Joan Ryan: The selection of the pathologist to undertake a post-mortem examination is made, by the coroner with jurisdiction, under the provisions of section 19 or s20 Coroners Act 1988. In cases of suspicious death, where there may be a prosecution, the coroner would consult the police (see Rule 6 Coroners Rules 1984) before making the selection. The death of Dr. Kelly took place within the jurisdiction of the Oxfordshire coroner and so the choice of Dr. Hunt would have been made by that coroner.

Drink Offences

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders were found guilty of *(a)* drunken and disorderly behaviour and *(b)* drunken and aggravated disorderly behaviour in (i) England and (ii) Tamworth constituency in each year since 1997. [71239]

Mr. Coaker: Data from the Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of offenders convicted at all courts for offences relating to *(a)* drunken and disorderly behaviour and *(b)* drunken and aggravated disorderly behaviour in (i) England and (ii) Tamworth constituency in England, 1997 to 2004 are contained in the first table. It is not possible to separately identify

Tamworth, as the data is not collected at this level of detail. Therefore, data for the Lichfield and Tamworth area have been provided instead.

Statistics for 2005 court proceedings will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Some drunkenness offences are now dealt with by penalty notice for disorder. The penalty notice for disorder scheme was brought into effect in all police forces in England and Wales during 2004. Under the scheme the police are able to issue persons believed to have committed specified minor offences with a fixed penalty notice. No admission of guilt is required and payment of the penalty discharges all liability to conviction of the offence. Data on the number of penalty notices for disorder issued in 2004 and 2005 (provisional data) for offences related to drunkenness are provided in the second table.

Number of offenders found guilty at all courts for offences relating to drunkenness, Lichfield and Tamworth Local Justice Area, and England 1997 to 2004[1]

	Lichfield and Tamworth Petty Sessional Area		*England*	
	Drunkenness, simple[2]	*Drunkenness with aggravation[3]*	*Drunkenness, simple[2]*	*Drunkenness with aggravation[3]*
1997	—	—	3,333	22,474
1998	—	—	3,710	23,864
1999	1	3	3,134	22,764
2000	—	61	2,579	22,078
2001	3	28	2,424	21,468
2002	2	29	2,201	22,741
2003	6	39	1,999	23,893
2004	5	32	1,674	17,550

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes offences under S.12 Licensing Act 1872, Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 SS.1(4), 1 A(4), 2.(2) and S.12 Criminal Justice & Police Act 2001.
[3] Includes offences under S.91 Criminal Justice Act 1967, S.12 Licensing Act 1872, S.174 Licensing Act 1964, S.9(4) Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969, S.28 London Hackney Carriage Act 1843, SS.101(1)(a)(b), (4) & (5) Merchant Shipping Act 1995, S.2 Licensing Act 1902 and S.61 Town Police Clauses Act 1847.

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued in for offences related to drunkenness, England, 2004 and 2005[1]

	Total	*D406 Drunk and disorderly*	*D805 Drunk in a highway*	*D807 Consumption of alcohol in public place*
2004	28,455	25,591	2,387	477
2005[1]	37,742	34,220	2,873	649

[1] Provisional data.
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Drug Offences

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children aged under 18 years were arrested on suspicion of dealing drugs in *(a)* England, *(b)* each English region and *(c)* the Tees Valley in each year since 1997. [73650]

Mr. Coaker: Information requested is not collected centrally.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drug offences were recorded in *(a)* Devon, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* the south west region in 2005. [72796]

Mr. Coaker: The latest available information for small area crime data is for financial year 2004-05. The figures for drug offences are given in the following table.

Drug offences recorded in 2004-05

	Number of offences
Devon	3,220
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	1,136
South west region	10,956

Notes:
1. Devon calculated by combining the three basic command units of north and east Devon, south and west Devon and Plymouth.
2. Cornwall is the basic command unit Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

Europol

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1036W, on Europol, what discussions he has had relating to the future of Europol. [73734]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* The Austrian presidency has initiated an EU-wide debate on Europol's future, most recently in the form of a Friends of the presidency group consisting of experts from the member States, the Commission and Europol.

In light of their discussions, the presidency has prepared an options paper which summarises the possible approaches that could be explored. The presidency intends agreeing council conclusions on the paper at the meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 1 and 2 June. These would provide a basis for taking the discussions further forward in the council working groups.

Foreign Prisoners (Release)

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what correspondence he has received from prison governors on the release of foreign prisoners since 1999. [73671]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no record of any such correspondence.

Forensic Science

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he last reviewed the code of practice for scene of crime officers. [49166]

Jean Ryan: The Home Office has not issued a code of practice for scene of crime officers and, as far as we are aware, there is no national code of practice as such. However, both the Forensic Science Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers have issued some good practice guidance for scenes of crime staff. This includes: The Scenes of Crime Handbook, the

National Operational Standards for Scenes of Crime and a draft National Crime Scene Investigation Manual.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether evidence in reports for the Forensic Science Service is checked by outside agencies. [74608]

Joan Ryan: Evidence in reports prepared by the Forensic Science Service Ltd (FSS) is assessed externally to ensure that quality standards are met. The FSS is accredited to the ISO 17025 (2005) standard, which is an international testing standard for laboratories. This testing standard requires independent assessment of the FSS Quality Management System by an external body—in this case the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). The UKAS assessment includes proficiency testing organised by other forensic provider networks within the UK, EU and UN, and covers the extent to which the FSS provides assurance that the results it provides meet the required quality standards. The FSS is also accredited to the wider ranging ISO 9001 standard that is assessed by the British Standards Institute (BSI).

Under disclosure rules, access to FSS files is available to the defence and the courts for scrutiny in any particular investigation. A proportion of cases in which the FSS has provided evidence for the prosecution are independently examined and checked by other forensic providers on behalf of the defence.

HM Young Offenders Institution Feltham

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* management and *(b)* systems operation at HM Young Offenders Institution Feltham; and if he will make a statement; [73751]

(2) if he will make a statement on security arrangements at HM Young Offenders Institution Feltham; what action he has taken to improve security arrangements in the last month; and what investigations he has ordered into issues arising from an attempted escape; [73752]

(3) if he will make a statement on the role of Mr. Rod Eddington at HM Young Offenders Institution Feltham. [73763]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Management and related systems at Feltham are regularly reviewed by the Governor and area manager. The establishment continues to make significant progress, as described in the most recent HM Chief Inspector of Prisons' report following an inspection in May 2005.

The security arrangements at Feltham were fully assessed by the National Standards Audit unit in December 2005 in which Feltham scored 83 per cent. Feltham also conducts regular and frequent self-audits, the last being in March, which have confirmed the national markings. There is one current disciplinary investigation into a recent escape attempt but it would not be appropriate to comment further until this is complete.

A number of London prisons participated in a pilot organised by Business in the Community (BITC), an organisation that forges links between managers in the public and private sectors to enhance the skills and knowledge of participants. Mr. Rod Eddington was the chief executive of British Airways, selected by BITC to partner the Governor of Feltham as part of this initiative. Mr. Eddington visited the prison on two occasions, helped promote the positive aspects of the work of the prison and facilitated the use of BA facilities for a training event for Feltham managers. Mr. Eddington concluded his participation in January.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he *(a)* last visited and *(b)* intends next to visit HM Young Offenders Institution Feltham. [73750]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Secretary has yet to visit Feltham young offender institution. A visit to Feltham would be considered as part of a programme of visits across the prison estate by Home Office Ministers.

Immigration

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to enable employers to research the immigration status of foreign nationals applying for jobs; and if he will make a statement. [73336]

Mr. Byrne: Section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 provides employers with a statutory defence from conviction if they check and record certain specified documents belonging to potential employees. To support employers to meet their responsibilities under section 8, detailed guidance is available in hard copy from the IND Employers' Helpline and electronically on the IND website. The Employers' Helpline offers a dedicated enquiry and information service on the prevention of illegal migrant working. The Home Office "Employing Migrant Workers" website provides employers with a step-by-step guide to the checks that they are advised to complete to ensure that a person is legally allowed to work in the UK. UKIS local enforcement offices can also provide employers with a presentation on preventing illegal working.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the number of immigrants with tuberculosis who entered the United Kingdom at each point of entry in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [67428]

(2) how many people have been refused entry to the United Kingdom on the basis of *(a)* a positive test for tuberculosis and *(b)* other conditions with public health implications in each of the last five years. [67427]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office will shortly conduct a survey to provide more information about the extent to which immigration officers' decisions at points of entry, including refusal of entry, are based on the

outcome of medical examinations covering all types of conditions. Between the introduction of pre-entry screening in autumn 2005 and 1 May 2006, nine cases of TB had been detected in approximately 12,000 visa applicants tested and entry clearance withheld until completion of treatment.

Indefinite Leave to Remain

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people living in Putney constituency applied for indefinite leave to remain in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [72749]

(2) how many people living in Putney constituency are awaiting a final decision on their application for indefinite leave to remain; how many people on average were awaiting a final decision in each of the previous five years; and if he will make a statement; [72750]

(3) how many people living in Putney constituency were issued a final decision, with no further right of appeal, on their application for indefinite leave to remain on average in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [72751]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* This information is not available on a constituency basis.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people living in the UK were issued a final decision, with no further rights of appeal, regarding their application for indefinite leave to remain, in each year from 2001 to 2005; and if he will make a statement; [72887]

(2) how many people living in the UK were awaiting a final decision regarding their application for indefinite leave to remain in each year from 2001 to 2005; and if he will make a statement; [72888]

(3) how many people living in the UK applied for indefinite leave to remain in each year from 2001 to 2005; and if he will make a statement; [72889]

(4) how many people living in the UK are awaiting a final decision regarding their application for indefinite leave to remain; and if he will make a statement. [72890]

Mr. Byrne: The Research, Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS) produce national statistics for on entry control, asylum, after entry control, grants of settlement, removals and appeals. These are available in the publication "Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom" published by The Stationery Office.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people living in each London borough were issued a final decision, with no further rights of appeal, regarding their application for indefinite leave to remain in each year between 2001 and 2005; and if he will make a statement; [72891]

(2) how many people living in each London borough are awaiting a final decision regarding their application for indefinite leave to remain; and if he will make a statement; [72892]

(3) how many people living in each London borough applied for indefinite leave to remain in each year from 2001 to 2005, broken down by London borough; and if he will make a statement; [72893]

(4) how many people living in each London borough were awaiting a final decision regarding their application for indefinite leave to remain on average in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004 and *(e)* 2005; and if he will make a statement. [72900]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not collated on a local authority basis.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) many people living in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency are awaiting a final decision on their application for indefinite leave to remain; how many people were awaiting a final decision in each of the previous five years; and if he will make a statement; [73452]

(2) how many people living in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency were issued a final decision with no further right of appeal on their application for indefinite leave to remain in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [73453]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not collated on a constituency basis.

Iraq (Alleged Stolen Cultural Property)

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been in connection with alleged stolen cultural property originating in Iraq in each police force area since January 2004; and if he will make a statement. [73431]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003 came into effect on 30 December 2003. The Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform shows that in 2004 there were no prosecutions or convictions for dishonestly dealing in cultural objects in England and Wales. Statistics on court proceedings for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

The Iraq (United Nations Sanctions) Order 2003 came into force on 14 June 2003. The data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform do not separately identify the offence under this order of dealing in cultural property originating in Iraq.

London Bombings

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his oral statement of 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 522, on the London bombings, when, and in what form, the Government plan to release details of the lessons learned exercise addressing aspects of the emergency response to the 7 July 2005 attacks. [72928]

Mr. McNulty: A document summarising progress in addressing the multi-agency lessons learned from the emergency response to the 7 July attacks is being compiled, and will be published before the summer recess. Copies will be placed in the Library.

Magistrates Courts

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much in respect of compensation orders made by magistrates courts remained unpaid to the end of 2005-06. [74133]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

Information on total financial penalty impositions and collections are provided by the 42 HMCS areas in England and Wales, but does not specifically and separately identify compensation from other impositions (fines and costs). The information could therefore be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

MI5 Files

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many MI5 files were extant at 31 December 2005; how many were categorised as *(a)* green, *(b)* amber and *(c)* red; and how many were (i) held on microfiche, (ii) held as hard copy and (iii) held on computer in each category. [68479]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* The available information is that the Security Service held approximately 325,000 files in January 2005. The categorisations of these files were, on this date, as follows: 10 per cent. green, 46 per cent. amber and 44 per cent. red. 60,000 of these files were held on microfiche or microfilm, with the remaining paper based. No files at this date were held on computer.

National DNA Database

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for information on the national DNA database his Department has received from other countries in each year since its inception. [73347]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 24 May 2006]:* From the inception of the National DNA database in 1995 until comparatively recently, requests for international profiles were rare and therefore no data was collated by the NDNAD until 2004. Since 2004 here have been 519 such requests.

Pathologists

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the qualified pathologists his Department *(a)* uses and *(b)* used in July 2003; and for how long (i) each pathologist who is on the list has been on the list and (ii) each pathologist on the list in July 2003 had been on the list at that time. (73993)

Joan Ryan: The Home Office does not employ or instruct forensic pathologists but does maintain a register of forensic pathologists who have sufficient qualifications, training and experience to be instructed in cases of suspicious or violent death.

The following list shows those forensic pathologists who are on the Home Office Register (updated April 2006) and those that were on the register in July 2003. In each case the year in which they were added to the Register is also listed.

April 2006

Dr. P. Acland (1984)
Dr. L. M. Al-Alousi (2002)
Dr. A. M. Anscombe (1989)
Dr. A. Armour (1997)
Dr. D. C. Bouch (1984)
Dr. N. Carter (1995)
Dr. N. R. B. Cary (1992)
Dr. R. C. Chapman (1991)
Dr. D. S. Cook (2003)
Dr. P. N. Cooper (1993)
Dr. A. M. Davison (1999)
Dr. V. Djurovic (1991)
Dr. M. J. Egan (2002)
Dr. A. W. Fegan-Earl (2002)
Dr. G. C. A. Fernando (1993)
Dr. N. C. A. Hunt (2001)
Dr. D. S. James (1994)
Dr. P. G. Jerreat (1991)
Dr. C. P. Johnson (1996)
Dr. W. Lawler (1984)
Dr. S. Leadbeatter (1989)
Dr. P. Lumb (2003)
Prof. C. Milroy (1991)
Dr. F. Patel (1991)
Dr. B. N. Purdue (2002)
Prof. R. A. Risdon (2002)
Dr. B. Rogers (2001)
Dr. D. A. Rouse (1991)
Prof. G. N. Rutty (1996)
Dr. R. T. Shepherd (1991)
Dr. K. Shorrock (2000)
Dr. J. P. Sunter (1986)
Dr. B. Swift (2005)
Dr. E. Tapp (1986)
Prof. P. Vanezis (2003)
Dr. H. White (1994)
Prof. H. L. Whitwell (1988)
Dr. C. A. Wilson (1999)

July 2003

Dr. P. Acland (1984)
Dr. L. M. Al-Alousi (2002)
Dr. A. M. Anscombe (1989)
Dr. A. Armour (1997)
Dr. D. C. Bouch (1984)
Dr. N. Carter (1995)
Dr. N. R. B. Cary (1992)
Dr. R. C. Chapman (1991)
Dr. K. Chen (1999)

Dr. D. S. Cook (2003)
Dr. P. N. Cooper (1993)
Dr. A. M. Davison (1999)
Dr. V. Djurovic (1991)
Dr. M. J. Egan (2002)
Dr. A. W. Fegan-Earl (2002)
Dr. G. C. A. Fernando (1993)
Dr. T. A. French (1978)
Dr. M. J. Heath (1991)
Dr. I. Hill (1990)
Dr. N. C. A. Hunt (2001)
Dr. D. S. James (1994)
Dr. P. G. Jerreat (1991)
Dr. C. P. Johnson (1996)
Dr. W. Lawler (1984)
Dr. S. Leadbeatter (1989)
Prof. C. Milroy (1991)
Dr. F. Patel (1991)
Dr. B. N. Purdue (2002)
Prof. R. A. Risdon (2002)
Dr. B. Rogers (2001)
Dr. D. A. Rouse (1991)
Dr. J. Rutherford (1992)
Prof. G. N. Rutty (1996)
Dr. R. T. Shepherd (1991)
Dr. K. Shorrock (2000)
Dr. J. P. Sunter (1986)
Dr. E. Tapp (1986)
Prof. P. Vanezis (2003)
Dr. H. White (1994)
Prof. H. L. Whitwell (1988)
Dr. A.R. Williams (1986)
Dr. C. A. Wilson (1999)
Dr. N. Woodford (2001)

People Trafficking

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to enhance *(a)* inter-departmental co-operation and *(b)* a multi-agency approach involving non-governmental organisations in tackling the trafficking of people into the UK. [74837]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office chairs an inter-departmental ministerial group which meets quarterly and involves a number of Government Departments to discuss how the UK should tackle human trafficking.

We recently finished a public consultation on our strategy to combat trafficking in human beings. The objective of this consultation was to feed into the development of a National Action Plan. We received over 200 responses from non-governmental organisations (NGOs), religious organisations, law enforcement and other bodies.

We are exploring with the key NGOs and others the potential benefits and disadvantages of the approach set out in the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Regular meetings with NGO stakeholders are chaired jointly by the Home Office and the Solicitor-General. The first meeting of this new group took place on 15 February and focused on trafficking for sexual exploitation. The group recently met for the second time to discuss the trafficking of children, and will meet again in July. The Government will continue to listen carefully to NGO views to enhance the policies it puts in place to tackle human trafficking.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has conducted on the number of men who come forward to assist police investigations after using the services of a prostitute where they suspect the prostitute to have been a victim of trafficking. [74838]

Mr. Coaker: No such research has been carried out by the Home Office.

Police

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was awarded in police settlements *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* by each police authority in each year since 1997. [64065]

Mr. Byrne: The information has been placed in the Library.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been allocated to services to reduce to re-offending in each police authority area in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [71841]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Expenditure on reducing re-offending over 2001-02 to 2005-06 is estimated as:

	*£ million
2001-02	[1]795
2002-03	[2]391
2003-04	[1]870
2004-05	[1]918
2005-06	[3]1,034

[1] Based on expenditure from Home Office Departmental Report table 6.2 2004-05 for Correctional Services, Prisons Service, Probation Service and YJB.
[2] The 2002-03 figure has been inflated by an accounting adjustment.
[3] Based on planned expenditure per Home Office Departmental Report 2004-05

This is based on an assessment of the proportion of Correctional Services expenditure in England and Wales specifically aimed to reduce re-offending, though on a broader definition most of Correctional Services expenditure, much police expenditure and expenditure

by other agencies working with offenders could have an impact on re-offending.

It is not possible to provide this information for each police authority area as funding to this level is not necessarily separately identified as being for reducing re-offending, and it is not all allocated on the basis of police authority areas.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there are in *(a)* Cornwall and *(b)* England per 100,000 of population. [72784]

Mr. McNulty: As at 31 March 2005, there were 212 police officers per 100,000 population in Devon and Cornwall police authority. In the same period, there were 267 police officers per 100,000 population in England and Wales Police forces.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police there were in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* Cornwall in March (i) 2002, (ii) 2003, (iii) 2004, (iv) 2005 and (v) 2006. [72795]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the table. Data on the deployment of police officers to basic command units are collected annually. Information for the position on 31 March 2006 will not be available until the end of July when it will be published on-line by our Research, Development and Statistics Directorate.

Number of police officers in Devon and Cornwall 2002 to 2005

As at 31 March	Cornwall[1]	Devon[2]
2002	705	1,640
2003	737	1,779
2004	774	1,826
2005	784	1,885
Increase	79 (11.2%)	245(14.9%)

[1] Cornwall is one basic command unit and includes the Isles of Scilly.
[2] Devon has three basic command units: North and East Devon, Plymouth and South and West Devon.
Source:
2002 data was collected by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary. From 2003 collected by Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* internal and *(b)* external meetings his officials have held on police force restructuring in the last 12 months; and how much staff time has been spent in each category of meeting. [68698]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* To answer this question would incur disproportionate costs.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were employed in *(a)* armed response units and *(b)* specialist firearms officers teams in the West Midlands regional police forces in each year since 1997. [72303]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* The number of authorised firearms officers within Staffordshire police, Warwickshire police, West Mercia constabulary and West Midlands police since 1996-97 are shown in the table. We do not hold information on whether these officers are in armed response units or specialist firearms officers' teams.

Number of authorised firearms officers (AFOs)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003
Staffordshire	78	86	92	81	67	71	63	67
Warwickshire	41	38	44	54	45	50	51	46
West Mercia	155	159	139	129	130	125	131	139
West Midlands	88	95	92	93	83	111	110	124
Total	362	378	367	357	325	357	355	376

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects a permanent chief constable to the Thames Valley police force to be appointed. [72259]

Mr. McNulty: The chief constable of Thames Valley police force is appointed by Thames Valley police authority. The current chief constable, Peter Neyroud, has been seconded to the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) since January 2006, as chief executive designate.

Subject to the passage of the Police and Justice Bill, the NPIA will be established on 1 April 2007. We expect the Bill to complete its parliamentary stages in October or November this year, and Thames Valley police authority are likely to advertise the post of chief constable after that date.

Pornography

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to reduce the transfer of obscene and pornographic material by mobile phone, with particular reference to the use of mobile phones by children. [62562]

Mr. Coaker: The distribution of obscene and pornographic material by mobile phone is already covered by current legislation including the Obscene Publications Act 1959 and the Communications Act 2003.

On 19 January 2004, following discussions with the Home Secretary's Task Force for Child Protection on the Internet, the mobile operators in the UK also published a self-regulatory Code of Practice for new forms of content on mobile phone services. Among other things, the code requires mobile providers: to

undertake a process of age verification; to classify commercial content which they supply themselves as unsuitable for customers under 18 where appropriate; to moderate chat rooms made available to customers under 18, and to allow parents and carers to apply filters to the mobile operator's internet access services so that the internet content thus accessible is restricted. The Independent Mobile Classification body (IMCB), a subsidiary of the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services (ICSTIS), fulfils the commitment in the Code to appoint an independent classification body to provide a framework for classifying commercial content that is unsuitable for customers under the age of 18.

Preventing Extremism

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to implement the proposal in his Department's Preventing Extremism Together report to subsidise the work of the Federation of Student Islamic Societies. [69271]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

The Preventing Extremism Together (PET) working groups convened last year suggested that further debate between young British Muslims and influential Muslim scholars and figures could help and encourage a stronger challenge to the message of extremism. As a result the Government have supported a campaign to help do this, led by grassroots British Muslim organisations such as Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS), Q News and Young Muslim Organisation (YMO) amongst other Muslim organisations. To date the initiative which was successfully launched in December 2005 has brought influential mainstream Muslims scholars and thinkers to speak to audiences of thousands of 18 to 30 year old British Muslims, a large percentage of whom have been young British Muslim women. To ensure that the message reaches a wider audience the organisers have also developed a website and are producing a range of other resources.

Prisoner Deportation

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account he has taken in exercising his discretion in implementing his policy on the deportation of foreign national convicted persons of *(a)* the Human Rights Act 1998 and *(b)* Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. [68888]

Mr. Byrne: Paragraph 364 of the Immigration Rules (HC 395) sets out how the Secretary of State should consider whether deportation is the right course on the merits, balancing the public interest against any compassionate circumstances and taking into account all relevant factors known to him. The factors listed in paragraph 364 include, but are not limited to, what would be relevant under the Human Rights Act.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out in his statement of 23 May that we are issuing new guidance to caseworkers which interprets the decision-making criteria much more tightly in the future.

Prisons

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of *(a)* the importance to prisoners of serving in open conditions close to their homes and *(b)* the impact of doing so on (i) the prospect of getting full-time employment upon release, (ii) successful reintegration into the community and (iii) re-offending rates. [55492]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There has been no formal evaluation of the impact on resettlement outcomes of open and resettlement regimes. Valuable work is undertaken with prisoners throughout their sentence and it might be misleading to ascribe resettlement outcomes only to the discharging prison. However, a new method of evaluation is now being tested within the National Offender Management Service which may facilitate a more sophisticated analysis of the impact of different regimes. If this methodology proves successful, the same approach will used, later this year, to evaluate the impact on re-offending of open and resettlement estate regimes, close to their homes; *(b)* or the impact of doing so on employment on release, successful resettlement or their re-offending rates.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons HMP Grendon and HMP Springhill receive lower funding than HMP Rampton and HMP Broadmoor. [65603]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

Rampton and Broadmoor are high security psychiatric hospitals, not prisons, and as such it is not appropriate to directly compare the funding they receive to that received by prisons such as HMP Grendon and HMP Springhill.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 7 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1108W, on prisoners, how many *(a)* escapes and *(b)* unapproved absences there have been from English prisons since 7 February 2006, broken down by region. [73574]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since 7 February 2006, there have been no escapes and 84 unapproved absences from English prisons as detailed in the following table.

Unapproved absences from English prisons from 7 February to 24 May 2006

Prison area	Number of unapproved absences
East Midlands	17
Eastern	5
Kent	13
London	3
North West	6
North East	6
South West	6
Surrey and Sussex	10

Unapproved absences from English prisons from 7 February to 24 May 2006

Prison area	Number of unapproved absences
Thames Valley, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight	2
West Midlands	5
Yorkshire and Humberside	11
Total	84

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1212W, on Leyhill Open Prison, how many of those prisoners that escaped and have been subsequently detained have *(a)* been placed in a closed prison and *(b)* had their sentences extended as a result, broken down by original offence. [73597]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* On recapture, prisoners who absconded are invariably returned to closed conditions for re-categorisation and for any investigations into possible criminal activity to be carried out. Absconding is generally treated as a disciplinary offence which is dealt with by an independent adjudicator who may extend the prisoner's sentence within the boundaries of the sentence left to serve. Data on individual cases are not held centrally.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mobile phones have been found in each of the prisons in Wales in possession of serving criminals in each of the past five years. [73729]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Mobile telephone finds are not recorded separately on the central database that records incidents. Information on the number of finds has been obtained by examination of textual entries and is listed in the table.

Mobile telephone finds in prisons in Wales 2000-05

	Prison name			
	Cardiff	Swansea	Parc	Prescoed
2000	0	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0
2002	1	0	0	0
2003	2	0	2	0
2004	6	0	4	0
2005	4	1	5	0
2006	4	0	6	0

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of prisoners at *(a)* HM Prison Pentonville and *(b)* HM Prison Lewes were delayed leaving for court between 27 February and 3 March; and if he will make a statement. [74015]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows.

(a) There were 321 prisoners discharged to court from Her Majesty's Prison Pentonville between 27 February and 3 March. The discharge of 29 per cent. of these prisoners was delayed by 15 minutes or more.

(b) There were 43 prisoners discharged to court from Her Majesty's Prison Lewes between 27 February and 3 March. There were no delays.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what level of security clearance is required for *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* serving police officers; and if he will make a statement. [74022]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prior to appointment as a prison officer, checks are conducted on an individual's identity, personal and employment references and criminal record history. Officers working in the High Security Estate are also subject to National Security Vetting at Counter Terrorist Check (CTC) level. In posts where prison officers have regular contact with juveniles a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check is also undertaken.

Before appointment as a police officer, criminal record checks are carried out on an applicant and their family. Employment and education history are checked and references obtained. Local intelligence checks, financial vetting and security vetting are also carried out. All police officers are CTC checked.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Category A prisoners had their status downgraded in the weeks prior to their trial in each year from 2000 to 2005. [74550]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information about numbers category A prisoners on remand who have their provisional categorisation downgraded in the weeks prior to their trial is not recorded centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost. Prisoners are categorised according to the risk they present, and prisoners' security category is assessed, decided, and kept under review in the light of all available information.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets his Department has set for the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* minimum time taken by prisoners to travel between courts and prisons. [74552]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no targets set for the maximum or minimum length of journey times between prisons and court. The contract sets agreed delivery times to court.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have escaped from prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years, broken down by prison. [74563]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data on escapes from prisons in England and Wales are given in the following table. Prisons that have had no escapes in the last 10 years have been excluded from the table. Data about escapes from prisons in Scotland and Northern Ireland are available from the Scottish Executive and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland respectively.

Escapes from prisons in England and Wales between 1996-97 and 2005-06

Establishment name	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Aldington	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Altcourse	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ashwell	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belmarsh	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blantyre House	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Blundeston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brinsford	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0
Bristol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brixton	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Buckley Hall	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bullingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cardiff	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Castington	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Coldingley	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dartmoor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Deerbolt	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dover	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Downview	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Eastwood Park	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erlestoke	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Everthorpe	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exeter	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Featherstone	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feltham	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foston Hall	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glen Parva	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucester	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grendon	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Guys Marsh	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
Haslar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haverigg	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
Hollesley Bay	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huntercombe	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kirklevington	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Latchmere House	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Leicester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lindholme	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	1	0	0
Littlehey	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Liverpool	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Low Newton	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norwich	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Oxford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parc	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Pentonville	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Portland	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ranby	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Risley	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rochester	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rye Hill	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Send	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stafford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Stocken	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Styal	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0

Escapes from prisons in England and Wales between 1996-97 and 2005-06

Establishment name	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Thorn Cross	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Verne	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	2
Wealstun	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Weare	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Wellingborough	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Werrington	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wetherby	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winchester	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Wormwood Scrubs	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms exist to ensure that information provided to HM Prison Service headquarters by individual prison establishments is accurate; and if he will make a statement. [73764]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following protocols ensure that appropriate quality assurances are maintained: Prison Service Order 7100 explains how key Prison Service performance measures are defined; clear approval and validation mechanisms are in place in the networked system for data collation; and further assurances are obtained by independent internal audit, to ensure that the data provided and the methodology for collation is correct.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of night sanitation arrangements at *(a)* HP Prison Long Lartin and *(b)* HM Prison Albany; what action he plans to take to improve such facilities; and if he will make a statement. [73771]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Full reviews of sanitation arrangements at both establishments have been carried out recently. At Long Lartin the views of staff and prisoners were sought. A number of possible changes have been identified to improve access procedures as well as in-cell facilities. Revised access procedures are shortly to be the subject of a pilot trial. At Albany as a result of the review procedures were introduced to maximise the opportunity for prisoners to use the sanitation facilities.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms exist to ensure that governing governor staff at HM Prison establishments comply with the requirements of the Prevention of Corruption Acts of 1906 and 1916; what assessment he has made of the compliance with the provisions of that legislation in London establishments; and if he will make a statement. [73749]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A Professional Standards Strategy and the Professional Standards Unit were established in February 2003 to tackle staff corruption in the Prison Service. The strategy is contained in Prison Service Order 1215 "Professional Standards: Preventing and Handling Staff Wrongdoing." It sets out a policy framework and practical advice for staff, including governing governors, for obtaining, developing and dealing with information and intelligence on corrupt staff. It includes provision for confidential reporting and establishes the requirement to provide specialist professional standards managers at prison, area and national levels. The London Area Professional Standards Managers support and visit London establishments to monitor compliance with the strategy.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure that personal relationships in the Prison Service do not affect the implementation of Prison Service *(a)* rules and *(b)* disciplinary investigations; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of these mechanisms; when he last discussed the operation of these arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [63288]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The requirements on managers to ensure that personal relationships do not have detrimental impact on the implementation of prison rules and policies are set out in the staff handbook. In addition, senior managers commissioning disciplinary investigations are required to ensure that the investigating officer does not have a personal interest in the outcome of the investigation.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the policy of HM Prison Service regarding members of selection boards declaring interests in respect of particular candidates. [74009]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The policy of Her Majesty's Prison Service is that a panel member having a personal relationship with an applicant should declare this and withdraw from the panel.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the policy of HM Prison Service is on prison officers entering cells of inmates who are smokers; and if he will make a statement. [74010]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Each prison develops its no smoking policy in line with current health and safety advice and taking into account the type of establishment it is, its population and its particular needs. Local arrangements also require staff to be protected from the effects of passive smoking. The Department of

Health has set up a joint committee to consider implementation in the Prison Service of proposed new legislation on smoking in the workplace.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of senior operational managers in HM Prison Service in the London area achieved an exceeded rating on their Staff Performance and Development record for the year 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [74014]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Staff Performance and Development Records for 2005-06 are not due to be completed until 30 June 2006 and only two senior operational managers in London have so far had a marking recorded for 2005-06. One of these was an exceeded marking.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the incidence of bullying in the workplace in HM Prison Service; and if he will make a statement on the results derived from the most recent survey of Prison Service staff. [74025]

Mr. Sutcliffe: 19 per cent. of staff who responded to the 2005 Prison Service staff survey said they had experienced bullying in their current prison or headquarters group during the 12 months prior to the survey. The results have been discussed by the Prison Service Management Board and disseminated to staff. Local plans are being drawn up to take follow-up action.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what protocol governs the relationship between HM Prison Service area managers and the regional offender managers in the commissioning of services within the structure of the National Offender Management Service; and if he will make a statement. [74026]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The relationship between HM Prison Service area managers and regional offender managers is governed through the Service Level Agreements which came into force on 1 April 2006.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the phrase 'transitional facilities' is defined within the National Offender Management Service; and if he will make a statement on the aims and objectives of the project. [74031]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is recognised that [illegible] prisoners often have difficulty in finding accommodation and employment and consequently run a greater risk of re-offending. The National Offender Management Service is exploring the development of prototype transitional facilities to manage offenders back into the community and minimise the risk of re-offending. This is part of the estates strategy and consultation is planned on the proposals.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training is provided to governor grades at HM Prison Service establishments who authorise *(a)* release under the Criminal Justice Acts, *(b)* temporary release and *(c)* release on home detention curfew; and if he will make a statement. [74037]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The public sector Prison Service Training and Development Group provide courses on sentence calculation, which are attended by staff from all levels. They also provide a pocket guide to release on temporary licence, available in all establishments. In addition, there are a number of Prison Service Orders and Instructions available giving guidance to governors about release.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners convicted of either *(a)* theft and *(b)* possession of drugs have (i) attempted or (ii) committed suicide in UK prisons in each year since 1997. [18612]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no definition of what constitutes a 'suicide attempt' as it is very difficult to measure suicidal intent.

The number of apparent self-inflicted deaths involving prisoners in England and Wales sentenced for offences of theft and drugs possession (including with intent), 1997 to 2005, is shown in the following table.

Number of apparent self-inflicted deaths involving prisoners sentenced

	Theft	*Drugs possession*
1997	4	1
1998	4	1
1999	1	0
2000	6	0
2001	6	0
2002	5	1
2003	5	0
2004	2	2
2005	2	1
Total	37	6

Note:
NOMS employs the term 'self-inflicted death' rather than suicide. This includes all those deaths where it appears the person may have acted specifically to take his/her own life and not only those that receive a 'suicide' or 'open' verdict at inquest.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the quality of resettlement work undertaken at HM Prison Albany; and if he will make a statement. [73746]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following the publication of a report by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons in April 2006, an action plan has been produced to address the recommendations contained in that report. These include the revision of the resettlement policy at Albany, based on a needs analysis, and the introduction of a case management model to ensure that prisoners' individual needs are adequately assessed and addressed.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he is taking to improve *(a)* reception and *(b)* first-night procedures at HM Prison Belmarsh; and if he will make a statement. [73768]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A new core day is being developed at Belmarsh prison, as part of a general improvement

programme, which is expected to provide significant developments for prisoners in their first 12 hours in custody. This will include allowing prisoners more time out of cell and having the opportunity to see the doctor, the chaplaincy and listeners (Samaritans) and drug agencies. The purpose of the changes is to ensure that Belmarsh is able to effectively meet the immediate needs of the new prisoner.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the incidence of bullying at HM Prison Long Lartin; what action he is taking to reduce such bullying; and if he will make a statement. [73772]

Mr. Sutcliffe: To assist Long Lartin prison to target concerns raised by prisoners about violence in general, a violence reduction survey seeking prisoner views, including on bullying, has been completed. A report on the findings is expected to be available within the next month. The local violence reduction management team regularly meet to review areas of concern and consider improved management strategies including a review of bullying strategies.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the use of the segregation unit at HM Prison Long Lartin; and if he will make a statement. [73773]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The segregation unit at Long Lartin manages some of the most difficult prisoners in the high security estate. Prisoners will normally be located there while serving a punishment for disciplinary reasons, where an individual is being particularly disruptive, or for a prisoner's own protection. All prisoners located in the segregation unit are first subject to a health risk assessment.

The Long Lartin unit has seen a number of improvements over the past year, with a reduction of 30 per cent. in the number of prisoners located in the unit for a period greater than three months and the provision of safer cell facilities for those that may be at risk of self-harm.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the operation of the use of intermittent custody facilities at HM Prison Morton Hall; and if he will make a statement. [73769]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The operation of intermittent custody at Morton Hall prison is part of a wider exercise to examine extension across male and female low security prisons. The Government are currently reviewing the learning from the pilots of intermittent custody.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he is taking to improve support for vulnerable women at HM Prison Morton Hall. [73770]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is adequate support in place for vulnerable women at Morton Hall, notably through the reception and induction procedure, health care assessments, the anti-bullying strategy and the suicide and self-harm prevention policy. A specific local strategy is now being developed.

Probation Service

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis is for the Government's view that the introduction of contestability into the probation service will raise standards and reduce levels of re-offending. [44633]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The case for the introduction of contestability is strong. It is part of the Government's reform of public services and evidence from the National Audit Office supports our position. As demonstrated in the Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment, we expect performance to be driven up and resources to be released which can be reinvested in service provision.

Prolific and Priority Offender Strategy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1051W, on the Prolific and Priority Offender Strategy, what range of interventions are available to deal with youth offenders under the strategy in Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [73240]

Mr. McNulty: Young offenders who are targeted under the Prevent and Deter strand of the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme will receive interventions based on an assessment of their needs and the risks related to the likelihood of future offending.

In Peterborough, these young people are reviewed on monthly basis by a multi-agency group which includes the Prolific and Priority Offender co-ordinator, the Youth Offending Service, the police, Connexions, Social Services, community safety staff and education and housing representatives. The group focuses on ensuring that the young people concerned do receive the appropriate interventions or support from the appropriate agencies to reduce the risk of further offending. The nature of the interventions received or support given will vary from case to case, so as to be responsive to the individual needs of the young person concerned.

Public Sector

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Prime Minister's announcement on 15 May 2006, on public sector reform, what issues he has raised with the Prime Minister concerning this announcement. [73537]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* The Prime Minister wrote to the Home Secretary on the 15 May 2006 outlining his priorities for the Home Office and asked for a response in the form of an action plan by the end of June. The Home Secretary will respond to the Prime Minister's request within this timescale.

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the

operation of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974; what recent representations he has received about the operation of this Act; and what amendments have been made to the Act. [73280]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act provides that, following a set period of time dependent on sentence, an offender must be regarded as a "rehabilitated person" and have his conviction treated as spent. Generally, a spent conviction does not have to be disclosed in reply to questions about a person's past, and the existence of a spent conviction may not lawfully be used to prejudice someone in securing employment.

These rules do not apply to offenders who have been sentenced to a custodial period of more than 30 months, or to those applying for professions, occupations and licences covered by the Exceptions Order to the Act.

There have been no substantial amendments made to the Act since it came into force in 1974. However, in order to increase public safety, we have made regular additions to the list of professions and occupations which, due to their sensitive nature, are excepted from protection under the Act.

The legislation is intended to provide a balance between resettling ex-offenders and protecting the public and we receive regular correspondence recommending ways to best achieve that balance. In 2002 the Home Office produced a report entitled Breaking the Circle which proposed substantial reform of the ROA. It remains the case that the Government accept the majority of those proposals.

We are now considering what is necessary to improve the disclosure regime in the light of the Bichard Report which dealt with criminal records in the context of the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

Schools (Weapons Incidents)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported incidents there have been involving weapons at schools in England and Wales in each of the last five years, broken down by council area. [73586]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office collects recorded crime data on offences of possession of offensive weapons. Within that offence classification, there are two offences relating to possession of a blade or other offensive weapon on school premises. However, these offences cannot be separately identified from other possession of weapons offences.

Security Industry Authority

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many companies were visited by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) prior to the 20 March deadline as part of Operation Forewarn; how many of those have been revisited since 20 March; and how many enforcement personnel employed by the SIA have been employed in checking licences since 20 March. [63667]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 April 2006]:* Operation Forewarn is one of a number of initiatives in a wider Security Industry Authority operation that will ensure senior employees of private security companies understand their legal obligations under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (PSIA 2001).

Prior to 20 March, 84 companies were issued with warnings as part of this initiative.

Since 20 March the SIA has been carrying out a series of visits to customer sites as part of the next phase of compliance initiatives. At 7 April, 52 sites operated by 20 security companies were visited and security operatives checked. 55 SIA warning notices were issued to individuals who were found to be working unlawfully. Further details cannot be provided as this may prejudice ongoing and future operations involving compliance and investigation. An update will be provided and placed in the Library by the end of June.

The SIA has a regionally based compliance team of 33.

Sentencing Guidelines

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to introduce a graduated sliding scale into sentencing guidelines for early guilty pleas in criminal cases; and if he will make a statement. [72644]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* The Criminal Justice Act 2003 established the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council to frame sentencing guidelines. It issued a guideline on "Reduction in Sentence for a Guilty Plea" in December 2004. A copy can be found at www.sentencing-guidelines.gov.uk.

Staff Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff surveys have been conducted in his Department in each of the last three years. [72879]

Mr. Byrne: The non-agency Home Office conducted staff surveys in 2004 and 2005. The Prison Service held three staff surveys, the Identification and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau held one staff survey jointly and one staff survey each individually in the last three years.

Stolen Works of Art

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent discussions he has had with the police about the theft of works of art from private collections; [72292]

(2) what priority for policing he has made the recovery of stolen works of art; [72293]

(3) what resources he has made available to the police for the recovery of stolen works of art. [72295]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has not met with the police service to discuss the theft of works of art from private collections. However, I am aware that senior officers from a number of forces recently met with representatives of the art and antiques trade to discuss a range of issues.

The Government take all crime seriously and has a public service agreement target to reduce crime by 15 per cent. by 2007-08, and by more in high crime areas. This broader target gives police forces and authorities, together with communities and partners, flexibility to target the crimes that are of most pressing local concern.

Police authorities and chief constables are required to have regard to the national strategic priorities when drawing up their local policing plans. One of these is tackling serious and organised crime, which may include theft of works of art from private collections.

Both the National Criminal Intelligence Service and the National Crime Squad have in the past provided assistance to police forces in recovering art works and antiques. The Serious Organised Crime Agency will also play a role here.

US Extradition

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK citizens have been extradited from the UK to the US in each of the last five years; and on what charges in each case. [69360]

Joan Ryan: The Home Office does not keep a centralised record of the nationalities of those extradited from the UK. The Extradition Act 2003 contains a number of strong safeguards for all defendants—nationality itself does not determine an extradition request. Accordingly, while nationality may be noted in the records for some individual cases, complete figures of the type requested are not available.

Figures for all persons extradited from England and Wales to the US, for each of the last five complete calendar years, are given as follows. The figures do not include requests granted by Ministers in Scotland and Northern Ireland, who have devolved powers to grant requests.

The offences given in these figures do not represent detailed legal descriptions of all of the charges (which can be complex and multiple) within each request. Instead brief "headline" names are given for the principal offences in the requests concerned.

	Number
2001	
Child abuse	1
Child abduction	2
Drugs offences	2
Fraud	2
Murder	1
Total	8
2002	
Bank robbery	1
Child enticement	1
Drugs offences	1
Extortion	2
Money laundering/drugs	1
Murder	1
Theft	3
Wire or mail fraud	2
Total	12
2003	
Drugs offences	2
Fraud	2
Securities fraud	1
Theft	1
Total	6
2004	
Drugs offences	2
Fraud	2
Mail fraud	1
Murder	1
Sexual assault on child	2
Total	8
2005	
Child abduction	1
Drugs offences	8
GBH with intent	1
Indecent assault	1
Theft	2
Total	13

Vandalism (Cemeteries)

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* 0 to 17 and *(b)* 18 plus years were charged with criminal damage to cemeteries and subsequently convicted in each year since 1997. [73665]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not possible to separately identify convictions for criminal damage to cemeteries, as this information is not collected at that level of detail from the Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

It is also not possible to identify cases where people have been charged with criminal damage to cemeteries, as this information is not held centrally by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Victim Support

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to ensure that victims of crime and their families are provided with all the necessary support throughout the criminal justice process. [73972]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The code of practice for victims of crime, introduced in April this year, gives victims a statutory right to receive information about their case at crucial points.

We fund the voluntary organisation Victim Support with £30 million annually to provide emotional support

and practical information to victims and witnesses of crime. Last year Victim Support helped 1.3 million people and their witness service supported almost 400,000 witnesses, victims, families and friends.

In addition there are 165 Witness Care Units in England and Wales, ensuring that witnesses receive a tailor-made service, with their individual needs considered from the time a statement is first taken.

Weapons Offences

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of an offence involving *(a)* a knife and *(b)* a gun in (i) Gloucestershire and (ii) Stroud in each of the last five years; and how many of those convictions resulted in a prison sentence. [74499]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of people convicted of offences specifically relating to knives, firearms or offensive weapons in (i) Gloucestershire and (ii) Stroud, can be found in the table.

It is not possible to separately identify other offences which involved guns or knives as the circumstances of the offences are not collected.

Court statistics for 2005 will be available in autumn 2006.

Number of people convicted at all courts and of those for offences involving knives and guns, the number of them placed in immediate custody in Gloucestershire police force area, 2000-04[1]

Offence act	*Offence description*	*Found guilty*				
		2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 17(1) (Group II) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972.S28(2).	Using firearms or imitation firearms to resist arrest.	0	0	0	0	1
Prevention of Crime Act 1953 Sec.1(1) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.2(1).	Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse.	30	36	43	32	36
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 17(2) (Group I) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(3).	Possessing firearms or imitation fire arm at time of committing or being arrested for an offence specified in schedule 1 of the Act.	1	1	1	0	1
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 16A (as amended by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1994) Group I.	Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.	2	2	3	1	5
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 16A (as amended by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1994) (Group II).	Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.	0	0	1	0	0
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3.	Having an article with blade or point in public place.	17	24	26	32	42
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (2X5Xb) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1).	Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises.	0	0	0	0	0
Firearms Act 1968 (Group I) Sec 1(1),as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157, Sch.8 part III	Possessing etc firearm or ammunition without firearm certificate.	0	3	3	1	3
Firearms Act 1968, Sec 2(1) (Group II) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possessing etc shot gun without certificate.	5	6	4	1	2
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 5(1) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition.	6	5	3	9	3
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 19 (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Carrying loaded firearm in public place etc.	0	0	0	1	1
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 21(4) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.	0	0	0	1	1
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 21(4) (Group II) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.	1	0	1	0	0
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 21(4) (Group III) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.	0	0	1	0	1

Number of people convicted at all courts and of those for offences involving knives and guns, the number of those placed in immediate custody in Gloucestershire police force area, 2000-04[1]

Offence act	Offence description	Found guilty 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 19 (Group III)	Carrying loaded firearm in public place etc.	1	0	3	1	2
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 22(5) (Group III)	Person under 17 having with him an air weapon in a public place.	0	0	0	1	0

Offence act	Offence description	Immediate custody 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 17(1) (Group II) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(2).	Using firearms or imitation firearms to resist arrest.	0	0	0	0	1
Prevention of Crime Act 1953 Sec.1(1) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.2(1).	Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse.	5	6	1	3	4
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 17(2) (Group I) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(3).	Possessing firearms or imitation fire arm at time of committing or being arrested for an offence specified in schedule 1 of the Act.	0	0	0	0	1
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 16A (as amended by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1994) Group I.	Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.	1	0	0	0	3
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 16A (as amended by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1994) (Group II).	Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.	0	0	1	0	0
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3.	Having an article with blade or point in public place.	3	1	3	3	8
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (2)(5)(b) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1).	Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises.	0	0	0	1	0
Firearms Act 1968 (Group I) Sec 1(1),as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157, Sch.8 part III	Possessing etc firearm or ammunition without firearm certificate.	0	1	0	0	0
Firearms Act 1968, Sec 2(1) (Group II) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possessing etc shot gun without certificate.	0	0	0	0	0
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 5(1) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition.	0	0	0	2	1
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 19 (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Carrying loaded firearm in public place etc.	0	0	0	1	0
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 21(4) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.	0	0	0	0	1
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 21(4) (Group II) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.	1	0	0	0	0
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 21(4) (Group III) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.	0	0	0	0	0
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 19 (Group III)	Carrying loaded firearm in public place etc.	0	0	0	0	0
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 22(5) (Group III)	Person under 17 having with him an air weapon in a public place.	0	0	0	0	0

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Work Permits

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permit applications from foreign employees of farmers in Bassetlaw have been refused in each of the last five years. [73183]

Mr. Byrne: Only one work permit application (made in 2005) has been refused within the last five years. The data are from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for work permits for migrant workers his Department received from race horse trainers on behalf of trainee jockeys in the last year for which figures are available. [73184]

Mr. Byrne: Home Office records show that no work permit applications were submitted by race horse trainers in respect of trainee jockeys in the calendar year of 2005, the last full year for which figures are available.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

32 (The Royal) Squadron

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs why 32 (The Royal) Squadron made two return flights to Brussels on 21 January 2003 on behalf of the Minister for Europe; and if he will make a statement. [66148]

Mr. Hoon: This Department has no record of my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Europe my right hon. Friend the Member for Rotherham (Mr. MacShane) using 32 (The Royal) Squadron on 21 January 2003.

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effect on the security situation in Helmand Province, Afghanistan of the increase in opium production in 2004-05. [74143]

Dr. Howells: According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime figures, 2004-05 saw a 21 per cent. reduction in the level of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. However, production decreased by only 2.4 per cent. as improved weather conditions and less disease resulted in higher yields per hectare. This was particularly the case in Helmand Province, where opium production increased despite a 10 per cent. fall in the area under cultivation.

It would be speculation to draw a link between an increase in opium production in 2004-05 and the security situation in Helmand. However, it is clear that the drugs trade flourishes in a lawless environment. It also contributes to the perpetuation of that environment and hinders the reconstruction process.

That is why the UK is supporting the Government of Afghanistan to implement its National Drug Control Strategy, including by co-ordinating international assistance designed to target the trafficker and the trade, strengthen and diversify legal rural livelihoods, build effective counter narcotics institutions and reduce domestic demand. More broadly, our wider military and civilian engagement in Helmand Province will help to create a more secure environment and develop Afghanistan's institutions and legitimate economy.

Arms Control

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress the Government are making in ensuring that the UN General Assembly mandates a start to negotiations for the international arms treaty in 2006; and if she will make a statement. [72388]

Margaret Beckett: We are working to build support for the launch of a UN based process to take forward the initiative for an international treaty on the arms trade. In 2005, support was secured from both the EU and the Commonwealth. In 2006 my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East made a speech making the case for a treaty while on a visit to the United Nations in Geneva. Speaking to the assembled diplomatic community, my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary also spoke about the UK's commitment to the arms trade treaty in a speech at Mansion House on April 26. In addition, we have conducted a global awareness raising and lobbying exercise through our network of diplomatic posts, and are in contact with a wide range of partners to secure the consensus needed for the start of a formal process to be agreed at the UN General Assembly later this year.

Ascension Island

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who owns the freeholds to the dwellings leased to Ascension Island workers. [71641]

Mr. Hoon: The Crown in right of Ascension holds the freeholds for all property on Ascension Island.

Various organisations on Ascension (the Users) have the physical use or occupation of various parcels of land by consent of the Crown.

The organisations provide residential property to workers on Ascension Island as required under the Workman's Protection (Ascension) Ordinance. The obligation under this legislation is to provide suitable living accommodation for the worker.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of the domestic dwellings on Ascension Island are *(a)* freehold and *(b)* leasehold properties. [71642]

Mr. Hoon: The Crown, in right of Ascension Island, holds the freehold of all domestic dwellings on Ascension Island. Ascension has a system of registered title to land; all land (including domestic dwellings) is registered as freehold land owned by the Crown; there are no registered leasehold interests on domestic dwellings on Ascension Island.

Ascension Island Government have entered into arrangements with four individuals to occupy properties on the basis that they are conducting business which is deemed to be essential to the functioning of the Island.

Biodiversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to her comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74402]

Mr. Hoon: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials will shortly be discussing with public bodies which report to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary their plans for complying with applicable requirements of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Minister in her Department is responsible for monitoring her Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if she will make a statement. [73944]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) monitors biological diversity on our UK estate as part of our Environmental Management Systems (EMS). We are currently integrating the EMS covering our two Whitehall buildings, which is certified to International Standards Organisation (ISO) 14001: 2004, with the EMS operating on our rural site at Hanslope Park in Buckinghamshire. We plan to extend ISO certification to Hanslope Park in the autumn.

To determine biological diversity at Hanslope Park we commissioned a survey of the site in 2004. This found no habitats or species that we have a statutory duty to conserve. An assessment of the FCO's two Whitehall buildings reached the same conclusion. We have therefore not nominated a Minister to be responsible for monitoring compliance under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. We will keep this under review.

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in her Department's press office. [74367]

Mr. Hoon: Information on ethnicity is collected on a voluntary and in-confidence basis. Because of the small sample size we are unable to give the information requested on the grounds of confidentiality.

British Passport Holders

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people living permanently in *(a)* Nigeria and *(b)* Pakistan hold a UK passport. [72386]

Dr. Howells: We estimate that approximately 16,000 British nationals live permanently in Nigeria and hold a British passport and approximately 35,000 British nationals live permanently in Pakistan and hold a British passport. These figures are based on passport issues at our deputy high commission in Lagos and our high commission in Islamabad respectively.

Many Pakistanis are dual nationals who obtain a passport in the UK but live for a large part of the year in Pakistan. Consular officials estimate that there may be times when the actual figure of British passport holders residing in Pakistan could be as high as 80,000.

Burma

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the extent of nuclear technology transfer from North Korea to Burma; and if he will make a statement. [68209]

Margaret Beckett: The Government are aware of media reports about the alleged transfer of nuclear technology from North Korea to Burma, but are not able to corroborate these reports.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the Government of Burma about actions by the Burmese army against the Karen, Karenni and Shan peoples. [73801]

Mr. McCartney: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 893W, and the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe gave on 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1626-27W.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her assessment is of the prospects for the release of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi; and if she will make a statement. [75138]

Margaret Beckett: The Government condemn the Burmese regime's decision to extend the house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi. The Burmese Government have given no indication that she is likely to be released in the near future.

I issued a statement on 31 May expressing the Government's concern about the continued detention

of Aung San Suu Kyi, calling for her immediate release and the release of all other prisoners of conscience in Burma.

The statement can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth office website at: http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1148473573847.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans the Government have to engage with Burmese authorities following the recent visit to Burma of the UN Under Secretary General for Political Affairs. [75188]

Mr. McCartney: The Government have no plans to engage with the Burmese authorities regarding the visit of the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. The Government will continue to work with the UN and international partners to encourage the Burmese Government to bring about national reconciliation and the restoration of democracy.

Chile

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Chile about the destruction of glaciers in the Andean Cordillera region as part of the Pascua Lama Project. [73509]

Mr. Hoon: We have not made any specific representations to the Chilean Government over the Pascua Lama Project, but we co-operate with the Chilean Government on a number of global and environmental issues including climate change. Any activity as part of the Pascua Lama Project that will have an impact on glaciers in the Andean Cordillera region will have to comply with Chile's environmental regulations. The Chilean Government takes this matter seriously.

China

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Chinese authorities in the case of Mr. Ching Cheong, a British national arrested under spying charges in China on 22 April 2005. [73396]

Mr. McCartney: We have pressed the Chinese authorities for information on the circumstances of Mr. Ching Cheong's detention, in demarches in October 2005 and March 2006 but received no reply. We will continue to seek information on his case. Although Mr. Ching holds a British National (overseas) passport he did not use this passport to enter China and Mr. Ching is deemed by the Chinese authorities to be a Chinese national.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Government of China on the limitation of information available on Google or Skype services in China; and if she will make a statement. [73683]

Mr. McCartney: It is for the companies involved to answer questions about their decision to co-operate with the Chinese Government on restrictions on the internet and on messages sent using their software. The government believes that freedom of information is essential to the development of a modern, stable and sustainable society. We are very concerned about the apparent hardening of Chinese policy on freedom of expression, including in relation to the Internet. We made this a theme of our bilateral human rights dialogue with the Chinese in June 2005 and the UK-led EU-China Human Rights Dialogue in October 2005. Freedom of expression will also be on the agenda for the next round of the dialogue in June. We continue to raise our concerns with the Chinese Government.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the recent report from the US Department of Defence entitled Annual Report to Congress: Military Power of the People's Republic of China. [75293]

Mr. McCartney: I have yet to assess the report in detail. However, the central themes of the report including China's need to increase transparency in its military planning and budgeting, to guard against the risks of miscalculation in the Taiwan Straits, and for China to build up its bilateral co-operation and engagement as a responsible stakeholder in the international community are ones which the Government broadly share.

Colombia

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment her Department has made of the human rights situation in Colombia. [73496]

Mr. Hoon: We keep the human rights situation in Colombia under constant review and frequently raise specific human rights cases with the relevant Colombian authorities. We remain concerned about the situation faced by civil society in Colombia. While the human rights situation clearly remains unacceptable, we feel that some progress has been made and it is important to recognise this. Figures for 2005 demonstrate that the number of murders, kidnappings, displacements and massacres generally decreased by comparison with those for 2004. Much more needs to be done, however. The UK's objective is to support both the Government of Colombia and civil society through projects that promote human rights, democracy and good governance.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations her Department has made to the Government of Colombia about the human rights situation in Colombia. [73497]

Mr. Hoon: We make frequent representations to the Colombian Government on human rights issues, through our embassy in Bogota, through the EU and other international groupings, and in contacts with visiting Colombian officials in London. We also regularly raise specific cases of concern with the Colombian Government. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, most recently did so with Foreign Minister Barco of Colombia on 12 May in the margins of the European Union-Latin America and Caribbean summit in Vienna. Human rights are at the heart of our policy towards Colombia. We consistently urge the Colombian Government to implement recommendations arising from successive annual reports of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights and have offered to help them to do so.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the prospects for peace in Colombia in the lead up to presidential elections. [74293]

Mr. Hoon: There are some encouraging signs. As indicated in the Ministerial Conclusions on Colombia of the Council of the European Union in October last year, we and other EU member states consider that the effective and transparent implementation of the Law on Justice and Peace, under which more than 30,000 paramilitaries in Colombia have now demobilised, will have a positive impact on peace-building in Colombia.

The Colombian Government are talking actively with the National Liberation Army, a left-wing illegal armed group. The last round of talks took place in Cuba last month, and further talks are scheduled for later this year. However, the Colombian Government's recent efforts to begin preliminary talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the countries biggest illegal armed group, have been consistently rejected by the guerrillas. We hope that, after the elections, the incoming government will continue actively to promote peace in Colombia. We will continue to support Colombia in its efforts to tackle the inter-connected problems arising from the internal armed conflict, the trade in illegal drugs and human rights abuses.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Government of Colombia on the use of military justice for civilians caught up in violent episodes. [74294]

Mr. Hoon: We encourage the Colombian Government to ensure that the civilian justice system is used where appropriate, rather than the military justice system. Indeed, the UK is currently funding a project in support of the reform of the Colombian military justice system, aimed at making it more transparent and accountable. One of the additional objectives of the reforms is to ensure there is a very clear delineation between those cases where military justice procedures are applicable and those that should be dealt with by civilian courts. The subordination of the military justice system to the civil system is fundamental to this reform process. We will continue to work with the Colombian authorities to help improve this key area of governance.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 8 February 2006, transferred from the Department of Trade and Industry on 5 April. [74447]

Mr. McCartney: I replied to the hon. Member today.

Cuba

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the position of the UK Government will be at the EU review of the Common Position on Cuba in June 2006. [73515]

Mr. Hoon: The UK's policy towards Cuba, which is shared with our EU partners, is set out in the EU Common Position of 1996. The main objective of the Common Position is to encourage a peaceful transition to pluralist democracy in Cuba.

We are maintaining a close dialogue with our EU partners ahead of the review of the EU common position in June. As part of this process, we have been monitoring closely developments in the political and human rights situation in Cuba over the last year. Taking our findings into account, we will seek a consensus view with our EU partners in June.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what position the Government will take during discussion of the European Union's Common Position on Cuba in June; and if she will make a statement. [74736]

Mr. Hoon: The UK's policy towards Cuba, which is shared with our EU partners, is set out in the EU Common Position of 1996. The main objective of the Common Position is to encourage a peaceful transition to pluralist democracy in Cuba.

We are maintaining a close dialogue with our EU partners ahead of the review of the EU Common Position in June. As part of this process, we have been monitoring closely developments in the political and human rights situation in Cuba over the last year. Taking our findings into account, we will seek a consensus view with our EU partners in June.

Departmental Bills (Amendments)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the occasions when an amendment has been moved by *(a)* a Labour Back Bencher, *(b)* an Opposition Back Bencher and *(c)* an Opposition Front Bench spokesman to a Bill sponsored by her Department that has been accepted by her Department during the 2005-06 Session; and if she will make a statement. [72117]

Margaret Beckett: There have been no such occasions. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has led on two Government Bills in the current Session. The European Union (Accessions) Bill passed through both Houses without amendment and has received Royal Assent. The European Union Bill has been read the first time in this House and has been printed, but has not made further progress.

Departmental Estate

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make it her policy to furnish UK embassies and high commissions with furniture made in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [74637]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office aims to furnish embassies and high commissions with contemporary furniture taking account of health and safety, sustainability, the availability of supplies and local climatic factors. Decisions on procurement are taken in accordance with relevant UK and EU rules. Our missions furnish properties with furniture made in the UK when it represents best value for money to the British taxpayer.

East Timor

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the United Kingdom is giving to East Timor following the deployment of UN troops as part of a peacekeeping mission. [75186]

Mr. McCartney: The East Timorese Government asked for the assistance of Australia, Portugal, Malaysia and New Zealand to dispatch defence and security forces under bilateral arrangements. We have, as a member of the UN Security Council, expressed our full support for these deployments and for the intention of the UN Secretary-General to send a special envoy to East Timor in order to facilitate the political dialogue.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the United Nations and member states about ensuring that Indonesian military officers named in the Report of East Timor's Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation for either violations or command responsibility for troops accused of violations are brought to justice. [75206]

Mr. McCartney: We have had no discussions in the UN about the Report of East Timor's Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR). It is for the UN Secretary-General to decide whether to disseminate the report within the UN for discussion in the Security Council.

The UK has consistently expressed concern about impunity for those responsible for the human rights abuses in East Timor, particularly in 1999. We helped support the CAVR and the Special Panels processes, and we also helped fund the Commission of Experts' report.

We note the decision of the Government of East Timor to pursue these issues with Indonesia through their bilateral Commission for Truth and Friendship (CTF). We have encouraged both Governments to make the CTF a process that enjoys the confidence of the victims and the international community.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will publish the Government's response to the 'Report of East Timor's Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation', officially submitted to her Department in February. [75263]

Mr. McCartney: We have made no formal response to the Report.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has made representations to the Government of East Timor about the alleged human rights violations recently committed by members of the police force in East Timor. [75264]

Mr. McCartney: Our ambassador in Dili speaks to the Government of East Timor on the subject of police behaviour on regular occasions, and we are involved in a training and development programme with the national police. We are encouraging the Government of East Timor to take all necessary steps to end the current violence with due respect for human rights and to restore a secure and stable environment.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the internal situation in East Timor; and if she will make a statement. [75268]

Mr. McCartney: We are concerned by the deterioration of the situation in East Timor and the resulting casualties and urge all concerned to bring an end to the violence and resolve the problems within the framework of the constitution and laws.

We welcome the quick response of the countries approached by the East Timorese Government to provide assistance and the wider support for this of the international community through the UN. We have, as a member of the UN Security Council, expressed our full support for deployment of international troops and for the decision of the UN Secretary-General to send a special envoy to East Timor in order to facilitate the political dialogue.

Our ambassador in Dili is liaising closely with the Government of East Timor and other embassies.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Government of Australia about the peacekeeping force being sent to East Timor. [75269]

Mr. McCartney: My right. hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with the Government

of Australia about the international forces being deployed to East Timor, but our officials have been liaising closely with the Australians in Dili, Canberra and in the UN.

The East Timorese Government asked for assistance from Australia, Portugal, Malaysia and New Zealand to dispatch defence and security forces under bilateral arrangements. The UK has not been asked to provide troops but is fully supportive of these deployments and has played an active role in gaining the support of the UN Security Council.

Eid-Ul-Adha

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff from her Department attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event in London in 2005; and what the total cost was to her Department of their attendance. [73031]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will write to the hon. Member with details of the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event. Copies of her letter will be placed in the Library.

Engagements

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions in the last six months she or her predecessor has received a request to meet the ambassador or high commissioner of *(a)* Georgia, *(b)* Bulgaria, *(c)* Mozambique, *(d)* Kazakhstan and *(e)* Chile; and on how many occasions he or she acceded to such a request. [74505]

Mr. Hoon: I am not aware of any requests from the ambassadors or high commissioners of the named countries to meet my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, or her predecessor, in the last six months. However we maintain good relations with all the countries concerned and ambassadors and high commissioners routinely accompany senior level visitors from their countries on any ministerial calls in the UK.

Equatorial Guinea

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Equatorial Guinea concerning the extradition request of UK citizen Simon Mann from Zimbabwe to that country. [74618]

Dr. Howells: We are aware that the Equatorial Guinean authorities are seeking Simon Mann's extradition from Zimbabwe. We are providing all appropriate consular assistance to Mr. Mann and his next of kin in the UK and will remain in contact with them as legal proceedings progress. At this stage, we have no plans to raise Mr. Mann's case with the Government of Equatorial Guinea.

Ethiopia/Eritrea

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the British Government have made to *(a)* the USA, *(b)* the EU, *(c)* the UN, *(d)* the African Union and *(e)* Nigeria as guarantors of the final and binding Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission ruling in 2001; what steps the British Government have taken directly in relation to the two countries to ensure that this agreement is implemented; what role the five guarantors have in such implementation; and what steps she is taking to reduce the tension arising as a result of the non-implementation of the agreement. [74621]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Alpha Konare, on 22 May. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, met the US Assistant Secretary of State on 16 May and Alpha Konare on 22 May and discussed a range of issues including the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute. Officials regularly discuss the question with EU colleagues at Africa working groups, and we play an active part in the preparation of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions; the most recent of which was agreed on 31 May. Nigeria is not a witness to the Algiers Agreement.

The witnesses to the Algiers Agreement met in New York in February, preparing the way for meetings of the Boundary Commission to resume in London.

Bilaterally we continue to urge both parties to implement the Boundary Commission's decision and to demarcate their common frontier. We continue to press Eritrea to lift its restrictions on the UN Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea to allow it to fulfil its mandate. Alongside our commitment to the Boundary Commission decision, we urge on both sides and at the UN Security Council steps to normalise relations on either side of the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Government of Ethiopia on the border dispute with Eritrea over Badme; what the Ethiopian Government's position was on the issue; when she expects demarcation to begin in and around Badme; and if she will make a statement. [74641]

Mr. McCartney: My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, raised the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute with the new Ethiopian ambassador on 14 March and our ambassador in Addis Ababa discussed it with Prime Minister Meles on 20 May.

It is not for the Government to comment on the Ethiopian Government's position on this issue. The

Ethiopian Government have engaged in two meetings of the Ethiopia Eritrea Boundary Commission in London to discuss border demarcation and further discussions are planned.

We continue to urge both parties to implement the Boundary Commission's decision and to demarcate their common frontier. In this context, we have taken an active role in the UN Security Council which confirmed, on 31 May (UN Security Council Resolution 1681), commitment to both resolution of the border demarcation and normalisation of relations between both countries on either side of the border.

EU External Relations

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the concept paper on EU external relations tabled by the Commission President. [74473]

Dr. Howells: The Commission President, Mr. Barroso, has yet to submit to the full Commission his paper on the EU's external relations. However, I understand that he plans to do this on 7 June 2006 and to then put the paper before the June European Council on 15-16 June 2006.

We will of course set out the Government's view of the paper in an explanatory memorandum to the House, once we have received it.

European Communication Policy

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her Department's timetable is for setting out its initial views on the Commission's White Paper on European Communication Policy published on 1 February 2006. [74312]

Mr. Hoon: The Government presented its broad approach to the European Commission's White Paper on European Communication Policy in its explanatory memorandum dated 10 March 2006. This memorandum summarises the most important points of the White Paper and sets out the Government's initial response. Officials have also given the Government's initial views on the White Paper at working level in Brussels. A formal response to the White Paper will be given by the Government before the end of the consultation period in July.

European Constitution

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what written submission the UK Government *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make in advance of discussions on a European Constitution at the Council of Ministers Meeting on 27th May. [74301]

Mr. Hoon: The Government did not produce any written submission in advance of the Klosterneuburg informal meeting, which took place on 27 and 28 May.

European Council

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether proposals were tabled by the British EU presidency for consideration by the European Council that council meetings should be held in public. [74313]

Mr. Hoon: A copy of the UK proposals on transparency was sent to the Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee and the Chairman of the Select European Union Committee in November 2005. The Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees were informed of the agreed Council conclusions on increased transparency under cover of an explanatory memorandum in January 2006.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will publish prior to the June 2006 European Council her Department's evaluation of UK activities during the period of reflection, setting out the extent to which they have achieved the stated objectives of *(a)* generating broad debate and *(b)* building consensus around the future direction of the EU. [74205]

Mr. Hoon: The process of generating a broad debate and building consensus around the future direction of the EU is ongoing, including work in the House and more broadly in the public domain. The European Commission's recent report "A Citizen's Agenda for Europe" shows that the Commission and the EU are increasingly focused on the priorities that the UK has been promoting, namely delivering real benefits in areas that matter to citizens.

Internal evaluation of the cost effectiveness of all activities is continuing. We have no plans to publish a formal evaluation of UK activities beyond the response given to the presidency and General Secretariat of the Council in response to their questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire and the UK response will be placed in the Library of the House on 15 June.

European Security and Defence Policy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of the EU's External Relations budget line was spent on European Security and Defence Policy initiatives in the most recent period for which figures are available. [73846]

Mr. Hoon: In 2005, the most recent period for which complete figures are available, approximately 1 per cent. (€57 million) of the External Actions budget line was spent on activities carried out under European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). In addition to ESDP, the External Actions budget line covered: aid, development assistance to non-EU countries, such as Balkan states and Latin America, reconstruction in Iraq, combating poverty-related diseases, the fight against drugs and regional programmes including reconstruction efforts in the tsunami hit areas.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether European Security and Defence Policy initiatives are financed exclusively from the Common Foreign and Security Policy budget line. [73931]

Mr. Hoon: Common costs, e.g. salary for Heads of Mission, office space and equipment, of civilian European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) activities are paid for from the Common Foreign Security Policy budget which is part of the overall European Commission budget. Military ESDP initiatives are funded through the intergovernmental "ATHENA" mechanism, a facility set up to enable EU member states to contribute on a gross domestic product key towards common financing of certain aspects of EU operations with military and defence implications, such as incremental costs for, deployable or fixed, head quarters for EU-led operations, capital expenditure on communications equipment. Other costs for military ESDP operations "lie where they fall" on participating member states.

Extraordinary Rendition

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what investigations into flights to, from and over the UK in connection with the practice of extraordinary rendition the UK plans to make in response to the recommendations of the Council of Europe's interim assessment. [73979]

Dr. Howells: The Government have already carried out an extensive investigation into these allegations. The UK is fully co-operating with the ongoing inquiries by the Council of Europe.

Farsi Broadcasting

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to encourage provision of television and radio broadcasts in Farsi by the BBC. [72745]

Mr. McCartney: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary to the hon. Member for South-West Hertfordshire (Mr. Gauke) on 17 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2531W.

The BBC World Service already provides a dedicated radio and online vernacular language service in Farsi. In October 2005, it announced its intention to also explore the development of a Farsi TV service as part of its 2010 strategy for a tri-media presence in its priority languages. BBC World Service is currently assessing the costs and benefits of launching such a service and will present its findings to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

France

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's objectives are for the forthcoming UK-French summit on 9 June. [74087]

Mr. Hoon: The Government's primary objective for the UK-France summit will be to further improve co-operation across a range of policy areas. These include energy, climate change, Africa/development, defence, foreign policy, Europe, immigration, counter-terrorism, education and consular co-operation. Agreements reached will be detailed in a summit communiqué.

We will also aim to produce a declaration on the defence relationship reaffirming the British and French Governments' commitment to work together, both bilaterally and within EU, NATO and UN frameworks. The focus here will be threats and challenges to our security and defence and to that of our allies and partners.

Education Ministers will also sign a renewed Memorandum of Understanding with a view to strengthening co-operation and making progress towards the Lisbon Agenda goals.

Future of the EU

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department has taken to ensure that the stocktaking exercise of the progress of national debates on the future of the EU to be prepared by the Austrian EU presidency at the June 2006 European Council takes account of the views of the British people. [74378]

Mr. Hoon: The Government believe that, at the June European Council and beyond, Europe needs to focus on the policies that deliver real benefits to its citizens, and on the economic reforms needed to make the EU competitive in today's global economy, rather than institutional issues.

The Commission's report on the Period of Reflection and Plan-D reflected the findings of a Eurobarometer poll of public opinion in the EU, including in the UK. It noted that:

"citizens tend to consider institutional questions abstract and complex and to show more interest in concrete policies affecting their daily life, such as employment, environment or energy".

Parliamentary and public debate will continue to feed into the policy process and be reflected in the UK position at the June European Council.

Gibraltar

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Minister for Europe's meeting with the chief Minister of Gibraltar on 22 May 2006 resulted in an agreement to publish the preamble to the Constitution prior to a referendum being held; and if she will make a statement. [74472]

Mr. Hoon: At our meeting on 22 May 2006, I agreed with the Chief Minister that we should take account of the concerns of the people of Gibraltar and publish the preamble to the Constitution prior to the referendum. Officials are now taking this forward. We will make a further announcement once the final text is settled.

Guinea

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the political situation in Guinea. [74842]

Mr. McCartney: The political and security situation in Guinea is worrying. Economic stagnation and uncertainty over the transition from the current regime leaves the potential for conflict. The withdrawal of opposition and civil society from national social dialogue is also of concern, and reduces the prospects of a constitutional transition of power. A ministerial reshuffle took place on 30 May and we will be monitoring the progress of this new team.

We are engaging with EU and the Economic Community of West African states partners to open a better dialogue with the political and military authorities in Guinea. At the International Contact Group Meeting on the Mano River Basin in Vienna on 23 May, the UK welcomed the regional focus on contingency planning and agreed the need for further EU engagement, including organising a seminar series in Guinea on democratic culture.

Honours

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the individuals who are not UK citizens who were awarded honours in the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003; and what *(a)* the date of announcement, *(b)* the honour concerned and *(c)* the reason for the award was in each case. [72027]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 18 May 2006]:* As the information requested is lengthy, I will arrange for the information to be placed in the Library, and will send a copy directly to the hon. Member.

As honorary awards, to citizens where Her Majesty the Queen is not Head of State, are not formally announced, the date of the Queen's formal approval of such awards has been given.

India

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of staff employed at UK posts in India are from scheduled castes; and what recruitment policies are followed for local staff. [73905]

Dr. Howells: The Human Resources Section of our high commission in New Delhi does not hold records of the caste of locally employed staff at our diplomatic missions in India. They are working on the initial stages of a diversity agenda for local staff.

Our posts in India are equal opportunities employers and have a recruitment policy that is open to all, regardless of caste, ethnicity or religion.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Indian Government on religious intolerance in parts of India. [74436]

Dr. Howells: Although the issue of religious intolerance in India is a matter for the Indian Government, we raise issues of attacks on or discrimination against religious minorities in response to legitimate UK public and parliamentary interest. Our high commission in New Delhi monitors such issues, with staff making regular calls on the appropriate Indian authorities.

Officials from our high commission in New Delhi last raised issues relating to religious minorities when they called on the National Commission for Minorities in April.

We will continue to insist that the right to freedom of religion is upheld, and that those responsible for attacks against people on grounds of their religion are brought to justice.

Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has received on whether Iran has acquired BM-25 missiles from North Korea; and if he will make a statement. [68204]

Margaret Beckett: The Government are aware of media reports about the transfer of BM-25 missiles from North Korea to Iran. However, the Government are not able to corroborate these reports.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of which countries supply arms to the Iranian armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [68205]

Margaret Beckett: Iran has traditionally sourced defence equipment from a broad range of supplier states. Iran's last return to the UN Register of Conventional Arms, in 1998, lists Russia as their main supplier of major conventional arms platforms and equipment. More recent estimates by a variety of independent researchers indicate that the great majority of Iranian arms imports continue to come from Russia. Policy on the export of such equipment from the United Kingdom to Iran was set out in the written answers from the then Foreign Secretary (Lord Hurd) to the then hon. Member for Finchley (Hartley Booth) on 1 March 1993, *Official Report*, column 8, and the then Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister, my hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Central (Tony Lloyd) to my hon. Friend the then Member for Rugby and Kenilworth (Andy King) on 28 January 1998, *Official Report*, columns 273-74, respectively.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to his Russian counterparts regarding its proposed sale of Tor tactical surface-to-air missiles to Iran; and if he will make a statement. [68206]

Margaret Beckett: We are in close touch with Russia about Iran in our bilateral contacts, as part of the E3/EU and through the EU. We have made clear our concerns about their arms sales to Iran on a number of occasions. The Government take a close interest in all reports of arms transfers to and from countries whose current activities are of concern and monitors the situation closely.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the degree of Iranian reliance on support from outside nations for the development and continuance of its nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [68207]

Margaret Beckett: Iran remains reliant on Russia to complete the civil nuclear power plant at Bushehr. Russia is also contracted to supply fuel for the reactor for 10 years, and has offered to continue supply for the lifetime of the reactor if the Iranians so choose.

Iran's gas-centrifuge technology, in particular the designs for P1 and P2 centrifuges, was acquired from an international proliferation supply network. Iran has yet to master the technology fully.

We do not believe Iran is capable of completing the research reactor moderated by heavy water under construction at Arak without external assistance, and are not aware of any country which is prepared to provide such assistance.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have had with United States officials on the offer by Iran in May 2003 of direct talks with the United States. [70937]

Margaret Beckett: As the US announced at the time, between 2001 and 2003, officials from the US and Iran had occasional direct contact through what was known as the "Geneva process" to discuss practical matters regarding Afghanistan initially and then Iraq. Then as now, British Ministers and officials discussed Iran very frequently with their US counterparts.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes to the access of IAEA inspectors to nuclear sites in Iran have taken place since January; and if she will make a statement. [73718]

Margaret Beckett: As reported by the International Atomic Energy Agency to the Board of Governors on 27 February 2006, Iran informed the Agency on 6 February 2006 that it would suspend its voluntary implementation of the provisions of the Additional Protocol pending its ratification. It therefore requested that

"the Agency's inspector presence in the Islamic Republic of Iran for the verification activities should be scheduled only on the basis of the Safeguards Agreement"

and that

"all the Agency's containment and surveillance measures which were in place beyond the normal Agency safeguards measures should be removed by mid February 2006."

The international community has made clear that it regards implementation of the provisions of the Additional Protocol by Iran as one of the confidence building measures deemed necessary by the Board for Iran to implement in order to resolve outstanding questions and build confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the proposal by Dr. El Baradei for the application of the North Korean model of security guarantees and energy aid to negotiations with Iran to encourage an end to enrichment and acceptance of tougher inspections. [73978]

Dr. Howells: When Javier Solana, High Representative for European Common Foreign and Security Policy, and the Foreign Ministers of UK, France, Germany, US, Russia and China, the E3 plus 3, met in New York on 8 May we agreed on a twin-track strategy, whereby we should present Iran with a choice, between the benefits that would flow from co-operating with the international community, or the isolation and costs that would follow an Iranian decision not to respond to the well-known requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors and the UN Security Council. Officials, including at a meeting of E3 plus political directors in London on 25 May, have been making good progress on both elements of this strategy. These are complex, sensitive diplomatic negotiations and it would be inappropriate to comment on what might be included in either element.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Iranian authorities concerning reported proposed legislation on dress codes based on religion. [74412]

Dr. Howells: On 14 May the Iranian Parliament approved the outline of a draft Bill on an Islamic dress code. The draft Bill set out regulations for the import of clothing and future Government support for Iranian clothing producers.

Canadian media reporting initially claimed that the draft Bill included a reference to religious minorities having to wear identifying signs or colours but there is no mention of this in the draft Bill. The Iranian embassy in London refuted these media reports and the Canadian newspaper in question issued an apology for its inaccurate reporting.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's policy is on the imposition of sanctions against Iran in the absence of agreement in the UN Security Council. [73977]

Dr. Howells: The United Nations Security Council has demonstrated its concern about Iran's nuclear ambitions in its Presidential Statement of 29 March, which was adopted by consensus. The full text of the statement is available on the UN website at:
http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sc8679.doc.htm

We are currently discussing next steps with international partners. We hope that Iran will respond to the requirements of the international community, as set out in repeated International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board Resolutions and the Security Council's Presidential Statement. If it does not, then we anticipate that the Security Council will take the necessary action designed to ensure that Iran meets in full the requirements of the IAEA Board and the Security Council, including reinstating a full suspension of all enrichment related and reprocessing activities, and returns to a negotiation on long-term arrangements.

Iraq

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of civilians killed in *(a)* Al Basrah, *(b)* Al Muthanna, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Maysan province in Iraq in (i) January, (ii) February, (iii) March and (iv) April 2006. [70935]

Margaret Beckett: The Iraqi Government are best placed to monitor the deaths of civilians inside Iraq. The Government do not collect figures for civilian casualties in Iraq. Both the Iraqi Ministries of Interior and Health published figures last year as part of an ongoing collection of statistics on Iraqi casualties. There is no 100 per cent. reliable and accurate assessment of casualties in Iraq in 2006. Estimates of the numbers of civilian deaths vary according to the methods used. We continue to press the Iraqi Government to release the most up-to-date figures.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the *(a)* independence and fairness of the judiciary and *(b)* the application of the rule of law in (i) Al Basrah, (ii) Al Muthanna, (iii) Dhi Qar and (iv) Maysan province in Iraq. [70938]

Margaret Beckett: The judiciary in Iraq is independent of government and there is an operational court system that includes a formal appeal process. The courts throughout Iraq apply the rule of law. We are working with the Iraqi authorities to help increase the capacity of the rule of law sector, for example in providing training for Iraqi judges in international law.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the extent of corruption by local officials in *(a)* Al Basrah, *(b)* Al Muthanna, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Maysan Province in Iraq. [70939]

Margaret Beckett: We do not systematically collect province-by-province information on the extent of corruption of local officials in Iraq.

We are working to increase institutional capacity, transparency and accountability in the four southern provinces. The Department for International Development (DFID) has in place a £20.5 million project to build the capacity and effectiveness of the southern Provincial Governorates. This has provided support for, among other things, establishing Provincial Committees for Reconstruction and Development in all four provinces and building up the financial management and budgeting capacity of provincial institutions. DFID also has in place a £6.7 million project to strengthen independent broadcast media in the south, helping to hold the local government to account.

The UK, alongside the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other donors, continues to work with the Iraqi Government to improve accountability and transparency in Iraq's public finances. This includes efforts to encourage Iraq to adopt international legal frameworks and standards in resource management, including the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. This is a set of principles designed to ensure that the revenues from extractive industries such as oil are transparently managed and contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction. For further information, the hon. Member can visit the following website: www.eitransparency.org.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the establishment of provincial and local government in *(a)* Al Basrah, *(b)* Al Muthanna, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Maysan Province in Iraq. [70942]

Margaret Beckett: Local governments are well established in the 18 governorates of Iraq including Al Basrah, Al Muthanna, Dhi Qar and Maysan Province. They are empowered to set priorities for the provinces to improve the delivery of public services and are funded from national budget allocations.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the establishment of the Joint Committee to Transfer Security Responsibility in Iraq; and if she will make a statement. [70965]

Margaret Beckett: The Joint Committee to Transfer Security Responsibility from Multi-National Forces in Iraq (MNF-I) to the Iraqi civilian authorities was established by the then Iraqi Prime Minister Jafa'ari in July 2005. Membership includes Iraq's Interior and Defence Ministers, the National Security Adviser, the US and UK Ambassadors, the Commander of the MNF-I and the Deputy Commanding General.

Its remit is to describe the conditions required for a transfer of security responsibilities, at the provincial level, to Iraqi civilian control. These conditions are based on four broad categories: an assessment of the terrorist threat level; Iraqi Security Forces' ability to take on the security task; the capacity of provincial bodies to cope with the changed security environment; and the posture and support available from MNF-I.

As my right hon. Friend the then Defence Secretary informed the House on 13 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1151-53, the Joint Committee has begun the assessment phase to determine whether conditions have been met for some provinces in Iraq to begin the handover process. This will be taken forward with the new Government. In due course, we expect the Committee to make recommendations to the new Iraqi

Prime Minister on which provinces or provincial capitals are ready for a transfer in security responsibilities.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what milestones have been set out for *(a)* police and *(b)* military reform in (i) Al Basrah,(ii) Al Muthanna, (iii) Dhi Qar and (iv) Maysan provinces in Iraq; and what progress has been achieved. [71047]

Margaret Beckett: Milestones have been set in five areas against which progress in the reform of the Iraqi police service can be measured:

Numbers trained, Police support infrastructure, Intelligence capability, Operational capability and Public support.

The following table outlines progress to date against the above benchmarks in Muthanna, Maysan and Basra. Responsibility for policing in Dhi Qar lies with the Italian contingent.

Military reform in Iraq is the responsibility of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence. I will ask him to write to the hon. Member separately on this matter.

Objectives	*Basra*	*Maysan*	*Muthanna*
Training: 85 per cent. of the force is trained and most training is done by Iraqi instructors	58 per cent. have been trained (9,520 from a target of 16,298. Iraqi trainers are conducting some of the training	86 per cent. of officers have been trained.(3,521 from a target of 4,066). Corps of 9 Iraq trainers	99 per cent. of officers trained (1,907 from a target of 1,924). The provincial training academy is developing very well and runs courses for new recruits
Police support infrastructure: Communication and administrative practices are working effectively and 85 per cent. of the vehicles, weapons and infrastructure that the force needs have been provided	67 per cent. equipment issued, but progress in training and mentoring has been hampered by the security situation and non co-operation of the council	76 per cent. is of equipment issued. Ongoing mentoring of in admin communications and business processes	87 per cent. issued. Basic self-sufficiency in finances established. Other Administrations and Communications consolidated and being refined
Intelligence Capability: Forces have a criminal intelligence capability and are able to undertake intelligence led operations unaided	Intelligence investigators are undergoing training	Initial Intel Capability Established	Initial Intelligence Capability established. Some intelligence led operations undertaken
Operational capability: effective command and control systems in place; the force is operating effectively with the Iraqi Army and they have specialist support and criminal investigation units	Liaison improving between the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army through the establishment of an effective Permanent Joint Operations Centre. Investigative capability needs development	Work ongoing to improve Command and control, liaison with the army and investigations capacity	Effective Command and Control and good liaison with Iraqi Army
Public support: more developed interaction with criminal justice system and media; improved human rights awareness reflected in working practices; improving record of investigation and removal of corrupt or inefficient police; complaints system working	Human Rights Dept. established and delivering training. Community Policing established and effective	Effective media department. Further work needed on interface with the criminal justice system and internal discipline	Good media relations dept operating. Basic self-sufficiency in Internal Affairs re complaints of misbehaviour and malpractice

Note:
Responsibility for police training in Dhi Qar lies with the Italian contingent.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has received regarding the Assyrian community in Iraq; and if she will make a statement. [74541]

Dr. Howells: We maintain regular contact with representatives from the Chaldo-Assyrian community in Baghdad and their representatives in the UK.

The Government remain committed to supporting the Iraqi authorities' efforts to promote inclusive,

representative politics. The establishment of a genuine government of national unity is a positive step forward in this regard.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on links her Department will have with the new Iraqi Government. [74159]

Dr. Howells: We welcome the formation of the new Iraqi Government as a major step in Iraq's transition towards full democracy.

The Government remain committed to supporting the Iraqi authorities' efforts to build security and uphold the rule of law, promote inclusive, representative politics and secure sustainable economic growth.

We will continue to conduct the bulk of our relations with Iraq through our diplomatic posts in Iraq.

Israel

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the detention of Kate Maynard, a solicitor at the Islington firm of Hickman and Rose, by Israeli authorities at Ben Gurion airport. [75146]

Dr. Howells: On 24 May 2006, Kate (Catherine) Maynard was detained by immigration officials at Ben Gurión airport, questioned and subsequently refused entry into Israel. She would have been subject to deportation. Ms Maynard contacted our consul from our embassy in Tel Aviv, who then contacted the immigration desk at the airport to establish what was happening and to register our interest in her case. Our consul confirmed with Ms Maynard that she was being treated well and asked if there was anyone he could contact on her behalf.

Ms Maynard filed an appeal against her refusal and deportation. On the morning of 25 May 2006, a judge initially ruled that Ms Maynard be allowed into Israel to attend a conference, but that she should leave by 28 May. The judge later amended his original decision, choosing instead to issue a recommendation advising the Interior Ministry to allow Ms Maynard to enter the country until 28 May. The Interior Ministry declined the judge's suggestion. Ms Maynard was told she could take the matter to another judge, but Ms Maynard chose instead to return to the UK and departed on the evening of 25 May.

Consular officials were in contact with Ms Maynard throughout her detention. They offered her assistance and were also in touch with her colleagues in London. Decisions on who can enter Israel are for the Government of Israel, but we try to ensure all British citizens are treated appropriately.

Kyrgyzstan

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the *(a)* dates and *(b)* duration of each visit of the UK ambassador to Kyrgyzstan since 1 January 2005. [74571]

Mr. Hoon: Our ambassador accredited to Kyrgyzstan is based in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Since 1 January 2005, he has visited Kyrgyzstan on 10 occasions—six times in 2005: 24-26 January, 24-25 March, 12-13 April, 6-8 June, 28-30 September and 28-29 November; and four times in 2006: 26-27 January, 14-16 February, 23-25 April and 22-24 May.

In addition to these visits, the Deputy Head of Mission has been to Kyrgyzstan on nine occasions during this period. Other members of the embassy team, including the Defence Attaché, have also visited on numerous occasions.

Libya

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to improve relations with Libya; and if she will consider the merits of a visit to Tripoli. [74763]

Dr. Howells: The Government are committed to improving bilateral relations with Libya. Since my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's visit to Tripoli in 2004, the first by a British Prime Minister since 1943, there has been continued high-level contact. Most recently my right hon. Friend the former Home Secretary, my hon. Friend the Minister for Higher Education and my hon. Friend the former Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs visited this year. Through these visits and contacts between officials we are working to improve relations across a range of areas, including health, education, trade and economy, counter terrorism and prison reform. With our EU partners we are working with Libya on measures to combat illegal migration, and to resolve the situation of the Bulgarian and Palestinian medical staff detained in Libya including providing assistance to those affected by the outbreak of HIV in Benghazi.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is still assessing her diary commitments. Her travel plans are currently under review and she is unable to commit to a visit at this point.

Maldives

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the trial and sentencing of Mohamed Nasheed, the Chairperson of the Maldivian Democratic Party. [74794]

Dr. Howells: We continue to be seriously concerned about human rights in the Maldives, in particular the use of the justice system in an apparently political manner. My hon. Friend the then Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs spoke with Dr. Shaheed, Foreign Minister of the Maldives on 3 May. He welcomed the movement towards democratic reform in the Maldives but also raised the issue of jailed opposition activists, including their leader Mohamed Nasheed. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have had a number of recent discussions in London and Male with Maldivian Ministers at which they continued to press on the cases of Mohamed Nasheed and others.

The proper implementation of the Roadmap for the Reform Agenda would reflect the Government's stated commitment to democratic values and serve to promote an atmosphere in which all political groups in the Maldives can engage in dialogue on reform. We convey this message regularly to the Government of the Maldives bilaterally, and together with EU and other international partners. We also strongly support the efforts by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretary-General's Special Envoy, to help facilitate constitutional change.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for Ministers of State in her Department on foreign visits in each of the last three years. [69069]

Mr. Hoon: Under the terms of the Ministerial Code and Travel by Minister's, when travelling on official business Ministers are expected to make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year; this information includes accommodation costs. Copies are available in the Library.

For Ministers below Cabinet rank, collecting the detailed information requested could not be done without incurring disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions Ministers of State in her Department stayed overnight in *(a)* five star, *(b)* four star and *(c)* three star hotels on foreign visits in each of the last three years. [69070]

Mr. Hoon: Under the terms of the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, when travelling on official business Ministers are expected to make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year; this information includes accommodation costs. Copies are available in the Library.

For Ministers below Cabinet rank, collecting the detailed information requested could not be done without incurring disproportionate cost.

Nepal

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the decision of the Nepalese Parliament to declare the country a secular state. [73169]

Dr. Howells: The UK does not take a position, either for or against, the decision of the Nepalese Parliament to declare the country a secular state. It is up to the people of Nepal to determine the nature of the state under which they are governed. The new Parliament has announced its intention to hold a Constituent Assembly to give the nation the chance to express its will over the future of the Nepalese constitution. The UK supports the efforts of the parties to find a democratic solution to Nepal's problems.

Nigeria

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the church authorities in Nigeria about the recent demolition of a church in Kazaure, Kano State. [73684]

Mr. McCartney: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 330W. The case of the destruction of a church in Kazaure, Kano State has not been brought to our attention, through either our high commission in Abuja, the Nigerian media or human rights organisations based in Nigeria.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of *(a)* levels of religious tension, *(b)* the incidence of attacks upon churches and *(c)* the use of Sharia Law in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria. [73685]

Mr. McCartney: Conflict and tensions between religious communities in Nigeria remains a serious issue. We are funding the work of Coventry Cathedral's International Centre for Reconciliation to address religious tensions in Plateau State, which has been successful in reducing the level of violence there.

The decision to adopt Sharia Law is for Nigerians. We have made clear our view that extreme punishments such as stoning and amputation are inconsistent with international human rights standards. We are also funding work to ensure the correct and humane application of Sharia Law in those states that have adopted it.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role she will play in discussions in international fora on the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent; and if she will make a statement. [71853]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 18 May 2006]:* No decisions have yet been taken, either in principle or in detail, on the future of the UK's nuclear deterrent. Officials have started work to understand the possible future threats, develop more precise options and assess their costs. However, this work will take some time and Ministers have not yet begun to consider the position in any detail.

Overseas Detainees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens detained in overseas gaols had a last residential address in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* Leicester East. [74800]

Dr. Howells: As British nationals detained overseas are not required to inform local consular officials of their last UK residential address, I cannot provide the information requested by my hon. Friend.

Pakistan

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking towards ensuring elections in Pakistan next year are free and fair. [74849]

Dr. Howells: The UK, along with our EU partners, has welcomed the recent appointment of a Permanent Election Commissioner. We intend to support this office through the provision of technical assistance and advice, to ensure that he is able to do his job effectively. The UK is actively considering a range of activities to help ensure the election is free and fair, including supporting the Government of Pakistan with training election officials, and voter education campaigns. We are currently in discussions with EU and other partners about the scope for collectively monitoring the elections. As I have stated previously, officials in both London and Pakistan also meet regularly with members of the Pakistani Government, opposition parties and members of civil society to ensure that we remain abreast of developments. This also gives us an opportunity to stress the importance we attach to free and fair elections.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the efficacy of action taken by the Pakistani Government against Taliban forces within Pakistan. [74850]

Dr. Howells: The Government of Pakistan has made extensive efforts, at considerable loss of life, to improve the rule of law in the border areas. The Pakistanis remain committed to countering the threat posed by the Taliban and we will continue to support them in these efforts.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1230W, on Pakistan, in what ways the UK is working with the Government of Pakistan to contain the threat posed by the Taliban. [74851]

Dr. Howells: As part of a common effort to counter terrorism, the Government are providing training and capacity building to the Pakistan authorities in their efforts to counter al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Pakistan.

Plan-D Events

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department has taken to ensure that the events held under the European Commission Plan D include the whole political spectrum of views as required by the Commission document. [74303]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office keeps in close contact with the European Commission Representation in the UK about their programme of planned activities related to Plan D. The events that they have organised include debates and roadshows, which have been open to the public and designed for anyone to ask any questions or make any points about the EU.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the events which *(a)* have been held and *(b)* are scheduled to take place in the UK to promote debate on the future of the EU as set out in the Commission document Plan-D. [74304]

Mr. Hoon: The Commission's UK representation has organised a range of events across the UK to promote debate on the future of Europe under its Outreach programme. These include: 'What is next for the East Midlands in Europe?' held on 27 January 2006; a debate on the future of Europe at King's College, London on 10 February; and an event on trans-national co-operation in Taunton on 15 March. In the next months ahead, Europe Direct centres, new EU information points, are due to open across the UK. These centres will be used as the focal point for regional activities. Further information on these events and Europe Direct is available from the European Commission's representation in the UK.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what proportion of the sum allocated by the EU Commission to fund its Plan-D events and activities in the UK during 2006 has been *(a)* spent and *(b)* allocated to specific future events; [74305]

(2) what measures her Department has taken to ensure that the sum allocated by the European Commission to fund Plan-D events in the UK during 2006 is available on a fair basis to each part of the whole political spectrum of views. [74302]

Mr. Hoon: No specific allocation of financial resources was made to each member state under the Commission's Plan-D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate. Most Plan-D activities fall under the Commission's "Relations with citizen and the media" programme in the UK. For 2006 a budget of €1.7 million has been made available for the Commission UK representation's operational activities under this budget heading (the €1.8 million figure that I stated to the European Scrutiny Committee was the amount requested by the representation). So far €1,011,700 has been allocated, of which €354,900 has been spent. The Commission representation are in the process of allocating the rest of the budget with a view to spending all of it by the end of the year.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) when her Department will present the synthesis of the initial results of the national debate in the UK on the future of the EU required under the Commission's Plan-D document; [74306]

(2) why her Department did not meet the Commission deadline of April 2006 for the submission

of a synthesis of the initial results of the UK national debate on the future of the EU, as set out in the Commission's Plan-D document. [74307]

Mr. Hoon: I should like to clarify that the Commission's Plan-D does not impose any obligations on member states. Following the "Interim Report on the National Debates During the Reflection Period on the Future of Europe" of 14 December 2005 by the UK and Austrian EU presidencies, the Austrian presidency and General Secretariat of the Council requested further written feedback from member states by April in response to a questionnaire. We provided a response to the presidency and General Secretariat of the Council in April.

A copy of the questionnaire and the UK response and the report of the presidency and the General Secretariat of the Council on member states' information and communication activities during the reflection period will be placed in the Library on 15 June. A copy of the "Interim Report on the National Debates During the Reflection Period on the Future of Europe" was placed in the Library on 16 January 2006.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the visits to the UK made by *(a)* the President of the European Commission and *(b)* other Commissioners since the publication of the Commission's Plan-D document in October 2005. [74309]

Mr. Hoon: European Commissioners regularly visit member states as part of their work. The Government do not keep a record of Commissioner visits to the UK, but figures from the Commission's Representation in the UK show that there have been 60 Commissioner visits to the UK since October 2005.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what progress her Department has made in working with the European Commission for the appointment of European goodwill ambassadors on the UN model as proposed in the Commission's Plan-D document; [74310]

(2) if she will list the individuals who have been considered by her Department for appointment as European goodwill ambassadors. [74311]

Mr. Hoon: The European Goodwill Ambassadors initiative as proposed in the European Commission's Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate, is still at an early stage. Therefore to date, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not considered any individuals for appointment as goodwill ambassadors.

Private Office Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been paid in *(a)* salary, *(b)* travelling expenses, *(c)* subsistence allowance and *(d)* removal expenses to special advisers in her private office in each of the last five years. [69074]

Mr. Hoon: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each payband. For information relating to the last financial year I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on Thursday 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 158-61WS.

Information on special advisers for this financial year is currently being collected and will be published in the normal way when it is ready.

We are unable to provide details of travelling expenses and subsistence allowances paid to special advisers because the figures are not held centrally. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office records do not show any payments being made to special advisers in respect of removal expenses.

Public Transport (Incentives)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what incentives are available to encourage members of her staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75118]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office offers staff an advance of salary or rail warrants to help them obtain season tickets for home to office travel on public transport. The majority of our staff in London use public transport.

In addition, we have a number of policies which contribute to staff using more sustainable methods of transport as outlined in the reply I gave to the hon. Member on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1867-68W.

Slovenia

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received requesting an apology from the Government for the repatriation in 1945 of Slovene Home Guard soldiers to Yugoslavia; and if she will make a statement. [74748]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received a number of representations on the repatriation of the Slovene Home Guard, including letters from individuals and an early day motion in the House. We have received no communications on the subject from the Slovene Government. The Second World War and its aftermath brought tragedy in its wake for many people. It is right that we remember the suffering of the Slovene nation during this time.

Spain

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1808W, on Spain, if she will make a statement on the outcome of the discussions between officials and the Spanish Ministry of Justice; and when *(a)* she and *(b)* diplomatic and consular staff in Spain next plan to meet the Spanish authorities to discuss child custody cases in Spain involving British parents. [74453]

Dr. Howells: Officials from the Department for Constitutional Affairs and Foreign and Commonwealth Office discussed steps to improve

co-operation in resolving child residence and access disputes in Spain involving British parents with the Spanish Ministry of Justice. Two new members of staff have recently been appointed at the Spanish Central Authority handling cases brought under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Although my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary currently has no plans to meet the Spanish authorities to discuss this matter, officials will pursue these issues as necessary and appropriate.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the safety of the waters off Sri Lanka; and what pressure she is exerting *(a)* bilaterally and *(b)* through multilateral organisations towards ensuring that the waters are made safe. [73405]

Dr. Howells: The Department for Transport, advise that the Transport and Security Contingencies Team have not issued any specific advice on piracy or terrorism in Sri Lankan waters. The International Ship and Port Security rating remains at code 1, which is normal.

In the Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice for Sri Lanka we advise British mariners to avoid the coastline and adjacent territorial sea of the Trincomalee, Mullaitivu, Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mannar administrative districts in the north and east. These are declared as restricted zones by the Sri Lankan authorities and there have been attacks on shipping in these areas in the past.

It is the Government of Sri Lanka's responsibility to ensure the safety of it's territorial waters. The UK view is that the most effective way to resolve the tensions over these areas is through the existing Sri Lankan peace process, which we fully support.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action she is taking to encourage resumption of peace negotiations in Sri Lanka, between the Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. [73406]

Dr. Howells: We actively support the Norwegian facilitated peace process. We continue to urge the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to return to the face-to-face talks. We make this clear in our regular contact with the Sri Lankan Government, Members of Parliament, including representatives of Tamil political groups, and civil society. We also actively contribute to the EU's work in its role as one of the Tokyo co-Chairs to the Sri Lankan peace process.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of whether the ceasefire agreement signed in 2002 between the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam is still in force; what action she is taking towards ensuring this agreement is upheld; and what her policy is on seeking a new agreement. [73407]

Dr. Howells: Under the terms of the ceasefire agreement the Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission was established to monitor the ceasefire and investigate and record violations by either side. With the recent escalation in violence, we assess that the ceasefire is under intense pressure, but we welcome the stated commitment of both sides to maintain the ceasefire agreement. We encourage the Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to return to face-to face talks so they can discuss concerns about the ceasefire and work towards a lasting peace agreement.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) on 5 June 2006 (UIN 73720).

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of people *(a)* killed and *(b)* displaced in Sri Lanka in the last three weeks in attacks by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam; and if she will make a statement. [73408]

Dr. Howells: The Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission (SLMM) recorded 125 deaths in political violence between 1 and 23 May. They categorise the status of victims to be 71 civilians, 36 armed forces members, eight police force members and 10 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) operatives. However, it is not possible to assess which of these may have been killed by the LTTE without prejudging the decisions of the SLMM. Our assessment is that most of the armed forces casualties were inflicted by the LTTE, but other armed groups are also responsible for deaths. There are also reports that Government security forces may be involved in some of the killings.

As at 19 May the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that 8,764 families have fled the violence in Trincomalee district in recent weeks. This is the only district for which there is firm evidence of substantial movements of people.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) on 5 June 2006 (UIN 73720).

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on UK-Sri Lankan relations. [73409]

Dr. Howells: The long-standing relations between the UK and Sri Lanka are good and also wide-ranging. They are maintained through regular contacts at all levels. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister visited London in March 2006 and met my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary and my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality. Topics discussed included the peace process, tsunami reconstruction, immigration issues and countering Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam fundraising. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport visited Sri Lanka in December 2005 and met the Sri Lankan Prime Minister. My hon. Friend the then Minister for Trade, Investment and

Foreign Affairs visited Sri Lanka in January 2006 and met representatives of the Government and Tamil political parties.

We have made clear our continuing support for a peaceful negotiated settlement to the ethnic conflict that meets the legitimate aspirations of all Sri Lankans. The Government provide funding for projects through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool to support this aim.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the freedom of the media in Sri Lanka. [73492]

Dr. Howells: There is no censorship of the Sri Lankan press which, generally reports freely. The public have a wide choice of print and electronic media sources from which to choose. However, we are deeply concerned about the recent attack on a newspaper office in Jaffna that killed two staff. This is the latest incidence of threats and violence directed at journalists in Sri Lanka. We have raised the issue of press freedom with the Sri Lankan Government as well as our concern at the use of violence and intimidation more widely.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of reports of extra-judicial killings by Government security forces in Sri Lanka; [73493]

(2) whether her Department has made representations to the Government of Sri Lanka about alleged human rights abuses by Government forces in Sri Lanka. [73495]

Dr. Howells: We take these reports extremely seriously and have raised with members of the Sri Lankan Government our concerns about human rights. We have made clear that there should be a full and transparent inquiry by the Government into suspected extra-judicial killings in which the safety of witnesses must be guaranteed.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the current situation of the peace process in Sri Lanka. [73494]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) today (UIN 73720).

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the political situation in Sri Lanka; what resources her Department has allocated to peace monitoring there; and if she will make a statement. [73647]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him today (UIN 73407) and to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) today (UIN 73720).

In addition to supporting the work of the Monitoring Mission, the Government provide funding for projects through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool, and receives regular reports from the our high commission in Colombo.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the peace process in Sri Lanka. [73720]

Margaret Beckett: We are deeply concerned at the recent escalation in violence in Sri Lanka. We condemn all forms of violence and intimidation. We urge the Liberation of Tamil Tigers Eilam (LTTE) and the Government of Sri Lanka to fulfil the commitments they made in Geneva in February. The Government pledged that no armed group or person other than Government security forces would carry arms or conduct armed operations. The LTTE pledged to take all necessary measures to ensure that there would be no acts of violence against the security forces and police. Both sides made a commitment to ensure that there will be no intimidation, acts of violence, abductions or killings.

The LTTE is a proscribed organisation in Britain and is likely also to be listed by the EU as a terrorist organisation. We urge the LTTE to renounce violence and pursue a political solution.

We call on the Government of Sri Lanka to do all in their power to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their population. And to ensure that any suspected human rights abuses are fully investigated in an open and transparent way.

We continue to believe that dialogue is the only way to achieve a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Sri Lanka. Violence cannot solve internal differences nor bring sustainable peace. All sides need to exercise restraint and act in a constructive and patient way. We fully support the Norwegian facilitated peace talks and will continue to work for a settlement that takes full account of the legitimate demands of all communities within a democratic and stable Sri Lanka.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the involvement of Sri Lankan security forces in extra-judicial execution of Tamil civilians; and if she will make a statement. [74428]

Dr. Howells: We are deeply concerned at reports that members of Government security forces may have been involved in the deaths of civilians and the intimidation of the civilian population. The Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission has the task of investigating these reports. We strongly endorse their work.

We take such reports extremely seriously and have raised with members of the Sri Lankan Government our concerns about human rights. We have made clear that there should be a full and transparent enquiry by the Government into suspected extra-judicial killings in which the safety of witnesses must be guaranteed. It is important for the Government and the military to adhere fully to international humanitarian law, and accepted rules of conduct and engagement. They must demonstrate that no-one is above the law and that members of the armed forces do not enjoy impunity. We are also concerned at the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's failure to halt the violence despite their

public commitments at the peace talks in Geneva in February to do so. Both sides must follow through on the implementation of their commitments. Violence against the civilian population can never be justified.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what monitoring she is undertaking of the conflict in Sri Lanka. [74455]

Dr. Howells: Under the terms of the cease-fire agreement, the Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission was established to monitor the cease-fire and investigate and record violations by either side. We fully support the work of the Monitoring Mission. Our high commission in Colombo monitors the conflict closely and we receive regular reports from them. We also fund projects in Sri Lanka, through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool, which monitor the levels of violence and seek to mediate on local sources of tension. We are deeply concerned at the recent escalation in violence in Sri Lanka and call on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Government to return to the negotiating table and live up to the commitments they made at talks in Geneva in February this year.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Sri Lankan Government on the recent escalation of violence in Sri Lanka; and what the outcomes of such discussions have been. [74775]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not as yet had discussions with the Sri Lankan Government. When I met the Foreign Minister Samaraweera of Sri Lanka in London in March, I made clear our strong desire to see the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Government live up to commitments they made at talks in Geneva in February. Sadly, this has not happened. As I said during a debate on Sri Lanka in the House on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1606-10, it is vital that both sides return to the negotiating table and work towards a settlement that satisfies the concerns and legitimate aspirations of all Sri Lankans. We shall continue to convey this message, bilaterally and with EU partners.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received from UK groups asking her to put pressure on the Sri Lankan Government to resume peace talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. [74776]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received no such representations. I took part in a debate in Sri Lanka in the House on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1606-10, during which I called on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to move away from the path of violence, and on the Government of Sri Lanka to rein in paramilitary attacks in Government-controlled areas. We consider it important that both sides live up to the commitments they made at talks in Geneva in February this year.

Sudan

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will discuss with the Government of Saudi Arabia the shipment of small arms and light weapons from that country to Government and other combatants in Sudan; and if she will make a statement. [73434]

Mr. Hoon: We are not aware of any arms shipments from Saudi Arabia to Sudan that would constitute a breach of UN sanctions, and therefore have no plans to raise this specifically with the Saudi Arabian Government. However, we discuss a broad range of issues with Saudi Arabia, including the arms trade. Officials from our embassy in Riyadh recently discussed with Saudi counterparts international efforts to set standards for the trade in conventional arms, including progressing the initiative for an Arms Trade Treaty and the Transfer Controls Initiative for Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of reports that rebel forces who signed the recent peace deal in Darfur have broken the ceasefire. [74659]

Mr. McCartney: There have been some indications of an overall reduction in attacks by rebel groups and government forces since the signature of the Darfur Peace Agreement, although attacks by militias have continued. It remains to be seen what will happen in the longer term. The African Union's mission to Darfur is responsible for reporting any breaches of the ceasefire to the Ceasefire Commission. We continue to call on all parties to rein in their fighters and bring an end to the conflict.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the timetable is for the transfer of forces from the African Union to the UN in Darfur. [74660]

Mr. McCartney: The process for the transition involves a series of steps: a UN planning mission to visit Darfur; a Security Council decision on a UN force; mobilisation and deployment. We welcome the Government of Sudan's acceptance of a planning mission and are pressing for them to accept transition to a UN force. The mandate of the current African Union (AU) force in Darfur expires on 30 September 2006, and we are pushing for the UN to begin deploying then. Meanwhile we continue to offer the AU support to enhance the effectiveness of its mission.

Uganda

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what international aid is being used to fund the cost of the treason trial of the opposition leader Dr. Kizza Besigye in Uganda; and if she will make a statement. [73075]

Mr. McCartney: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy (Mr. Llwyd) on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1787-88W.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the independence of the judiciary in Uganda; and if she will make a statement. [74771]

Mr. McCartney: In recent months the Ugandan judiciary has demonstrated a high level of independence in a number of important rulings.

Most recently, on 7 March 2006 High Court Judge Katutsi dismissed the rape charges against opposition leader, Dr. Kizza Besigye, saying that the prosecution had failed to prove its case.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the fairness of the February 2006 presidential election in Uganda, with particular regard to the recent ruling by the Supreme Court; and if she will make a statement. [74773]

Mr. McCartney: Independent election observers monitoring the February 2006 elections in Uganda raised concerns that a level playing field was not established before the elections took place. However, there was consensus that despite some shortcomings on election day there was a high degree of transparency and voters were overall free to vote as they pleased. This is in line with the EU election observers interim statement. They have yet to issue their final report.

On 6 April the Ugandan Supreme Court's judgment highlighted many of the concerns raised by election monitors. But in a majority verdict they also concluded these problems did not substantially affect the result. The detailed opinions underlying their judgment have not been released.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date the Movement Act was repealed by the Ugandan Government; and if she will make a statement. [74786]

Mr. McCartney: Under the 1995 Ugandan Constitution, the Ugandan people have the right to choose between three political systems: the movement system; the multiparty system; and any other democratic and representative system. In July 2005, the Ugandan people voted in a referendum to move from the movement system to a multiparty system. The February 2006 elections were held under a multiparty dispensation.

The Movement Act, governing the movement system, has not been repealed. However, we understand that the movement organs have been disbanded and funding from state has stopped.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of the security situation in Uganda on the 2007 Commonwealth meeting; and if she will make a statement. [74788]

Mr. McCartney: As set out in our travel advice, Uganda shares with neighbouring countries a threat from terrorism and we advise against travel to north and north eastern Uganda because of a rebel insurgency and tribal clashes. Some border areas with the Democratic Republic of Congo are unstable but most visits to Uganda are trouble free and Kampala is a relatively safe city. The travel advice for Uganda can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at: http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket%2FXcelerate%2FShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029390590&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1013618386550.

The Commonwealth Secretariat are responsible for making assessments of the security situation with regard to Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Uganda in 2007. They visited Uganda most recently in April 2006.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the likelihood that Dr. Besigye will receive a fair trial in Uganda; and if she will make a statement. [74823]

Mr. McCartney: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today (UIN 74771). On 16 May my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development raised Dr. Besigye's on-going court case with President Museveni. The President gave an assurance that due process would be followed.

Costa Rica

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on UK-Costa Rican relations. [73562]

Mr. Hoon: Relations between the UK and Costa Rica were established over 150 years ago and remain strong. Our ambassador in San José attended the inauguration of President Oscar Arias in May 2006. The Government looks forward to working with the President and his new Government.

Venezuela

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings have been arranged by her Department between representatives of the Venezuelan Government and the Mayor of London on the President of Venezuela's offer to supply subsidised oil to London, mediated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [73601]

Mr. Hoon: We have arranged no such meetings. We would encourage the Venezuelan Government to use the considerable resources available to them from hydrocarbons production responsibly, for the long-term benefit of all Venezuelans and their country's economic development.

Visas

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what records are kept in UK posts in India of the *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* caste of those applying for (i) visas and (ii) entry clearance. [73903]

Dr. Howells: Our visa sections in India do not collect or hold information on the caste or ethnicity of visa applicants. All entry clearance applications are considered on their individual merits, regardless of religion, ethnicity or caste.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the target time is for the issuing of *(a)* a family visit visa and *(b)* a settlement visa following a successful appeal in the UK. [74112]

Dr. Howells: Once our visa sections receive determinations from the Home Office indicating that the appeal has been allowed, they aim to contact the appellant and bring the application for entry clearance to a conclusion as soon as practicably possible. Entry clearance will be issued unless there has been a significant and material change of circumstances, or material deception has come to light of which the immigration judge would be unaware.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many student visas have been issued to people from *(a)* Nigeria, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* India, *(d)* Turkey and *(e)* Ghana in each of the last five years. [74125]

Dr. Howells: The number of student visas issued in Nigeria, Pakistan, India, Turkey and Ghana over the last five years are as follows:

	2000[1]	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Nigeria	1,516	2,921	3,905	4,154	8,045
Pakistan	2,421	3,744	2,781	10,361	10,859
India	4,790	8,280	12,174	14,641	15,283
Turkey	7,208	5,598	5,468	3,746	4,234
Ghana	1,788	2,315	3,103	2,804	1,749

[1] Prior to 2001-02, entry clearance statistics were published by calendar year.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many complaints have been received relating to UK embassy visa sections in each of the last five years; and how many of them were investigated. [73626]

Dr. Howells: All visa sections are required to keep records of all complaints and the resulting action taken. Data for the number of complaints and action taken are not held centrally by UKvisas. In order to obtain this information, officials would need to contact every post worldwide and this would currently incur disproportionate cost. UKvisas is, however, currently developing a system for doing this in the future.

Weapons Sales (Inspectors)

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many personnel the Government employs to inspect the sale of weapons in the UK. [74174]

Dr. Howells: The practice and policy of the licensing of strategic exports from the UK, including conventional arms, weapons of mass destruction related materials and other dual-use items, is co-ordinated between four Government Departments: the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is also responsible in the enforcement of relevant export control legislation. The Export Control Organisation of the Department of Trade and Industry acts as licensing body for all strategic exports from the UK and currently has a dedicated staff complement of 110. Other interested departments each have personnel tasked with assessing and monitoring the UK's strategic exports, as well as advising on related policy issues.

Western Sahara

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice she offered British MEPs on how to vote on the recent EU-Morocco fishing deal in the waters of the western Sahara; and what action the British Government proposes to take to protect the rights of the Saharian people. [74330]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did not advise UK Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) how to vote on the EU/Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement.

Officials from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs provided UK MEPs with briefing on the Agreement and on the UK's position.

The United Nations defines Western Sahara as a non-self-governing territory. As the de facto administering power, Morocco is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under its administration do not adversely affect the interests of the people of the territory. The Fisheries Agreement, under Article 10, envisages the establishment of a Joint Committee to monitor the implementation of the terms of the Agreement, including the impact it has on the local population. The UK will follow its work and conclusions closely.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will press for a resolution of Western Sahara's disputed independence at the United Nations. [74754]

Dr. Howells: The UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General, and his Personal Envoy to Western Sahara, to find a just, lasting and mutually acceptable solution to the Western Sahara dispute. The UK supported UN Security Council Resolution 1675, adopted on 28 April, which extends the mandate of the UN Mission for a Referendum in Western Sahara until 31 October 2006.

We will continue, at both ministerial and official level, to urge all parties to the dispute to engage constructively with the UN.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 5 June 2006

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the NHS hospitals in Lancashire with accident and emergency departments; and whether in each case they are type *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three. [70317]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of accident and emergency services provided by national health service trusts is reported at trust level on the number of services they provide, according to definitions set by the Department. It is not possible to assign these services to individual hospitals. The available information is therefore shown in the following table and is for the end of March 2006.

Organisation name	*Type 1 (major department)*	*Type 2 (single-specialty department)*	*Type 3 (minor injuries and illness service, including minor injury units and walk-in centres*	*All types*
Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority	9	0	11	20
Blackpool Primary Care Trust	0	0	1	1
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust	1	0	0	1
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	2	0	0	2
Eden Valley PCT	0	0	4	4
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT	0	0	1	1
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2	0	0	2
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	2	0	0	2
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	2	0	1	3
West Cumbria PCT	0	0	3	3
West Lancashire PCT	0	0	1	1

Note:
Type 3 includes walk-in centres
Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE

Agency Workers

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the NHS salary budget was spent on agency workers in 2005-06; and if she will make a statement. [73261]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department collects expenditure information on non-national health service staff. Non-NHS staff expenditure includes all agency staff and any other staff not directly employed.

Data for 2005-06 are not yet available.

Agenda for Change

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation there has been with ambulance technicians and paramedics in the national level discussions on Agenda for Change policy for those professions. [72771]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The provisions of Agenda for Change for ambulance staff were agreed by the NHS Staff Council following detailed discussions with nationally recognised unions and professionals representing ambulance staff.

Ambulance Services

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations she has received from hon. Members expressing opposition to the proposed reconfiguration of NHS ambulance services. [68443]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A 14-week consultation on the proposed configuration of national health service ambulance trusts in England was led by strategic health authorities (SHAs) and ended on 22 March 2006. The responses submitted by SHAs together with letters sent directly to the Department indicate that there have been about 40 written responses from hon. Members expressing varying degrees of concern about the reconfiguration proposals. These were considered carefully before making the decisions announced on 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 849-66.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on Government policy on the outsourcing of non-emergency ambulance services. [70098]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for ensuring that there is provision of ambulance services, which could include patient transport services,

to such extent as they consider necessary to meet all reasonable requirements. It is, therefore, for the local national health service to decide who provides patient transport services for eligible patients in their area.

A range of different providers may and do provide patient transport services, for example the local ambulance service, private or voluntary sector providers, or a combination of these organisations. It is for PCTs to ensure that that they are getting the best service for the best price. The ambulance review "Taking Healthcare to the Patient: Transforming NHS Ambulance Services" set out our intention to develop a system of accreditation of independent ambulance providers, which should help PCTs further in making this assessment.

Audiologists

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library the full-time equivalent figures for the number of qualified audiologists at each hospital trust at 30 September 2004. [74331]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table showing the number of full-time equivalent (fte) health care scientists working in audiology in September 2004 by primary care trust and trust has been placed in the Library. The total number has increased by 4 per cent. to 1,421 fte in September 2005.

Barts/Broomfield Hospitals PFI

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 577W, on Barts/Broomfield Hospitals PFI, to the hon. Member for Cheadle (Mark Hunter), when departmental officials will write to NHS trusts letting them know how the private finance initiative reappraisal process will work; and if she will place a copy of this letter in the Library. [66058]

Andy Burnham: Trusts have had the broad nature of the reappraisal exercise, including a summary of the key indicators being used by the Department, outlined to them in a number of meetings with officials. The exercise is already under way, and over the coming months the lead official responsible for the exercise will be visiting all trusts with private finance initiative projects.

These arrangements were confirmed in the letter from Sir Ian Carruthers to all national health service organisations on the 10 May 2006. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library.

Bowel Cancer

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will answer questions *(a)* 65745, *(b)* 65744, *(c)* 65381 and *(d)* 63643, on the bowel cancer screening programme, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere. [70896]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Replies were given on 10 and 12 May.

Cancer Treatment (Beta Glucan)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has evaluated on the efficacy of beta glucan in treating cancer. [74415]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no authorised medicinal products available in the United Kingdom containing beta glucan so its efficacy in treating cancer has not been established.

Capital Projects

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth Primary Care Trust on capital projects in the Tamworth constituency in each of the last five years. [71247]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table on total capital expenditure by Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth Primary Care Trust (PCT) 2001-02 to 2004-05.

	£000
2001-02	0
2002-03	17,804
2003-04	15,327
2004-05	2,506

Notes:
1. Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT was established on 1 April 2001
2. 2004-05 is the latest year for which information is available.

Sources:
Audited summarisation schedules of the Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT 2001-02 to 2004-05

Care Homes

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people in care homes paid top-up fees in each region of England in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [74078]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally in the form requested. However, in the UK-wide survey of care homes conducted by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) for their report "Care Homes for Older People in the UK", published in May 2005, the OFT found that the average care home in the United Kingdom had 32 places of which seven were paid for by a combination of the local authority and a third party top-up.

We increased total resources available for social services by an average of 6 per cent. a year in real terms over the three years 2003-04 to 2005-06. These increases follow a 20 per cent. increase in the level of funding for social services between 1996-97 and 2002-03. This enables local councils to purchase the services to meet their residents' needs.

Chiropractic Management

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to enable NHS patients to

choose chiropractic management of their musculoskeletal disorders. [73326]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national health service currently provides a range of services for people with musculoskeletal conditions including, where appropriate, access to chiropractic services.

Improvements in the care offered to people with musculoskeletal conditions will be supported by the musculoskeletal framework (MSF), which will be published later this year. The MSF will promote the development of services outside hospital, based on informed self-care and better access to a range of health care professionals. The MSF will also build on the principles of current Government policy, ensuring that musculoskeletal services are organised, as far as possible, around the needs and choices of individual patients.

Community Nursing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the age profile is of the current workforce of community nurses; and how many community nurses who are in post will reach retirement age in the next 10 years; [72264]

(2) how many community nursing posts there are in the NHS in England; how many are vacant; and how many have been vacant for *(a)* three months or less, *(b)* three to six months and *(c)* six months to a year; [72261]

(3) how many qualified community nurses were employed in management roles in January *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2006; [72262]

(4) how many NHS trusts are employing health care assistants in community nursing roles. [72263]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of community nursing staff and their age profile as at September 2005 has been placed in the Library as well as information on the number of community nurses by level and each specified area of work as at September 2000, 2003 and 2005.

Vacancy information for the community nurses group is not collected centrally. However, information on the number of vacancies and three-month vacancy rate for constituent groups of community nurses has also been placed in the Library.

Information on posts which have been vacant for three months or less or specifically six months to a year is not collected centrally.

The national health service workforce census for 2006 will not be conducted until September 2006.

Information on the number of NHS trusts employing health care assistants in community nursing roles is not collected centrally.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Minister of State will reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 25 April. [73892]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This letter was replied to on 25 May 2006.

Critical Care Hospital (St. Helier)

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if, in considering the Epsom and St. Helier NHS Hospital Trust's response to her insistence that the new critical care hospital be at St. Helier, she will look again at the concerns, particularly from the elderly residents of Mole Valley, at the transport difficulties and delays to travel to St. Heliers; [74464]

(2) when she will reply to the Epsom and St. Helier NHS Hospital Trust's reply to her direction that St. Helier be the preferred site for the new hospital build; [74465]

(3) if she will take the representations received from elderly residents of Mole Valley on travel to St. Heliers into account when considering the response from St. Helier NHS Hospital Trust to her direction that the proposed new critical care hospital be situated in St. Helier. [74542]

Caroline Flint: The Department has received the response from the local national health service on St. Helier and is currently considering the situation.

Dentistry

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* orthodontic consultants and *(b)* fully trained specialist registrars in orthodontics there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* Beverley and Holderness in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [66524]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available by constituency. Information for England, North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire strategic health authority, and Hull and East Yorkshire hospitals national health service trust is shown in the following table:

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Dental staff within the Orthodontics specialty by specified grades and organisation in North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA England as at 30 September each year

Number (headcount)

	England	*Of which: North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA*	*Of which: Hull and East Yorkshire hospitals NHS Trust*
1997			
All staff	249	16	0
Of which:			
Consultant	153	3	0

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Dental staff within the Orthodontics specialty by specified grades[1] and organisation in North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA England as at 30 September each year

Number (headcount)

	England	*Of which: North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA*	*Of which: Hull and East Yorkshire hospitals NHS Trust*
Registrar Group	96	1	0
1998			
All Staff	256	13	0
Of which:			
Consultant	153	2	0
Registrar Group	103	1	0
1999			
All staff	255	15	0
Of which:			
Consultant	157	4	0
Registrar Group	98	1	0
2000			
All staff	254	24	12
Of which:			
Consultant	161	3	2
Registrar Group	93	0	0
2001			
All staff	253	25	11
Of which:			
Consultant	154	6	3
Registrar Group	99	0	0
2002			
All staff	275	24	12
Of which:			
Consultant	161	6	3
Registrar Group	114	1	0
2003			
All staff	280	25	13
Of which:			
Consultant	178	7	4
Registrar Group	102	1	0
2004			
All staff	284	25	12
Of which:			
Consultant	180	9	5
Registrar Group	104	1	0
2005			
All staff	326	23	12
Of which:			
Consultant	206	7	5
Registrar Group	120	0	0

[1] Registrar Group includes the Specialist Registrar Grade

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care—Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to dental access centres in England since 2000-01; and what the projected funding is to 2009-10. [70341]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Dental access centres (DACs) are managed by primary care trusts (PCTs). There are not separate expenditure lines for DACs within PCT accounts and there has been no single funding stream. DACs have instead been funded through a variety of mechanisms as part of the non-discretionary general dental services and PCT-led personal dental service pilots. A separate breakdown of DAC expenditure and allocations would be available only at disproportionate cost.

For this and future years, PCTs will receive allocations, totalling around £1.7 billion for 2006-07, which include funding for the primary care dentistry they commission, including DACs. There is no funding stream or allocation specifically for DACs as it is now up to PCTs how they provide for the dental needs of their population.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much will be allocated to the North West strategic health authority for dentistry in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [70342]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The main element of national health service dental services is the primary dental care services provided by dentists working within the general dental service, or personal dental service. From 1 April 2006 all primary dental care services are managed locally, and the Department has allocated the sums shown in the table to primary care trusts (PCTs) in the area of the proposed North West strategic health authority (SHA) to support primary dental care in 2006-07. As well as the net primary dental service resource allocations awarded to PCTs, the table indicates the gross budget and associated patient charge income that might be expected to be available to each PCT.

Net primary dental service allocations for 2007-08 and 2008-09 will be announced later.

PCTs decide locally what proportion of their general NHS resource allocation should be awarded to hospital and community dental services, or whether any additional funding should be directed to primary dental care services.

Primary dental service allocations, North West SHA, 2006-07

£

PCT	Gross primary dental service budget	Expected patient dental charge income	Net primary dental service allocation[1]
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	17,602,466	5,158,289	12,444,000
Bebington and West Wirral	6,226,387	2,550,061	3,676,000
Birkenhead and Wallasey	14,447,946	5,122,871	9,325,000
Blackburn with Darwen	8,754,008	1,702,986	7,051,000
Blackpool	7,172,278	2,302,558	4,870,000
Bolton	11,644,961	3,001,079	8,644,000
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale	11,554,735	2,117,703	9,437,000
Bury	10,854,198	2,673,946	8,180,000
Carlisle and District	5,026,042	1,782,379	3,244,000
Central Cheshire	12,951,298	3,964,221	8,987,000
Central Liverpool	12,419,045	1,903,304	10,516,000
Central Manchester	9,447,734	1,532,950	7,915,000
Cheshire West	9,539,578	2,442,551	7,097,000
Chorley and South Ribble	9,162,204	2,910,573	6,252,000
Eastern Cheshire	11,730,572	3,818,513	7,912,000
Eden Valley	2,914,434	946,131	1,968,000
Ellesmere Port and Neston	4,106,753	875,438	3,231,000
Fylde	4,749,298	1,701,243	3,048,000
Halton	5,676,761	1,421,347	4,255,000
Heywood and Middleton	3,276,112	1,154,679	2,121,000
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	4,193,437	689,337	3,504,000
Knowsley	6,081,885	1,226,055	4,856,000
Morecambe Bay	13,802,811	4,390,064	9,413,000
North Liverpool	8,186,286	1,715,471	6,471,000
North Manchester	8,241,470	1,624,418	6,617,000
Oldham	11,012,088	2,815,885	8,196,000
Preston	6,951,495	1,786,215	5,165,000
Rochdale	4,963,466	1,250,009	3,713,000
Salford	13,087,352	2,754,823	10,333,000
South Liverpool	4,048,564	1,193,812	2,855,000
South Manchester	6,457,458	1,380,138	5,077,000
South Sefton	7,360,250	1,327,347	6,033,000
Southport and Formby	7,454,219	2,093,612	5,361,000
St. Helens	9,459,367	2,411,272	7,048,000
Stockport	16,694,808	5,463,159	11,232,000
Tameside and Glossop	13,284,656	3,553,961	9,731,000
Trafford North	4,174,013	1,295,351	2,879,000

Primary dental service allocations, North West SHA, 2006-07

£

PCT	Gross primary dental service budget	Expected patient dental charge income	Net primary dental service allocation[1]
Trafford South	7,064,968	2,394,968	4,670,000
Warrington	10,577,339	3,467,339	7,110,000
West Cumbria	5,739,957	1,946,624	3,793,000
West Lancashire	8,129,005	1,715,409	6,414,000
Wyre	5,665,506	1,837,507	3,828,000
Total	361,887,208	97,415,608	264,472,000

[1] Rounded to nearest £000

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in Suffolk have *(a)* been offered, *(b)* not yet accepted and *(c)* declined the new NHS contract. [69816]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of dentists who have signed the new contract is not available centrally. We do however have some provisional information that covers contracts. A contract may be for more that one dentist so cannot be broken down further to individual dentist level.

The following table shows the number of new dental contracts signed and rejected in the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority area.

	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA
Contracts signed	
Number	358
Nation Health Service service levels (compared with rejected contracts) (percentage)	95.9
Contracts rejected	
Number	32

Source:
Department of Health

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the level of access to NHS dentistry in Wellingborough. [71056]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is estimated that 61 per cent. of children and 47 per cent. of adults in the Northamptonshire Heartlands primary care trust area are registered with a national health service dentist. At 31 March 2006, 79,010 patients had been seen by a dentist in the last 15 months.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether there are plans to issue further licences to companies to manufacture and supply dental anaesthetic; [71101]

(2) how much dental anaesthetic was imported in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [71107]

(3) what solutions have been considered to the dental anaesthetic shortage to ensure that service to patients is not disrupted; [71109]

(4) what has caused the shortage of the dental anaesthetic supplied by *(a)* Dentsply and *(b)* Deproco. [71111]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Any company wishing to market dental local anaesthetics in the United Kingdom must first obtain marketing authorisations from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). These are granted only if the products meet the required standards of quality, safety and efficacy, and the MHRA cannot predict whether a marketing authorisation will be granted until assessment of all relevant data is complete. Information on current applications is confidential. The MHRA have been kept aware of the recent supply difficulties.

Information on the amount of dental anaesthetic imported is not held centrally.

Dentsply experienced problems at its manufacturing site in the United States of America, and has had to identify an alternative production facility. There is no reported shortage of dental local anaesthetic from Deproco, which has increased its production to cover the predicted shortfall left by the temporary absence of Dentsply. Dentsply is doing everything possible to return to the market as soon as possible.

The Department's chief dental officer wrote to all dentists in England to inform them of the current supply situation, advising them not to stockpile local anaesthetic. A statement was published on 20 April which is available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/39/80/04133980.pdf

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many routine dental operations have been cancelled due to the current shortage of dental anaesthetic. [71108]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not received reports of any dental operations cancelled because of a shortage of anaesthetic.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to require primary care trusts to find out which dentists in their area are taking on NHS patients, report the information to her Department on a regular basis, and make the information readily available to the public, including a local search facility under the dentists' link of the www.nhs.uk website. [71410]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The nhs.uk website is set up to allow users to search for the dentists providing national health service services which are located nearest to the patient's home post code. Wider local searches are also available to find all dentists providing NHS services within a particular primary care trust (PCT) area.

It is for PCTs to decide how most effectively to provide information to the local public about which dentists are currently accepting new patients and to agree local arrangements with NHS Direct and nhs.uk.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will restructure the new NHS dentist contracts to increase the number of dentists accepting NHS patients. [71686]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The new national health service's dental contract has been designed to support new ways of working that will support continued improvements in access to services. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning and developing services in their area to reflect the needs of the local population. The Department has established an implementation group comprising professional, patient and NHS representatives to review the impact of the reforms and check that they are achieving their intended benefits.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists per 1,000 of population there are in Bolton, South-East constituency, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England. [72609]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The numbers of dentists with a general dental services contract or personal dental services agreement per 1,000 of population as at 31 December 2005 for England, Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and Bolton Primary Care Trust (PCT) are shown in the table. Population data at constituency level are not available.

	Number
England	0.418
Greater Manchester SHA	0.413
Bolton PCT	0.404

Notes:
1. Official 2005 population data are not yet available. The figures in the table have therefore been estimated using Office for National Statistics 2004 mid-year population estimates based on the 2001 census as these are the latest available.
2. Dentists with CDS or PDS contracts provide varying amounts of NHS treatment. Information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists are not centrally available.
3. Dentists consist of principals, assistants and trainees. Prison contracts have been excluded.
4. The postcode of the dental practice was used to allocate dentists to specific geographic areas. PCT and SHA areas have been defined using the Office for National Statistics All Fields Postcode Directory.

Source:
NHS Business Services Authority and Office for National Statistics.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in each Birmingham constituency *(a)* have and *(b)* have not taken up the new NHS dental contract. [72360]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of dentists who have signed the new contract is not available centrally. We do, however, have some provisional information that covers contracts. A contract may be for more than one dentist, so cannot be broken down further to individual dentist level.

	Contracts signed		*Contracts still in discussion*		*Contracts rejected*			*Contracts signed*		
Primary care trust	*No.*	*Approx units of dental activity (UDA) value*	*No.*	*Approx UDA value*	*No.*	*Approx UDA value*	*%*	*No. signed without dispute*	*No. signed in dispute*	*%*
East Birmingham	30	382,676	0	0	0	0	0.0	14	16	53.3
North Birmingham	20	232,566	0	0	5	5,563	2.3	14	6	30.0
Solihull	35	247,656	0	0	3	1,503	0.6	8	27	77.1
Dudley Beacon and Castle	16	198,442	0	0	0	0	0.0	16	0	0.0
Dudley, South	40	345,700	0	0	4	35,064	9.2	37	3	7.5
Walsall	35	377,201	0	0	0	0	0.0	30	5	14.3
Wolverhampton City	46	451,843	0	0	3	2,847	0.6	36	10	21.7
Heart of Birmingham	50	572,244	0	0	2	8,936	1.5	23	27	54.0
South Birmingham	76	623,556	0	0	9	80,912	11.5	39	37	48.7
Sandwell	49	637,384	0	0	0	0	0.0	3	46	93.9
Total	397	4,069,268	0	0	26	134,825	3.2	220	177	44.6

Note:
The information provided is not validated. It represents a snapshot of the position in early April.

A contract may be for either a practice or an individual dentist.

PCTs are working with dentists to resolve as many disputes as possible locally.

Diabetes

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* each English region, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland aged (i) 0 to 15 years, (ii) 16 to 24 years, (iii) 25 to 39 years and (iv) 40 years and above are diagnosed with diabetes; [71084]

(2) what the percentage change was in the diagnosis of diabetes cases among people aged *(a)* 0 to 15 years, *(b)* 16 to 24 years, *(c)* 25 to 39 years and *(d)* 40 years and above in (i) England, (ii) each English region, (iii) the Tees Valley and (iv) Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland in each year since 1997. [71085]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not collected in the format requested. The Health Survey for England provides estimates of doctor-diagnosed diabetes for adults in England. Data are not available for children. However, estimates are available for the prevalence of doctor-diagnosed diabetes among men and women aged 16 and over in England in each of the

years 1994, 1998, and 2003 for the following age groups: 16 to 24, 25 to 34, 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64, 65 to 74 and 75+. These data are shown in Table one.

Table two gives a regional breakdown by Government office region (GOR) and by gender.

Table 1. Prevalence of doctor-diagnosed diabetes[1] among adults[2], by age group and sex, England 1994,1998 and 2003: England

Percentages

	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total
Men								
1994	0.8	0.8	1.0	2.5	6.4	5.8	7.5	2.9
1998	0.1	0.7	1.6	2.9	5.8	7.0	8.7	3.3
2003 (unweighted)[3]	0.4	0.4	2.6	3.5	8.0	11.8	9.9	4.8
Women								
1994	0.6	0.3	0.9	1.5	2.5	4.8	5.2	1.9
1998	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.6	3.1	6.6	6.6	2.5
2003 (unweighted)[3]	0.8	0.9	1.5	2.5	4.7	8.3	8.9	3.6
Bases								
Men								
1994	968	1,434	1,329	1,127	1,001	877	441	7,177
1998	875	1,338	1,305	1,289	987	837	562	7,193
2003 (unweighted)	746	1,025	1,263	1,101	1,103	807	557	8,462
Women								
1994	1,080	1,723	1,520	1,300	1,059	1,120	825	8,627
1998	1,006	1,630	1,573	1,484	1,148	967	907	8,715
2003 (unweighted)	890	1,285	1,618	1,279	1,307	952	903	10,091

[1] Includes type 1 and type 2 diabetes.
[2] Adults aged 16 and over.
[3] Data from 2003 onwards have been weighted for non-response. Unweighted data for 2003 onwards are provided for consistency with previous years which are also unweighted.
Source:
Health Survey for England in 2004—updating of trend tables to include 2004 data. The Information Centre.

Table 2. Doctor-diagnosed diabetes prevalence (observed and age-standardised) of adults[1], by Government office region and sex: 2003 England

Percentages

	Government office region								
Doctor-diagnosed diabetes	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*
Men									
Observed	3.9	3.8	4	4.3	5.6	5.6	5.1	2.4	3.4
Standardised	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.7	4.9	4.8	5.4	2.9	2.8
Women									
Observed	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.7	4	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.2
Standardised	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.5	3.8	3.7	4.4	3.2	2.7
Bases (unweighted)									
Men	398	933	631	617	718	718	849	1,022	645
Women	517	1,146	793	769	913	913	1,061	1,287	803
Bases (weighted)									
Men	368	963	712	635	770	815	1,077	1,153	709
Women	416	1,025	799	660	817	844	1,102	1,233	769

[1] Adults aged 16 and over.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2003

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children have Type 2 diabetes; and what the figures were in each year since 1997. [71383]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Health Survey for England provides estimates of doctor-diagnosed diabetes. We are unable to provide figures of the percentage of children who have diabetes, as this information is not collected for children in the survey. However, we can provide the prevalence of adults with type 2 diabetes in England, in 2003, by sex. This data is shown in the following table. Data from previous Health Surveys' are not comparable to the 2003 data.

Prevalence of doctor-diagnosed type 2 diabetes of adults[1], by sex, 2003, England

	Number of doctor-diagnosed diabetes	*Percentage of doctor-diagnosed diabetes*
Men	—	3.8
Women	—	3.1
Bases (unweighted)		
Men	6,602	—
Women	8,234	—
Bases (weighted)		
Men	7,202	—
Women	7,634	—

[1] Adults aged 16 and over.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2003.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* physicians, *(b)* patients and *(c)* care groups about advances in diabetes care. [72049]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I met with Diabetes UK, the major charity in the United Kingdom working for people with diabetes, on 10 May 2006.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations she has received on the merits of the use of insulin inhalers. [72050]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have received a number of items of correspondence on inhaled insulin from the manufacturer of inhaled insulin, from Members of Parliament on behalf of their constituents, and from people with diabetes, their relatives and carers. The correspondence relates to the recent interim decision by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence not to recommend inhaled insulin for the treatment of type 1 and type 2 diabetes, except in the context of clinical trials.

Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost savings to the NHS resulting from value for money recommendations contained in the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin. [74474]

Andy Burnham: I have made no such assesment.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost savings from ending her Department's funding of the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin. [74475]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1743W.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria the Department used in making the decision to withdraw central funds from the Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin. [73230]

Andy Burnham: This decision was informed by our policy to devolve as much responsibility as possible to the national health service and to look very critically at central spending. It is our policy that central spending should be kept to an absolute minimum in order to maximise the resources available for the NHS to manage at local level. The decision also took account of the availability of other sources of medicines information.

Eating Disorders

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what percentage of people were estimated to have an eating disorder in each of the regions in each of the last three years; [69206]

(2) how many deaths in each of the regions have had eating disorders recorded as a contributory factor in each of the last five years. [69207]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number and percentage of people estimated to have an eating disorder in each of the regions in England in each of the last three years is shown in Tables 1, 2 and 3. The data refer only to patients who were admitted to hospital and who had a primary diagnosis of eating disorder, but no data are available for patients with eating disorders who were not admitted to hospital.

Corroborative data are not available which attribute the cause of death wholly or partly to an eating disorder, and where there has also been admittance to hospital with a primary diagnosis of eating disorder. The cause of death in hospital may be unrelated to the primary diagnosis, which provides the main reason for a patient's admission only.

Table 1: All diagnoses count of patients with eating disorders (ICD-10 F50) and as a percentage of the total population, NHS hospitals, 2002-03

Government office region of residence	*All diagnoses of patients with eating disorders admitted into NHS hospitals 2002-03*	*Estimated population for 2002*	*All diagnoses of patients with eating disorders admitted into NHS hospitals as a percentage of the total population 2002-03*
North East	111	2,538,003	0.00
North West	307	6,783,485	0.00

Table 1: All diagnoses count of patients with eating disorders (ICD-10 F50) and as a percentage of the total population, NHS hospitals, 2002-03

Government office region of residence	All diagnoses of patients with eating disorders admitted into NHS hospitals 2002-03	Estimated population for 2002	All diagnoses of patients with eating disorders admitted into NHS hospitals as a percentage of the total population 2002-03
Yorkshire and the Humber	213	4,993,126	0.00
East Midlands	186	4,222,937	0.00
West Midlands	209	5,304,144	0.00
East of England	266	5,422,397	0.00
London	340	7,371,239	0.00
South East	440	8,043,971	0.01
South West	328	4,967,549	0.01
Other (Non-England and unknown)	55	—	—

Table 2: All diagnoses count of patients with eating disorders (ICD-10 F50) and as a percentage of the total population, NHS hospitals, 2003-04

Government office region of residence	All diagnoses of patients with eating disorders admitted into NHS hospitals 2003-04	Estimated population for 2003	All diagnoses of patients with eating disorders admitted into NHS hospitals as a percentage of the total population 2003-04
North East	1,359	2,539,363	0.01
North West	302	6,804,532	0.00
Yorkshire and the Humber	213	5,009,306	0.00
East Midlands	193	4,252,294	0.00
West Midlands	229	5,319,892	0.00
East of England	249	5,462,918	0.00
London	317	7,387,868	0.00
South East	449	8,080,280	0.01
South West	314	4,999,287	0.01
Other (Non-England and unknown)	27	—	—

Table 3: All diagnoses count of patients with eating disorders (ICD-10 F50) and as a percentage of the total population, NHS hospitals 2004-05

Government office region of residence	All diagnoses of patients with eating disorders admitted into NHS hospitals 2004-05	Estimated population for 2004	All diagnoses of patients with eating disorders admitted into NHS hospitals as a percentage of the total population 2004-05
North East	129	2,545,073	0.01
North West	329	6,827,170	0.00
Yorkshire and the Humber	194	5,038,849	0.00
East Midlands	215	4,279,707	0.01
West Midlands	221	5,334,006	0.00
East of England	288	5,491,293	0.01
London	362	7,428,590	0.00
South East	439	8,110,242	0.01
South West	311	5,038,200	0.01
Other (Non-England and unknown)	55	—	—

Notes:
1. All diagnoses count of patients: these figures represent a count of all patients where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.
2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

European Nutrition for Health Alliance International Longevity Centre UK

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations her Department has received from the *(a)* European Nutrition for Health Alliance and *(b)* International Longevity Centre UK. [64142]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not, to date, received any representations from either the European Nutrition for Health Alliance or the International Longevity Centre UK.

Fraser Day Hospital

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects Milton Keynes primary care trust's consultation on the closure of the Fraser day hospital to end; and who the consultees are. [75141]

Andy Burnham: Public consultation commenced on 8 May and is due to run for 90 days. Those being consulted include staff, patients, the general public, voluntary

organisations, Members of Parliament, local authorities, and local overview and scrutiny committees.

Health Services (Cornwall)

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of accident and emergency patients in Cornwall had a trolley wait of over four hours in the last period for which figures are available. [72793]

Caroline Flint: Information on the percentage of patients not placed in a bed in a ward within four hours of a decision to admit, commonly referred to as a trolley wait, is reported by national health service trusts and published quarterly. Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust reported that 3.4 per cent. of patients were in this position for the period January to March 2006. This information is for admissions from type one (major) accident and emergency departments only.

Further information is available on the Department's website at: www.performance.doh.gov.uk/hospitalactivity.

Hospices

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to increase the proportion of the costs of hospices contributed by the NHS. [74700]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible within the national health service for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including palliative care. The Government have met their commitment in the NHS Cancer Plan to provide an extra £50 million per annum for specialist palliative care. This represents a 40 per cent. increase in NHS funding on 2000 levels. PCTs, having assessed their local priorities, can invest more. This investment must be in line with local strategic plans and an assessment of need.

The NHS is currently receiving the largest sustained increase in funding in its history. PCTs will be able to use these extra resources to deliver on both national and local priorities including, as they determine, palliative care.

Hospital Building

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the major hospital building projects that *(a)* are under way and *(b)* have received building permission. [74189]

Andy Burnham: The following information lists the major hospital building projects that are under construction:

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire;
East Lancashire Hospitals;
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership;
Lewisham Hospital;
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals;
Brighton and Sussex University;
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals;
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals;
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals;
Leeds Teaching Hospitals;
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospitals;
Sherwood Forest Hospitals;
Portsmouth Hospitals; and
Barts and The London Hospitals.

All schemes are required to have secured outline and full planning permission as a condition of approval to proceed to construction.

Hospital Provision (Liverpool)

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she last reviewed strategic hospital provision in Liverpool; and if she will make a statement. [74554]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is the responsibility of the Cheshire and Merseyside strategic health authority to build capacity and create a strategic framework for the improvement of the health service in Cheshire and Merseyside, including the provision of hospital services.

Islington Primary Care Trust

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total spending by Islington primary care trust was in each of the last five years; what those figures represent per capita; what the capita figures were for the rest of London in each year; and what the estimated figures are for 2006-07. [73904]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The table shows total expenditure and expenditure per head by Islington primary care trust (PCT) and organisations in London.

	Islington PCT		*London strategic health authorities (SHA) area*
	Expenditure (£000)	*Expenditure per head (£)*	*Expenditure per head (£)*
2002-03	260,897	1,444.14	1,186.77
2003-04	261,761	1,448.92	1,315.78
2004-05	313,248	1,721.45	1,441.33

Notes:
1. Islington PCT did not come into existence until 1 April 2002.
2. Expenditure by strategic health authority area is taken as the total expenditure of the strategic health authority, and primary care trusts within the strategic health authority area.
3. Expenditure on general dental services and pharmaceutical services accounted for by the Dental Practice Board and Prescription Pricing Authority, respectively, are excluded. This expenditure cannot be included within the figures for the individual health bodies as they are not included in commissioner accounts.

Sources:
Audited summarisation forms of London SHAs 2002-03 to 2004-05.
Audited summarisation schedules of London primary care trusts 2002-03 to 2004-05.

Language Assessments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what language assessments are undertaken by non-UK trained *(a)* medical and *(b)* nursing staff before they are permitted to work in the NHS. [70155]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Medical and nursing overseas applicants must be registered by the General Medical Council (GMC) and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) respectively before being permitted to work in the national health service. Both the GMC and the NMC require applicants from outside the European Economic Area to demonstrate competence in the English language by achieving a specific mark in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). NHS employees have a responsibility to satisfy themselves that doctors and nurses they employ are able to communicate effectively and may decide to test accordingly.

Local Improvement Schemes

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list local improvement finance trust schemes undertaken in *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency and *(b)* Shropshire in each year since the initiative was introduced. [74337]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no local improvement finance trusts (LIFT) schemes in the Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency or in Shropshire. It is for local primary care trusts to decide to seek approval from the Department to establish LIFT schemes in their areas, and they do this in the light of the health and social care needs of their population. The local primary care trusts have decided not to seek approval to establish LIFT schemes in their areas.

Lowermoor Water Pollution

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will arrange for funding for a systematic long-term study of the health effects that *(a)* have resulted and *(b)* will result from the Lowermoor water pollution incident. [74280]

Caroline Flint: We will consider the need for further work on health effects of the Lowermoor water pollution incident after we have received the final report of the Lowermoor sub-group of the committee on toxicity of chemicals in food, consumer products and the environment. The draft report has been out for consultation.

Lyme Disease

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Department is providing for research into Lyme disease in 2006-07; and how much was spent in each of the last three years. [74622]

Caroline Flint: The Department is funding research by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) in two areas relating to Lyme disease: diagnosis and detection, and a survey of ticks.

The HPA's Lyme disease specialist reference unit laboratory, which undertakes routine diagnostic work, is conducting research in diagnosis and detection. The costs of the research work are financed from the core funding of the HPA and are not separately identifiable.

A survey of ticks is being undertaken by HPA's centre for emergency preparedness and response. Funding for this is through HPA's grant in aid and the estimated costs for this work are as follows:

	£ Amount
2006-07[1]	38,777
2005-06	37,286
2004-05	35,851

[1] Full year projection

Figures are not available for 2003-04.

Macfarlane Trust

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether she has arranged to meet the Chairman of the Macfarlane Trust to discuss the Trust's report requesting increased funding for people with haemophilia who were infected with HIV by their NHS treatment; [73258]

(2) what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the average payment to those registered with the Macfarlane Trust; [73259]

(3) what response her Department has made to the recommendation in the business case of the Macfarlane Trust that a capital sum should be paid to the surviving registrants of the Trust. [73260]

Caroline Flint: The Department is considering a submission from the Macfarlane Trust seeking increased funding. This consideration will be concluded shortly. It is the Department's intention to continue funding the Trust on a year to year basis. I have written to the chairman of the Macfarlane Trust agreeing to arrange a meeting.

Medicine Disposal

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to prevent the inappropriate *(a)* use and *(b)* disposal of drugs following the death of a person in receipt of prescribed medicines. [74609]

Andy Burnham: A number of steps have been taken. As part of the new contractual framework that went live from April 2005, all community pharmacies are expected to accept unwanted medicines and should have suitable and safe arrangements for the collection and safe disposal of medicines. The profile of safe use, storage and disposal of medicines has been raised through NHS Direct's website and the NHS Direct section of the Thompson local directory, which is issued to all households. We are also in discussion with NHS Direct to develop a leaflet, which professionals can give to members of the public when they are prescribed controlled drugs to ensure that they understand the importance of taking these medicines, and also to encourage them to return unused and unwanted medicines to pharmacies for safe disposal. We take every appropriate opportunity to communicate messages of safe use and disposal of medicines in our communication strategy.

The Fourth Report of the Shipman Inquiry made a number of recommendations to ensure the appropriate disposal of controlled drugs following the death of the person in receipt of these prescribed medicines. The Department is currently piloting patient drug record cards for schedule two injectable controlled drugs in the community.

Mental Health

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the findings were of the race equality impact assessment of the 2004 draft Mental Health Bill; and when she expects to publish the assessment. [71253]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As the draft Mental Health Bill published in 2004 no longer represents current Government policy on mental health legislation we have not and do not intend to finalise the report of the race equality impact assessment (REIA) that was undertaken last year. However, we have listened to what people said during the consultation on the 2004 draft Bill and we will carry forward their comments when developing the REIA for the amending Bill.

We will be publishing a summary of the responses collected from the former REIA process, to assist in the development of issues for the current REIA. The summary will be available on the Department website shortly.

Information about the Mental Health Bill REIA is available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/LiveConsultations/LiveConsultationsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4134722&chk=UugHb7.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration has been given to the insertion of a non-discrimination clause in the Bill to amend the Mental Health Act 1983. [71255]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no need to include a non-discrimination clause in the Bill to amend the Mental Health Act because the legislation must work in conjunction with other non-discrimination legislation, including the Race Relations Act, which prohibits any discrimination on racial grounds including race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins, and the Disability Discrimination Act.

However, while there is no need to duplicate this principle in primary legislation, we recognise the need to ensure that this important principle is understood and adhered to by those who use the Mental Health Act. We will therefore include guidance on how to avoid discrimination in the Mental Health Code of Practice.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to conduct a race equality impact assessment of *(a)* amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983 to be made by the planned Mental Health Bill and *(b)* the Mental Health Act 1983, as amended, in its entirety. [71256]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are currently conducting a race equality impact assessment (REIA) of the amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983. As part of this, we will be holding a series of workshop events across the country which started at the end of May and will run throughout the beginning of June this year. In addition we have published a questionnaire on our website and we are engaging with relevant stakeholders to ensure that as many people as possible are involved in the process.

The Race Relations Amendment Act requires us to assess and consult on the impact of proposed polices. That is what we are doing. We will not be carrying out a race equality impact assessment on the entire Mental Health Act 1983. However, in line with our commitment to monitoring existing policies for adverse impact, we will be noting any issues that are raised about the existing Act when we consult for the REIA on the amending Bill.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which parts of the original proposed draft Mental Health Bill she plans to introduce by regulation; and on what timescale. [69435]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are a number of policies which were in the 2004 draft Mental Health Bill which we are not intending to take forward in the proposed Bill to amend the Mental Health Act 1983. Our intention with the proposed amending Bill is to focus on the main priorities in terms of modernising mental health legislation. Some of the policies which will not be in the amending Bill may be taken forward through other means.

For example, we are using our programme on risk management to promote the importance of care planning and we intend to use the Code of Practice to provide guidance on many issues, such as the importance of information sharing between agencies involved in a patient's care. We may also use other legislative vehicles to introduce some of the changes previously planned. For example, we are currently considering the possibility of using other legislation to provide a second tier appellate structure allowing for appeals to be heard within the tribunal system but this will not be specific to mental health, and to improve the monitoring functions of the Mental Health Act Commission. We will also be exploring the scope for clarifying the safeguards for children, if necessary through the amendment of existing regulations and guidance.

In terms of the changes we are planning to make to the 1983 Act, these may involve some new powers to make secondary legislation. In particular, we are intending to improve patient safeguards by increasing the speed and frequency of the Mental Health Review Tribunal's consideration of cases for all civil patients treated under the Act, by taking an order making power.

Multi-professional Education and Training Budget

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the multi-professional education and training budget was in each year for which figures are available; and what budget is planned for future years. [73844]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The amount budgeted for the multi-professional education and training budget in each year for which figures are available is shown in the table. Budgets for 2006-07 onwards have not yet been determined.

	£ million
	Multi-professional education and training
1996-97	1,706
1997-98	1,802
1998-99	1,891
1999-2000	2,056
2000-01	2,385
2001-02	2,545
2002-03	3,076
2003-04	3,436
2004-05	3,813
2005-06	3,929

National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to assess the implementation of the national service framework for long-term conditions. [75204]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Progress on implementation of the national service framework (NSF) for long-term conditions will be measured in a number of ways, including:

research studies commissioned as part of a national research initiative to underpin implementation of the NSF, to provide baseline data needed to measure the subsequent impact of the NSF;

work to develop a national minimum dataset for long-term neurological conditions;

implementation of clinical indicators developed as part of the Better Metrics programme; and

work with the Healthcare Commission and Commission for Social Care Inspection to identify ways of monitoring and inspecting progress.

Neo-natal Nursing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacancies there are for neo-natal nursing staff in each *(a)* regional health authority and *(b)* NHS trust; and if she will make a statement. [73304]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of vacancies for neo-natal nursing staff is not collected centrally.

NHS Deficits

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* nurses and *(b)* midwives who may lose their jobs as a consequence of NHS deficits. [69974]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Decisions on such posts are made locally and the Department does not collect information of this kind centrally.

NHS Direct

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when Ministers ceased to monitor the number of disabled nurses employed by NHS Direct; [74519]

(2) how many former paramedics are employed by NHS Direct; how many of them are disabled; and how many of the latter are employed at call centres planned for closure. [74525]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not monitor the number of disabled staff employed by NHS Direct.

Information on how many former paramedics are employed by NHS Direct and how many of them are disabled is not centrally held. It may be available from the Chairman of NHS Direct special health authority.

NHS Expenditure

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the total NHS budget was spent on *(a)* mental health services, *(b)* prescription drugs and *(c)* anti-depressants in each of the last five years. [69339]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not available in the requested format. Information on expenditure by the national health service on mental health services in each of the last five years for which data are available is shown in Table 1. The table also shows the proportion of mental health expenditure as part of the hospital and community mental health services budget. The data exclude social care spend on people with mental health problems, and expenditure concerning people treated in primary care for whom a specific diagnosis has not been reached. The figures therefore underestimate the total mental health expenditure.

Table 1

Gross expenditure on mental health (volume terms)	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*
Total mental health (£ million)	4,067	4,379	4,423	4^837	5,088
Total hospital and community health services (£ million)	32,950	34,444	34,817	36,911	38,151
Mental health proportion (percentage)	12.34	12.71	12.70	13.11	13.34

Information on the value of anti-depressant items and all items prescribed on the NHS in England are set out in Tables 2 and 3 respectively.

Table 2: NHS anti-depressant prescription medications in England 2000 to 2005—quantity and cost

	Number of anti-depressant medicines prescribed on the NHS in England	*Value of anti-depressant items prescribed on the NHS in England (£)*
2000	22,021,840	310,378,169
2001	24,342,713	341,660,880
2002	26,329,382	380,883,112
2003	27,657,990	395,178,028
2004	28,995,511	400,681,709
2005	29,389,874	338,546,700

Table 3: NHS prescription medications in England 2000 to 2005—quantity and cost

	Items	*Costs*
2000	551,842,948	5,584,645,465
2001	587,049,035	6,116,568,857
2002	617,021,718	6,846,655,592
2003	649,702,677	7,510,133,590
2004	686,138,915	8,079,566,994
2005	720,283,164	7,936,564,031

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent per head of population in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth constituency in each year since 1997. [68371]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the format requested.

The table shows the total expenditure per head by organisations within the current Shropshire and Staffordshire strategic health authority (SHA) area.

	Expenditure per head (£)
1997-98	558.27
1998-99	598.72
1999-2000	694.25
2000-01	740.03
2001-02	923.09
2002-03	870.69
2003-04	975.36
2004-05	1,132.57

Notes:
1. Expenditure by strategic health authority area is taken as the total expenditure of the strategic health authority, predecessor health authorities and primary care trusts within the current strategic health authority area.
2. Expenditure on general dental services and pharmaceutical services accounted for by the Dental Practice Board and Prescription Pricing Authority, respectively, are excluded. This expenditure cannot be included within the figures for the individual health bodies as they are not included in commissioner accounts.
3. 2004-05 is the latest year for which information is available.

Sources:
Audited accounts of relevant health authorities 1997-98 and 1998-99. Audited summarisation forms of relevant health authorities 1999-2000 to 2001-02. Audited summarisation schedules of relevant primary care trusts 2000-01 to 2004-05. Audited summarisation forms of Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA 2002-03 to 2004-05.

NHS Finance

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has not recovered from sums owed following privately-provided health services on NHS premises in each of the last five years. [67871]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The amount of debt written off by national health service bodies relating to private and overseas patients is shown in the table.

	(£ thousand)
2000-01	4,062
2001-02	2,719
2002-03	4,083
2003-04	4,805
2004-05	4,333

Note:
2004-05—figures for NHS foundation trusts are not included.

Source:
Audited health authority summarisation forms 2000-01 to 2001-02. Audited strategic health authority summarisation forms 2002-03 to 2004-05. Audited primary care trust summarisation schedules 2000-01 to 2004-05. Audited NHS trust summarisation schedules 2000-01 to 2004-05.

The figure for 2004-05 represents 1.3 per cent. of the income from private patients and trusts are expected to take action to recover all unpaid bills.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average rent paid by NHS institutions is for buildings provided under the private finance initiative as a percentage of the total cost of such buildings; and if she will make a statement. [72736]

Andy Burnham: There is no rent paid by the national health service for buildings provided under the private finance initiative. Instead, the NHS pays an operating payment each year, for the use of the serviced asset,

during the life of the contract. Payments due are related to the availability of the hospital and the attainment by the private sector of agreed quality standards.

NHS Management

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trust *(a)* chief executives, *(b)* chairmen and *(c)* senior managers are qualified (i) doctors, (ii) nurses and (iii) other healthcare professionals; and what plans she has to increase these figures. [70158]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information in respect of chief executives and senior managers is not collected centrally. The NHS Appointments Commission is responsible for appointing the chairmen of NHS organisations, a number of whom are retired clinicians. I have asked the Appointments Commission to write to the right hon. Gentleman direct with the information he seeks.

NHS Pension Scheme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members there are of the NHS pension scheme; and how many of those are pensioners. [71572]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Details of the membership of the NHS pension scheme at 31 December 2005 are shown in the following table.

	Number
Active members[1]	1,329,792
Deferred members[2]	354,342
Pensioners[3]	543,080
Total	2,218,214

[1] Active members means members who are currently contributing to the NHS pension scheme.
[2] Deferred members means members who no longer contribute to the NHS pension scheme but have retained benefits in the scheme.
[3] Pensioners means members, or dependants, who are currently in receipt of NHS pension benefits.
Source:
NHS Business Services Authority Pensions Division quarterly performance management report period 1 October to 31 December 2005 (scheme profile dated 19 January 2006).

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the causes are of delays experienced by the NHS Pension Scheme Penserver development. [70120]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The NHS Pension Scheme Penserver development is currently running to time on a timetable agreed in July 2005. The timetable was revised following a review which aimed to align the Penserver development with the anticipated needs of the NHS Pension Scheme review.

NHS Priorities

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the sets of priorities in operation in the NHS in England; how many of these sets of priorities include mental health; and what assessment she has made of the inter-relationship between the various sets of priorities. [71733]

Ms Rosie Winterton: National health service priorities for 2005 to 2008 are set out in "National Standards, Local Action: Health and Social Care Standards and Planning Framework 2005-06-2007-08", and are available from the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk. These detail healthcare standards, existing commitments and new national targets. The standards themselves will be taken into account by primary care trusts and other national health service organisations providing NHS care directly, in all settings, and aim to safeguard and raise quality and safety across the board.

The operating framework, published by the Department in January, sets out the NHS's specific business and financial arrangements for 2006-07. It, identifies six priorities for local delivery plans which will require particular attention in 2006-07, to ensure delivery of national targets by 2008 and beyond:

"health inequalities, focusing on life expectancy at birth by focusing initially on smoking cessation;

achieving a maximum waiting time of two months (62 days) from urgent referral to treatment and one month (31 days) from diagnosis to treatment for all cancers;

achieving an 18-week maximum wait from general practitioner referral to hospital treatment by 2008;

achieving year-on-year reductions in methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) levels as set out in the agreed local delivery plans for 2006-07;

ensuring that all hospital appointments can be booked for patients' convenience through choose and book and that every patient is offered a choice of four or more providers; and

improving access to genitor-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics so that by 2008 all people referred to GUM clinics can have an appointment within 48 hours".

The six priorities do not include mental health. We have also made it very clear to primary care trusts and their partner organisations that they are expected to deliver the existing mental health commitments by their target dates, and to maintain that level of performance beyond the target date. This will be monitored by the Healthcare Commission's annual health check. Thanks to the strong emphasis we put on improving mental health services since publishing the NHS Plan in 2000, very significant progress has been made to date.

NHS Salaries

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many employees in the NHS earn over £100,000 per annum, broken down by profession; and what the breakdown was in 2001. [69385]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not hold salary information for all individual members of staff in the national health service. The only source of information that we can draw on is the biennial NHS Earnings Survey.

The NHS Earnings Survey looks at a sample of all directly employed NHS staff, both medical and non-medical. This comprises all hospital and community health service staff, but does not include general practitioners and practice staff. The latest data available are for August 2004.

Details on the percentage of staff numbers within the earnings survey who earn in excess of £100,000 per annum by basic staff group within the 2002 and 2004 earnings survey are shown in the table.

Percentage of staff earning in excess of £100,000 per annum by basic staff group in the 2004 and 2002 NHS Staff Earnings Survey—England

Headcount (numbers)

		All staff	Medical and dental	General senior managers	Nursing and midwifery qualified	Scientific and professional qualified
2004	Percentage of sample earning over £100,000 per annum	0.9	12.1	0.1	0	0.0
	Sample size (from earnings survey)	461,775	35,502	16,038	150,236	9,615
2002	Percentage of sample earning over £100,000 per annum	0.4	4.6	0.4	0.0	0.0
	Sample size (from earnings survey)	440,026	35,409	17,108	130,301	8,309

Notes:
1. The Earnings Survey is based on a sample of approximately 50 per cent. NHS trusts in August. Figures are from SPS payroll data from all trusts in the survey for the month of August.
2. Earnings figures are based on monthly payments in August multiplied by 12 to give annual equivalent amounts.
3. The sample used in the survey is not necessarily geographically or structurally representative of all trusts in the English NHS.
4. Figures are derived from the sum of an individual's NHS earnings as found within the earnings survey. 5. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care earnings survey.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average salary was of a nurse in the NHS in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* in the latest year for which information is available. [66876]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table. The earliest year for which comparable data are available is 1999. This represented an increase during the period of 22 per cent.

Estimated average salary of qualified nurses and midwives: England

Qualified nurses and midwives group	Salary £
1999	18,600
2004	22,700

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care NHS Staff Earnings Survey

NHS Spinal Cord Injury Centres

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received regarding the capacity and funding of NHS spinal cord injury centres. [75205]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ministers and officials regularly receive representations about funding and service provision relating to a range of conditions, including spinal cord injury. These include a number of questions answered on 14 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 2172-73W.

NHS Trusts

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the former chief executives of NHS trusts who have subsequently undertaken work for the NHS as freelance consultants; and in each case where they were employed. [71403]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not hold information on former chief executives of national health service trusts who have subsequently undertaken work for the NHS as freelance consultants.

Northamptonshire Heartlands Primary Care Trust

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 8 May 2006, to Question reference 10626, on funding, what basis was used for the number of people in Northamptonshire Heartlands Primary Care Trust for the years (a) 2003-04, (b) 2004-05, (c) 2005-06, (d) 2006-07 and (e) 2007-08 when calculating the allocation per head of population. [73894]

Andy Burnham: General Practitioner practice lists at April 2004 scaled to Office for National Statistics 2003 based local authority population projections from 2003 to 2007 were used to calculate the allocations per head of population for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08 provided in the reply on 8 May 2006.

The publication "Resource Allocation: Weighted Capitation Formula" is available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/OrganisationPolicy/FinanceAndPlanning/Allocations/fs/en, which explains how primary care trust populations are calculated for resource allocation.

NovoRapid

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has made of the post-marketing data available for the insulin analogue NovoRapid, with particular reference to its suitability for continued use in young children. [72629]

Andy Burnham: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has made no assessment of the post-marketing data on insulin analogue NovoRapid. The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory products Authority has the responsibility for the assessment of all post-marketing data.

Nursing

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department spent on *(a)* advertising and *(b)* other marketing activities in

relation to careers in NHS nursing in each year since 2001-02; what the forecast expenditure is for 2006-07; and if she will make a statement. [75151]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is not possible to identify separately our publicity and advertising figures for national health service nursing because the Department has not run a separate nursing recruitment campaign since 1999. Since 2000, the NHS Careers campaign has promoted several career options at once, including medical careers and allied health professionals, as well as nursing.

The table shows the Department's expenditure on publicity and advertising in relation to NHS Careers in each year since 2001-02.

Financial years	*Publicity*	*£ million Advertising expenditure*
2001-02	3.85	5.00
2002-03	2.57	4.23
2003-04	1.82	4.90
2004-05	3.38	5.84
2005-06	3.31	0.24

We are still considering what marketing or advertising activity may be required for this year.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions her Department has had with strategic health authorities regarding local nursing levels and recruitment requirements for nursing staff in the next 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [75152]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Nursing levels and recruitment requirements are matters for local determination.

Projected levels of demand for and supply of nurses at a strategic health authority (SHA) level form part of their local delivery plan (LDP).

The content of and performance against the LDP are issues discussed between SHA and the Department.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of those enrolled on pre-registration nursing courses completed their course successfully in each year since 2001-02; how many of those had found a nursing position within six months of successful completion of their course; and if she will make a statement. [75158]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (www.hesa.ac.uk) has partial data for students completing training in 2003-04.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council records the number of students who completed training in England and registered to practice. It does not record whether those nurses took up employment in the national health service.

Opiate-based Medicines

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many opiate-based medicinal products are manufactured in the UK. [74191]

Andy Burnham: There are 16 different types of opiate-based medicinal products manufactured in the United Kingdom. The 16 different drug substances are licensed under approximately 264 individual marketing authorisations for various product strengths and formulations and to various marketing authorisation holders.

Orthodontic Services

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking *(a)* to ensure adequate orthodontic services and *(b)* to increase the number of orthodontists. [70306]

Ms Rosie Winterton: On 1 April 2006, primary care trusts were given the responsibility for commissioning and developing primary care dental services, including orthodontic services, in their area to reflect the needs of the local population.

At the same time, a new framework for orthodontic treatment was introduced. This is designed to ensure that assessment of need for orthodontic treatment is carried out more fairly and consistently in order to make the best use of available resources. The national health service invests around £150 million annually in primary care orthodontic services and it is important to ensure that these resources are used as effectively as possible to meet the needs of children and other orthodontic patients.

PFI Repayments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of private finance initiative repayments was for each health trust in each of the last five years was; and what that is as a percentage of the trust's annual income excluding land sales in each year. [66777]

Andy Burnham: Details of unitary payments for each private finance initiative scheme which has become operational and what percentage these payments are against trust's annual turnover over the last five years have been placed in the Library.

Detailed information on land sales is not collected centrally.

Prescription Drug Costs

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the cost of prescription drugs that were returned unused and unopened in each of the last five years, broken down by primary care trust. [74529]

Andy Burnham: The annual cost of prescription drugs that are returned unused and unopened is not held centrally by the Department.

It has been previously estimated that unused medicines returned to pharmacies are probably worth £100 million per year.

The statistical bulletin "General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales 1995-96 to 2004-05", which is available on the Information Centre for health and social care's website at www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/genphmsvcengwaldecade05, provides details of the weight of unwanted medicines collected and disposed of through community pharmacies, listed by primary care trust. Pharmacies do not separate out unused and unopened medicines from those that have been partially used.

Prostate Acid Phosphatase Test

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has evaluated on the accuracy of the prostate acid phosphatase test. [74414]

Andy Burnham: There has been no central or local national health service research activity concerned with the prostate acid phosphatase test. This test was largely superseded by the test for prostate specific antigen (PSA) some years ago.

Reconstituted Milk

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the health implications for infants drinking reconstituted milk made from milk powder and fluoridated water; and if she will make a statement. [64186]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Research evidence shows, that apart from the benefits to oral health, the only negative effect of adding fluoride to drinking water to a level of one part per million is on the incidence of dental fluorosis. In 2003, the independent expert advisory committee on toxicity of chemicals in food, consumer products and the environment (COT), issued a report "Fluorine in the 1997 Total Diet Study", which noted that fluoride intakes of formula-fed infants may exceed the

"no observed adverse effect level"

for dental fluorosis. However, COT concluded that infants are at lesser risk of dental fluorosis than older children because the critical time for development of aesthetically significant dental fluorosis is during formation of the permanent teeth at age three to four. COT went on to recommend that more research is needed to determine the impact of the cosmetic effect of dental fluorosis on the affected individual and on any possible long-term health outcomes in people affected by dental fluorosis.

The Department is committed to a research programme to strengthen the evidence base on the fluoridation of water and we will be considering how research on dental fluorosis can be incorporated into this programme.

Royal Surrey Hospital

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if, following the further recommendation of the Epsom and St. Helier NHS Hospital Trust on the St. Helier site, if she will request that the trust revises its decision *(a)* following a consultation with the residents of Mole Valley and Esher and Walton constituencies and *(b)* taking into account the proposed removal of accident and emergency services at the Royal Surrey Hospital at Guildford. [74463]

Caroline Flint: The Department has received the response from the local national health service on St. Helier and is currently considering the situation. We are aware that Surrey and Sussex have commenced discussions with stakeholders on the "Fit for the Future" review. It would be inappropriate to comment further on this.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals Trust

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what levels of *(a)* debt and *(b)* deficit the Shrewsbury and Telford hospitals trust inherited from its predecessors at its inception; and whether these amounts were paid by her Department. [71602]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Shropshire and Staffordshire strategic health authority reports that at the time that Shrewsbury and Telford hospital national health service trust was established in October 2003, the historical deficit of the Royal Shrewsbury hospital NHS trust and the Princess Royal hospital NHS trust was in the region of £4.1 million.

When an NHS trust is newly established it may inherit the net assets and liabilities of any predecessor organisations; consequently it is required to manage the financial challenges that may arise from this.

Shropshire Ambulance Service

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Shropshire Ambulance Service will be merged into a West Midlands Ambulance Service within 24 months; and if she will make a statement. [74413]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Shropshire Ambulance Service has been part of the current West Midlands Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust since April 2001. Three of the four ambulance trusts in the West Midlands region, West Midlands, Coventry and Warwickshire, and Hereford and Worcester, will form a single trust on 1 July 2006. Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust will remain separate, working in partnership with the new West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust, but will merge with it at a later date.

Skin Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to monitor the extent to which National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the use of photodynamic therapy for skin cancer patients is being followed. [72169]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In February 2006 as part of its programme of work on interventional procedures, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued guidance on the use of photodynamic therapy in the treatment of non-melanoma skin tumours.

The need for healthcare organisations to protect patients by following NICE interventional procedures guidance is a core standard as set out in "National Standards,

Local Actions". The Healthcare Commission has responsibility for determining whether core standards have been met.

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of recruiting staff for the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust has been; and what total pension liabilities resulted from setting up the trust. [71257]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority reports that the trust has not recruited any staff as a specific result of the creation of the new organisation. The Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys National Health Service Trust has continued to recruit clinical staff to meet the needs of local people, but nothing more has been spent on this recruitment process than its two predecessor trusts would have spent recruiting to the same clinical posts.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many job reductions were made in the setting up of the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust in the local health economy; and what the cost of redundancy payments has been. [71258]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority reports that currently only one chief executive has been made redundant. As a single trust board and executive team structure is implemented there will be further managerial redundancies. The final cost of these redundancies will be available in the final accounts for the trust.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the total cost was of setting up the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust; what proportion of this total was accounted for by cost overruns; and if she will list the cost overruns involved; [71259]

(2) how much was spent providing new *(a)* signs and *(b)* stationery for Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust; [71261]

(3) what the total costs were of re-branding in setting up the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust. [71262]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally but can be obtained from the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys National Health Service Trust.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultations were undertaken with *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* the public and *(c)* local councillors about the naming of the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust. [71263]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The County Durham and Tees Valleys Strategic Health Authority confirms that approximately 50 representatives of service users and carer groups across County Durham, the Tees Valleys and North East Yorkshire attended a consultation meeting at which the name of the new trust was discussed. The most popular option was to use the river theme.

All staff in the trusts were also invited to vote on the options, with the majority in favour of Tees Valleys and North East Yorkshire National Health Service Trust.

Local authority representatives, including County Durham council and Darlington borough council were members of the project board and were fully involved in the discussions about the name.

Trafford Surgical Centre

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures of performance she collects for the Trafford Surgical Centre in Greater Manchester. [70435]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Activity data are collected from independent sector treatment centre providers to assess contract utilisation. Data are also collected on the 26 key performance indicators shown in the following table. These monitor clinical quality, patient experience and productivity of services. Data collection takes place on a monthly basis.

Description of KPIs on ISTC Wave 1 Schemes

KPI	*Description*
KPI 1	Incidence of in-patient and/or day case activities not commenced because of DMAs as percentage of all activities
KPI 2	Procedures cancelled by the provider for non-clinical reasons on or after day of admission. For the purposes of the performance threshold, it is measured as a percentage of all patients admitted to the facility.
KPI 3	Procedures cancelled by provider for clinical reasons on or after day of admission. For the performance threshold, this is measured as a percentage of all patients admitted in the facility.
KPI 4	Patient returning to operating theatre for procedure which was unforeseen at the time the patient's previous procedure was completed as a percentage of all patients admitted in the facility.
KPI 5	In relation to each (HRG), the conversion rate i.e. the percentage of patients who go on to be given a patient appointment for a procedure following an out-patient assessment.
KPI 6	In respect of (the)(each) facility, the rate of rejection by the provider in respect of patients referred within the referral protocol (schedule 3) as a percentage of all patients who are referred in the contracted month.
KPI 7	For day cases, in-patient admission to the facility or to other providers' facilities (including NHS providers) which was unforeseen at the time of admission. For the purposes of the performance, threshold is measured as a percentage of all day cases in the facility.
KPI 8	Transfers of any patient for treatment which was not in the management plan for that patient upon admission to the facility. For the purposes of the performance, threshold is a percentage of all in-patients in the facility by HRG.
KPI 9	Emergency admissions/re-admissions of patients who have received in-patient treatment and have been discharged within 28 days of such discharge where such admission or re-admission is related to or arising from the relevant in-patient treatment, for the purposes of the performance threshold measured by HRG as a percentage of all patients discharged.
KPI 10	Average length of stay in hours and minutes for day cases by HRG, measured from the time of admission to the time of discharge.

Description of KPIs on ISTC Wave 1 Schemes

KPI	*Description*
KPI 11	Average length of stay by HRG measured in in-patient whole days measured from the time of admission to the time of discharge.
KPI 12	Average procedure time, collected in minutes, by HRG, and specifying surgery where local anaesthetic surgery is used and where general anaesthetic surgery is used, broken down by: induction time on operating table recovery measured from ( ) to ( )
KPI 13	Patient receives or is listed or recommended for a further procedure to put right any aspect of the original activity less than five years from the date of discharge. For the purposes of performance threshold, measured as a percentage of all procedures carried out at the facility.
KPI 14	Numbers of procedures carried out under local anaesthetic and general anaesthetic by HRG as a percentage of all procedures.
KPI 15	Clinical outcomes specified by procedure, by reference to the Patient Care Pathways.
KPI 16	Timeliness, completeness and accuracy of provider performance data provided to the joint service review and/or to sponsor, recorded as the number of complaints in any reporting period.
KPI 17	Timeliness, completeness and accuracy of provider clinician reporting to referring health body's clinician recorded as the number of complaints in any reporting month.
KPI 18	Patient/customer satisfaction (by survey) based on a survey of 10 per cent. of all patients at each facility in each (contract month)
KPI 19	Rate of patient complaints i.e. number of complaints received as a percentage of all patients referred for: (i) out-patient treatment (ii) day case treatment (iii) in-patient treatment
KPI 20	Patient complaints handling: complaints not handled within relevant time scales set out in the contract.
KPI 21	Incidents which are reportable to the NPSA, or other statutory body.
KPI 22	Additionally: NHS staff recruited in breach of Clause 9 of the agreement.
KPI 23	Condition of facility, measured by inspection by a sponsor and/or the provider and assessed against the requirements of the facility manual and operational procedures.
KPI 24	Breach of security related to the services where there is an identifiable risk of harm, loss or damage to people or property.
KPI 25	Breach by the provider of confidentiality and/or data protection requirements in the agreement.
KPI 26	Failure to meet treat-by date.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were completed at the Trafford Surgical Centre in Greater Manchester in 2005, broken down by type of operation. [70436]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Greater Manchester Surgical Centre opened in July 2005 and had provided 4,704 procedures at the end of March 2006. A breakdown by specialty is shown in the table.

	Number
Orthopaedics	2,128
General surgery	1,010
Dermatology	662
Ear, Nose and Throat	605
Urology/Gynaecology	274
Plastic surgery	25

Tuberculosis

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidences of tuberculosis were identified in each primary care trust in North Cumbria in each of the last five years. [68466]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

Primary care trust	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*[1]	*Total*
Allerdale	2		3	7	3	15
Carlisle	3	4	5	6	8	26
Copeland	5	2	3	1	5	16
Eden	1	1	3	3	1	9
Total	11	7	14	17	17	66

[1] Provisional data for 2005.

Note:

The NOIDS data provided are derived from tuberculosis cases reported within North Cumbria local authorities from 2001 to 2004. PCT boundaries are not exactly coterminous with local authority boundaries but collectively the Carlisle and District, Eden Valley and West Cumbria PCTs (Allerdale and Copeland) comprise North Cumbria.

Source:

Statutory Notifications of Infectious Diseases (NOIDS), Health Protection Agency. Data as at 5 May 2006.

Ultra-orphan Drug Treatments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her policy is on the funding of ultra-orphan drug treatments; and if she will make a statement. [74188]

Andy Burnham: Ultra-orphan drug treatment for a specific set of diseases, Lysosomal Storage Disorders, has been nationally commissioned by the National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group (NSCAG) since April 2005, for an initial two-year period until March 2007. The 2006-07 budget for this service is £58 million. NSCAG is part of the Department and currently commissions services for 33 very rare conditions on a national basis.

Funding arrangements for other ultra-orphan drugs are a matter for individual primary care trusts.

Waiting Times

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to question 70933, on waiting times, how many in-patient breaches of target would be necessary for the Government to conclude that their operating standard of six months for in-patient admissions was not being achieved. [72497]

Andy Burnham: No explicit level has been set.

The national health service currently admits around 470,000 patients per month. At the end of March 2006, 199 people had been waiting for longer than six months, that is one patient waiting at that point for every 2,350 patients admitted during the month and the Government therefore consider that the operating standard is being met.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to question 70990, on waiting times, which NHS organisations risks of breaches of the six-month waiting time for inpatient admissions are an issue; how many are being closely supported by her Department in consequence; and what support each is receiving. [72525]

Andy Burnham: There have been very few breaches of the six-month in-patient waiting times standard since it came into effect on 31 December 2005.

Our assessment is that the overall risk of breaches remains low. Administrative errors have been the cause of breaches for the majority of organisations which have reported them and we expect such errors to be swiftly rectified by the local national health service.

As a consequence, the Department continues to discuss performance with all strategic health authorities (SHAs) on a regular basis and expects SHAs to support the local NHS to deliver the six-month inpatient standard. The Department is not providing direct support to any NHS trust at present.

Walsall Primary Care Trust

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by Walsall Primary Care Trust on capital projects in the Aldridge-Brownhills constituency in each of the last five years. [68934]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available centrally in the format requested.

Capital allocations to Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

	Operational total (£000)
2002-03	568
2003-04	647
2004-05	723
2005-06	812
2006-07	893

In addition, Birmingham and The Black Country Strategic Health Authority (SHA) has received strategic capital allocations, which are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

	Strategic total (£000)
2003-04	45,762
2004-05	43,068
2005-06	46,532
2006-07	42,908

Birmingham and The Black Country SHA has also been allocated a share of the £100 million per year capital access fund, shown in Table 3.

Table 3

	Access fund allocation (£000)
2003-04	5,550
2004-05	5,550
2005-06	5,550

Water Fluoridation

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance has been issued to strategic health authorities and primary care trusts on consultation arrangements for the proposed water fluoridation. [71328]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to him on 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 124W.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the independence of the National Fluoride Information Centre; and how the centre is funded; [71336]

(2) what research has been carried out by the National Fluoride Information Centre on the amount of fluoride people in the North West are consuming; [71337]

(3) what research has been undertaken by the National Fluoride Information Centre on all aspects of fluoride use since it was set up; [71338]

(4) what the cost to the NHS was of setting up the National Fluoride Information Centre. [71339]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Fluoride Information Centre (NFIC) is an academically independent research unit based at Manchester University. It provides objective information on all aspects of fluorides and fluoridation derived from scientific literature and reviewed by independent scientific experts. The Department has committed funding of £125,000 per annum for the three years from 2004-05 to 2006-07.

The NFIC is currently carrying out research into the temporal effects of water fluoridation on dental fluorosis, the effect water fluoridation has on the dental health of adults, the use of new tools to diagnose dental caries which may enable randomised control trials to be undertaken on the effects of water fluoridation and the monitoring of oral health in Europe to compare dental caries levels with those in England.

Young Offenders (Mental Health)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are receiving treatment for mental health conditions in young offenders institutions; and how many are receiving psychological therapies. [67642]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally. All offenders aged 18 to 21 receive screening on reception into custody to assess their health needs, and this includes mental health. All young offenders institutions have mental health in-reach teams. Comprehensive mental health needs assessments are made to identify the needs of individuals, and subsequent provision may include psychological therapies.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortions

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many women in Northern Ireland chose to abort their foetus due to being informed that the baby, if born, might suffer from *(a)* cerebral palsy, *(b)* Down's syndrome and *(c)* any other mental/physical condition in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [74221]

Paul Goggins: Abortion can be undertaken in Northern Ireland only where it is necessary to save the life of the mother or where the continuance of the pregnancy is likely to have serious and long-term effects on her mental or physical health.

The following table provides figures for the number of medical abortions recorded in Northern Ireland hospitals for each year from 2002 to 2004 (the latest year available).

	Number
2002	76
2003	73
2004	59

Air Miles

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many air miles have been accrued by senior civil servants on official business in *(a)* each Department in Northern Ireland and *(b)* his Department in each of the last three years; and how they were used. [70493]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested on the number of air miles accrued by senior civil servants on official business during the last three years, and how these were used, is not held and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Civil servants accruing air miles when travelling on Government business are not permitted to use them for private purposes.

Alcohol in Pregnancy

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the prevalence of *(a)* foetal alcohol syndrome and *(b)* other complications resulting from alcohol consumption during pregnancy in the Province. [74650]

Paul Goggins: The data cannot be provided in the manner requested. It is not possible to make an assessment of the prevalence of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) or other alcohol-related pregnancy complications in Northern Ireland as there is no database or registry of people in Northern Ireland with FAS or other possible related complications.

Allergy Services

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what allergy services are provided in Northern Ireland. [74374]

Paul Goggins: There are many different types of allergic conditions affecting both adults and children. These may be simple or complex, acute or chronic. The range of services available to diagnose and treat these conditions therefore is equally varied. The main elements are summarised in the table.

	Allergy Service
EHSSB	
Royal Group of Hospitals	Two consultant immunologists provide two out-patient allergy clinics at the Royal—one in the Royal Belfast hospital for Sick Children and one in the Royal Victoria hospital.
Belfast City Hospital	Allergy testing is used within the dermatology, ENT and respiratory departments.
Ulster Hospital	Provides the first dedicated asthma and allergy service in Northern Ireland. It is consultant-led with two specialist nurses and a dietician. The dermatology department also provides an allergy service.
Regional Immunology Laboratory Service	Based at the Royal, this provides a comprehensive diagnostic service.
SHSSB	
Daisy Hill Hospital	A skin patching (diagnostic) clinic is held weekly as part of the dermatology out-patient clinic.
NHSSB	
Antrim Area Hospital	Offers allergy testing in dermatology and ENT for adults. Within paediatrics, children attend as day cases for allergy testing, mainly for egg and peanut allergies.
WHSSB	
Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust	A visiting dermatologist holds an allergy clinic once a week.
Altnagelvin Hospitals HSS Trust	There is no dedicated allergy service, but patients are seen as part of the dermatology and dietician service. More complex problems are referred to the Royal.
GP/Pharmacy	The majority of services for allergic conditions are delivered by GP's and pharmacy community pharmacists.

Alternative Offers of Treatment

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many patients within each health trust in the Province have *(a)* received, *(b)* accepted and *(c)* declined alternative offers of treatment since the introduction of this scheme. [74626]

Paul Goggins: As part of the drive to reduce hospital waiting times, an alternative offer scheme has been introduced to guarantee patients an offer of treatment within agreed timeframes. The Northern Ireland Patient Offer Centre was established to facilitate this scheme.

The number of patients who have been offered transfers under the alternative offer scheme are set out in the following table.

Trust	(a) Offers received	(b) Offers accepted	(c) Offers declined
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust	24	23	1
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust	43	30	13
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	32	21	11
Total	99	74	25

Source:
Northern Ireland Patient Offer Centre

ARCH Centre

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether there are plans to introduce an Assault, Rape, Counselling, Health (ARCH) Centre in North Ireland. [73359]

Paul Goggins: A sexual violence strategy is currently being developed for Northern Ireland. In developing the strategy the option of establishing a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for Northern Ireland is being explored.

Asbestosis

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been diagnosed with asbestosis in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years; and how many have died of the disease in the same period in each health board. [74722]

Paul Goggins: The number of people diagnosed with asbestosis in Northern Ireland is not available.

Information is available on the number of those asbestosis sufferers admitted as inpatients to hospitals in Northern Ireland.

The following table details the number of admissions[1] to hospital with a primary or secondary diagnosis of asbestosis, for each year between 1995 and 2004 (the latest calendar year for which data are available). It should be noted that any individual could have been admitted to hospital more than once over the course of a year or over a number of years and would therefore be counted more than once in the table.

	Eastern H&SSB	Northern H&SSB	Southern H&SSB	Western H&SSB	Not available[2]
1995	58	47	<5	<5	<5
1996	73	42	8	<5	<5
1997	92	29	<5	<5	<5
1998	105	44	5	<5	<5
1999	103	53	10	<5	<5
2000	120	52	8	<5	<5
2001	137	54	11	<5	<5
2002	151	71	8	<5	<5
2003	147	68	11	7	<5
2004	183	66	24	6	<5

[1] Discharges and deaths are used as an approximation to admissions. [2] Not available refers to postcodes outside Northern Ireland or to postcodes with incorrect or missing grid references and Royal Mail PO Boxes.
Note:
Cell sizes that have a value of less than 5 have been masked in order to help protect confidentiality
Source:
Hospital Inpatients System DHSS&PS

The following table gives the number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland in each year between 1995 and 2004, where the underlying cause of death was recorded as 'asbestosis'[1] by health and social service board.

Year of registration	Eastern H&SSB	Northern H&SSB	Southern H&SSB	Western H&SSB	Northern Ireland
1995	4	1	0	0	5
1996	4	0	0	0	4
1997	0	0	0	0	0
1998	5	1	0	0	6
1999	3	0	0	1	4
2000	4	1	1	0	6
2001	6	3	0	0	9
2002	11	1	0	0	12
2003	8	1	0	0	9
2004	10	0	3	1	14

[1] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes J61 and J92.0 for years 2001-04 and Ninth Revision code 501 for years 1995-2000.

Assembly Elections

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Northern Ireland Assembly elections scheduled to be held in May 2008 will be based on constituencies as defined in the forthcoming Boundary Commission report. [72715]

Mr. Hanson: The Northern Ireland Act 2006 provides for the postponement of the May 2007 elections to May 2008 if an Executive is formed before 25 November 2006.

The Boundary Commission announced their Revised Recommendations on 18 May 2006. They must consider all representations on the Revised Recommendations received within one month of their publication. Further to this, they will submit their Final Recommendations to the Secretary of State who must then lay these (with or without modifications) before Parliament for approval.

The Commission must submit their Final Report to the Secretary of State by June 2007.

I await the final report.

Attacks on NHS Premises/Staff

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many attacks on *(a)* staff, *(b)* patients and *(c)* visitors have occurred on NHS premises in each health trust in the Province in each of the last five years; and how many people have been charged as a result. [74578]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department before 2004 and will take some time to collate from the Health and Personal Social Services. I will write to the hon. Member with the information as soon as it is available and place a copy in the Library.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the costs to the NHS in the Province over the last five years resulting from attacks on staff. [74580]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to estimate the costs to the Health and Personal Social Services in Northern Ireland as a result of attacks on staff as this information is not held by employers.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many NHS staff have required counselling in the last 12 months following work-related attacks. [74581]

Paul Goggins: Counselling is available to all staff in the Health and Personal Social Services either through the Occupational Health Service or via a confidential helpline. However, by its very nature it is a confidential service and therefore it is not possible to state how many staff have required counselling in the last 12 months as a result of work-related attacks.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what guidelines are in place for NHS staff accompanying and dealing with patients or relatives who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. [74582]

Paul Goggins: There is no central guidance. There is however, a duty of care on Health and Personal Social Services employers to ensure staff are safe at all times while in their place of employment and trusts may have individual policies and procedures on how to deal with patients and relatives who present for treatment while under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many racist attacks on hospital staff occurred in the Province in each of the last five years. [74583]

Paul Goggins: Racist attacks on hospital staff are not currently recorded as a specific statistic. They are however subsumed within the Department's monitoring of violent attacks on health and personal social services staff figures as both verbal and physical abuse. The Department is actively addressing the issue of racist attacks and has commissioned research which is being carried out by the Institute for Conflict Research.

Avian Influenza

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made with contingency plans in Northern Ireland involving a cull of birds in the event of a pandemic of avian influenza; and what assessment he has made of the speed with which a vaccine could be produced in large enough quantities once a particular strain of avian influenza has been identified. [74535]

David Cairns: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) has a contingency plan in place to ensure that any outbreak of Avian Influenza is dealt with quickly and effectively. If there is an outbreak in domestic poultry, infected birds and dangerous contacts will be culled. As part of the ongoing testing of the plan, culling has been tested on two separate occasions with a further exercise planned over the summer. Vaccination offers potential benefits in disease control but preventive vaccination of poultry is not the most effective defence. At UK-level, a plan is in place for a possible vaccination programme for zoo birds for conservation purposes, based on veterinary risk assessment, and 2.3 million doses of vaccine have been obtained for this purpose. DARD's policy on the wider use of vaccination will be kept under review in the light of scientific developments in vaccines.

Ballyhalbent-Portavogie Road

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to improve the

coastal road between Ballyhalbent and Portavogie; and if he will make a statement. [74728]

David Cairns: The chief executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 31 May 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding what plans he has to improve the coastal road between Ballyhalbert and Portavogie; and if he will make a statement.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

As you will be aware, the coastal road between Ballyhalbert and Portavogie which forms part of the A2 runs along the east coast of the Ards Peninsula to Portaferry for a distance of approximately 35Km. The road is inspected regularly in accordance with Roads Service's policy governing the inspection and repair of roads and is considered to be in a generally good condition.

You may also be aware that 6 years ago the portion to which you refer was resurfaced and had new drainage installed. Accordingly, I can advise you that there are no proposals at present to carry out any improvement works on this portion of road.

Bed Occupancy

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the percentage bed occupancy rate was in each hospital in the Province in each quarter of the last 12 months. [74630]

Paul Goggins: Percentage bed occupancy rates for all hospitals in Northern Ireland for all quarters in 2005 are shown in the following table.

Percentage bed occupancy rates by hospital by quarter in 2005

	Percentage bed occupancy 2005			
Hospital	*31 March*	*30 June*	*30 September*	*31 December*
Altnagelvin area Trust				
Altnagelvin Hospital	83.6	80.0	81.6	81.1
Waterside (ward 5)	75.4	75.2	78.3	82.7
Armagh and Dungannon Trust				
Longstone	85.2	86.4	93.4	93.1
Mullinure	81.1	70.9	73.5	77.6
Oaklands	62.9	64.3	64.5	60.1
St. Lukes	77.4	74.3	76.2	75.2
Belfast City Trust				
Belfast City Hospital	89.1	88.1	83.7	86.0
Belvoir Park NICCO	86.3	83.7	87.2	87.6
Windsor	98.7	90.9	92.5	99.1
Causeway Trust				
Causeway Hospital	82.1	81.4	84.2	83.6
Dalriada	72.2	83.6	86.6	80.9
Robinson Memorial	73.9	85.9	88.4	79.0
Craigavon and Banbridge Trust				
Craigavon Area PNU	90.8	85.1	89.8	90.0
Craigavon Group Trust				
Craigavon Area	82.1	80.8	78.6	76.7
Lurgan	90.3	88.0	82.5	88.6
South Tyrone	88.9	89.3	94.1	82.8
Down Lisburn Trust				
Downe	87.8	85.5	83.3	87.8
Downshire[1]	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lagan Valley	82.7	82.2	80.7	78.5
Lagan Valley PNU[1]	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Thompson House	92.1	97.1	97.6	96.9
Foyle Trust				
Gransha	90.4	87.1	83.7	86.0
Roe Valley[1]	90.1	89.2	88.0	100.0
Strsdreagh	89.6	87.0	83.9	72.7

Percentage bed occupancy rates by hospital by quarter in 2005

Hospital	*31 March*	*30 June*	*30 September*	*31 December*
	Percentage bed occupancy 2005			
Waterside (ward 1-4)	90.9	100	99.5	99.8
Green Park Trust				
Belvoir Park NI Fever	70.1	72.6	74.1	69.7
Forster Green	60.2	62.9	62.1	61.7
Musgrave Park	80.6	75.0	71.7	77.4
Homefirst Trust				
Holywell	95.1	93.9	95.7	92.5
Whiteabbey PNU[1]	99.0	97.2	100.0	100.0
Mater Infirmorum Trust				
Mater Infirmorum	89.0	85.4	84.3	86.2
Newry and Mourne Trust				
Daisy Hill	77.1	75.0	71.2	70.9
North and West Belfast Trust				
Muckamore Abbey	93.0	92.1	89.8	89.1
Royal Group Trust				
RBHSC	75.6	77.6	65.8	74.2
Royal Maternity	69.8	68.7	67.0	67.6
Royal Victoria	88.8	89.2	85.1	87.5
South and East Belfast Trust				
Knockbracken Healthcare Park	87.2	79.9	82.6	84.5
Shaftesbury Square	8.7	16.2	10.1	18.0
Young Peoples Centre[2]	42.2	62.3	0	0
Sperrin Lakeland Trust				
Erne	69.4	71.2	66.8	67.9
Tyrone and Fermanagh	85.8	88.4	91.5	83.9
Tyrone County	83.3	82.3	80.1	76.9
UC&HT				
Ards	94.0	94.3	92.4	92.6
Bangor	90.2	89.0	91.0	90.0
Ulster	88.9	87.8	86.4	86.6
United Trust				
Antrim	78.7	76.4	74.5	77.1
Braid Valley	96.5	96.6	90.7	90.6
Mid Ulster	76.6	67.9	69.6	72.0
Moyle	93.1	84.8	91.4	87.6
Whiteabbey	97.2	92.9	86.1	87.5
Northern Ireland	85.4	83.7	82.4	82.9

[1] Due to inconsistencies in data supplied, percentage occupancy in some or all of the quarters in 2005 for Downshire, Lagan Valley PNU, Roe Valley and Whiteabbey PNU have been set to 100 per cent.
[2] No inpatients admitted to young peoples centre after 31 May 2005 due to Copeland fire which destroyed the inpatient unit.
Notes:
1. Data are provisional and may be subject to change.
2. Day case admissions are excluded from the calculation for bed occupancy.
Source:
Departmental Information Return KH03A

Belfast City Hospital

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the car park at the Belfast City Hospital Site is expected to be finished, with particular reference to provision at the new cancer centre. [74685]

Paul Goggins: The new multi storey car park at Belfast City Hospital is currently on programme for phased completion as follows:

	Date	*Spaces*
Phase I	31 August 2006	330
Phase II	31 October 2006	330
Phase III	22 December 2006	480

This will accommodate the additional requirement arising from the opening of the cancer centre and the transfer of services from Belvoir Park Hospital, as well as making provision to support future development on the BCH site eg the proposed surgical unit.

The area that was used as the contractor's compound during the construction of the cancer centre has been reinstated as a dedicated car park for radiotherapy patients visiting the building as an interim solution until the new facility is available.

Bereavement Support

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what training is available to staff in hospitals when dealing with a bereavement; and if he will make a statement. [74214]

Paul Goggins: All trusts make provision for training on bereavement care for staff to deal with families and friends following bereavement.

The Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety established a Regional Bereavement Network in March 2006. The introduction of this network will ensure that bereavement services for people across Northern Ireland are further improved. It will also improve training for staff in bereavement care and ensure that good policies and practices are in place.

Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the occasions when an amendment has been moved by *(a)* a Labour backbencher, *(b)* an Opposition backbencher and *(c)* an Opposition front bench spokesman to a Bill sponsored by his Department which has been accepted by his Department during the 2005-06 Session; and if he will make a statement. [72487]

Mr. Hain: My Department has sponsored the following four Bills during the current session: the Terrorism (Northern Ireland) Bill (enacted on 16 February 2006); the Northern Ireland (Offences) Bill (withdrawn on 11 January 2006); the Northern Ireland Bill (enacted on 8 May 2006) and the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (currently before the House of Lords).

Information on amendments moved and accepted during the Committee and Report Stages on these Bills is published in the *Official Report*.

Biodiversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) which Minister in his Department is responsible for monitoring his Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if he will make a statement; [73940]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to him comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74398]

David Cairns: The duties contained within the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (or the extended duties contained within Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) relating to the conservation of biological diversity, do not apply to Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland is, however, currently considering introducing a statutory duty upon Government Departments and public bodies in the proposed review of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. This is intended to be similar to the statutory duty in Great Britain. In the meantime, progress against delivery of the 76 recommendations contained in the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy (adopted in 2002) continues to be monitored closely by the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group, which independently provides me, as Minister responsible for the environment, with three yearly reports on progress.

Board Area Populations

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total population is of each education and library board area in Northern Ireland. [74318]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the official estimate of the population, at 30 June 2004, by education and library board in Northern Ireland.

Education and library board	*Population*
Belfast	269,000
North Eastern	402,300
South Eastern	395,100
Southern	355,100
Western	288,900
Northern Ireland	1,710,300

Note:
Data may not add up due to rounding.

Bought-in Procedures

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many procedures each health board in the Province has bought from *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the Province over the last 12 months; and what the costs were. [74631]

Paul Goggins: 707 complaints were made during 2005-06.

Breast Cancer

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many health board trusts in Northern Ireland have introduced computer systems for rapid diagnosis of breast cancer. [74218]

Paul Goggins: No health service trust in Northern Ireland has introduced computer systems for rapid diagnosis of breast cancer. The National Breast Cancer System is used to capture and report the results of mammograms carried out throughout the screening programme. It is identical to the system used in the rest of the UK and has been operational in Northern Ireland for some years. All mammograms are read by fully trained radiologists.

Budget Allocation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the allocation of the extra £26 million allocated to Northern Ireland in the 2006 Budget. [67066]

Mr. Hanson: The £26 million resource allocated to Northern Ireland over the next two years from the Chancellor's 2006 Budget will be invested into the Children and Young People's Funding Package, with most going directly to schools across Northern Ireland. The package is intended to reduce underachievement and improve the life chances of children and young people by enhancing their educational development and fostering their health, well being and social inclusion.

Bullying at Work

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have been bullied at work in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [74315]

Maria Eagle: Bullying is not a jurisdiction recognised in law by which a claim can be made to an industrial tribunal or the Fair Employment Tribunal. Therefore government has no means of recording numbers of men or women who have been bullied in the workplace. However, the Labour Relations Agency in 2004-05 received some 43,000 specific employment enquiries of which some 9,000 related specifically to bullying. Around 60 per cent. of those individuals who contacted the Labour Relations Agency enquiry point were female. The breakdowns of statistics in terms of employer or employee were 39 per cent. employer and 61 per cent. employee.

Buses

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent *(a)* per head of population and *(b)* per passenger on bus services (i) including and (ii) excluding funding for concessionary travel in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [73850]

David Cairns: The Department for Regional Development made the following payments to bus companies in Northern Ireland over the specified 10 year period (figures include capital grant).

Cash payments per head of population

£

	Including concessionary travel	*Excluding concessionary travel*
1995-96	9.59	4.80
1996-97	9.02	4.33
1997-98	8.69	3.26
1998-99	9.59	4.56
1999-2000	11.38	6.38
2000-01	12.74	7.12
2001-02	13.95	6.98
2002-03	17.79	10.45
2003-04	18.49	10.31
2004-05	21.06	12.28

Cash payments per passenger

£

	Including concessionary travel	*Excluding concessionary travel*
1995-96	0.20	0.10
1996-97	0.19	0.09
1997-98	0.19	0.07
1998-99	0.23	0.11
1999-2000	0.28	0.15
2000-01	0.32	0.18
2001-02	0.36	0.18
2002-03	0.46	0.27
2003-04	0.48	0.27
2004-05	0.55	0.32

Cancer Screening

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will assess the merits of introducing bowel cancer screening in the Province. [74574]

Paul Goggins: The UK National Screening Committee (NSC) has considered the case for bowel screening and recommended that a population programme should be introduced. As a consequence, England and Scotland have announced their intention to introduce a bowel cancer screening programme.

I would wish to see such a programme introduced in Northern Ireland. However, this will have a significant effect on current services for those showing possible symptoms of bowel cancer. Before a similar programme could be implemented in Northern Ireland there is a need to consider the current capacity and pressure on the symptomatic bowel service and to identify other issues which need to be addressed, including additional capacity required, training and accreditation of colonoscoptists and units.

A workshop has therefore been arranged for 20 June 2006 to explore the issues and identify the steps and actions required in the symptomatic service in order to prepare for a bowel screening programme.

Carers (Health Checks)

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will introduce health checks for carers within 12 months of their taking on that role. [73504]

Paul Goggins: Carers already have a legal entitlement to an assessment of their care needs which is aimed at supporting them in their caring role and helping them to maintain their own health and well being.

Carers with specific health problems may contact their general practitioners, who will make a clinical assessment of need, which may include a comprehensive health check.

Cathedral Quarter

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been allocated for the promotion of the arts in the Cathedral Quarter of Belfast in each year since 1997. [71052]

Maria Eagle: Funding allocated for the promotion of the arts in the Cathedral Quarter of Belfast since 1997 is shown on the following table:

Funding for the promotion of the arts in the cathedral quarter since 1997

£

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
DCAL									
Arts Council[1]	0	119,737	74,000	216,000	677,736	869,295	949,930	1,069,090	[2]1,673,378
DSD									
Laganside	1,900	55,413	1,399,083	175,983	588,883	313,983	443,669	70,078	72,900
Peace 2.11									
ERDF (75 per cent.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,192,886	211,399	29,070
DSD									
Match Funding (25 per cent.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	397,629	70,466	9,690

[1] Amounts include lottery funding as well as exchequer funding.
[2] Amount includes £160,000 for the three year period 2005-08 allocated from the Multi-Annual Programme fund.

Child Sexual Abuse

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will carry out a review of provision of therapy services for victims of child sexual abuse in Northern Ireland; and if he will allocate additional resources to ensure that all victims are provided with services and support. [73223]

Paul Goggins: A sexual violence strategy is currently being developed for Northern Ireland. In developing the strategy the need for an assessment of existing medical, counselling and social support services is being explored.

Child Support Agency

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his letter of 19 October 2005 (COR/443/2005) on the Child Support Agency, when the chief executive of the Child Support Agency will be in a position to reply to the hon. Member for North Down. [52377]

Mr. Hanson: The chief executive of the Child Support Agency replied to the hon. Lady on 21 October 2005.

Childhood Leukaemia

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what response his Department plans to make to the findings of the Health Protection Agency in relation to the effects on childhood leukaemia rates of living near electricity lines and pylons. [74979]

Paul Goggins: The Stakeholder Advisory Group on extremely low frequency (ELF) electromagnetic fields (SAGE) was set up in response to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) advice and is sponsored by the Department of Health with funding contributions from the charity 'Children with Leukaemia' and National Grid plc. SAGE has brought together stakeholders

> "to identify and explore the implications for a precautionary approach to ELF EMF and make practical recommendations for precautionary measures."

Stakeholders include representatives from UK Government Departments, industry, independent academics, regulators, public concern groups and associated professional groups. Government will be pleased to receive the SAGE report and will give it full consideration when it is completed in due course.

Childhood Obesity

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to encourage the wider use of calorie-free sweeteners as part of his strategy to reduce childhood obesity in the Province. [74471]

Paul Goggins: The report of the Fit Futures taskforce on tackling obesity in children and young people was published in March of this year. The report included over 70 recommendations designed to deliver the public service agreement target to stop the increase in levels of obesity in children by 2010.

The wider use of calorie-free sweeteners was not advocated by the Fit Futures taskforce and does not form part of plans to reduce childhood obesity. Foods containing sweeteners are acidic and can contribute to dental erosion when sipped over long periods of time. They may also serve to encourage or maintain a preference for sweet foods. Children, especially young children, could be at risk of taking in more than the acceptable daily intake of sweeteners.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the percentage of children in Northern Ireland who are *(a)* overweight and *(b)* obese. [74378]

Paul Goggins: Information relating to percentages of children who are *(a)* overweight and *(b)* obese is not currently available for all children in Northern Ireland. However such information is available for all Primary 1 pupils from the Northern Ireland Child Health Systems. Table 1 below shows the percentage of Primary 1 pupils in Northern Ireland, 2003-04, who were overweight or obese.

Table 1: Northern Ireland: 2003-04

P1 Children	*Overweight*	*Percentage Obese*
Male	14.3	4.6
Female	19.8	6.9
NI	17.0	5.7

Source:
Child Health System (NI) 2003-04.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what targets he has set to reduce childhood obesity in Northern Ireland. [74379]

Paul Goggins: Priorities and Budget 2006-08 contains a public service agreement target to stop the increase in levels of obesity in children by 2010. The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the Department of Education and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure share responsibility for the achievement of this target.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent progress has been made towards reducing childhood obesity in Northern Ireland. [74380]

Paul Goggins: The report of the Fit Futures taskforce on tackling obesity in children and young people was published in March of this year. The report included over 70 recommendations designed to deliver the public service agreement target to stop the increase in levels of obesity in children by 2010. A response from the Ministerial Group on Public Health to the report, including a comprehensive, cross-departmental implementation plan is currently being developed.

Action to address key recommendations has, however, already commenced. The Department of Education, in conjunction with the -Education and Library Boards, began the implementation of New Nutritional Standards for School Meals in September 2005. Over 800 schools are now participating in this initiative and the remainder will be included by the end of 2006. Under the Extended Schools element of the Children and Young People funding package, £10 million is available each year in the period 2006-08 for allocation to schools in disadvantaged areas. The focus of Extended Schools will include healthy lifestyles and tackling childhood obesity.

As part of the Sport in Our Community Programme, the Sports Council for Northern Ireland is making a major investment to encourage more children to develop the basic physical movement skills required to facilitate sustained involvement in sport and a healthy and active lifestyle. In addition, the Health Promotion Agency has launched "Every Step is a Forward Step", to promote the health benefits of physical activity and to encourage members of the public to undertake regular, moderate physical activity.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the volume of soft drinks which was consumed per day on average by *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [74381]

Paul Goggins: Figures provided the Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Association (NIFDA) indicate that the average person in Northern Ireland drinks 122 litres of carbonated soft drinks per year, 13 litres more than people in the Republic of Ireland and 17 litres more than people in the UK as a whole.

No specific data is available regarding the volume of soft drinks consumed by children. However, information from the 2005 Child Wellbeing Survey indicates that 38.4 per cent. of children aged 8 to 11 years consume soft drinks at least once per day.

Nationally, the most recent information available on consumption of soft drinks by children dates back to the 1997 National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) of young people aged 4 to 18 years. This survey, carried out in England, Wales and Scotland, showed that average consumption of soft drinks by the 4 to 18-year age group in Britain in 1997 was 441g/day. Just over half of this (264g/day) comprised standard (i.e. other than low calorie) varieties.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Food Standards Agency regarding the implications of calorific content of soft drinks on childhood obesity. [74382]

Paul Goggins: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has not had any recent discussions with the Food Standards Agency specifically relating to the impact of the calorific content of soft drinks on childhood obesity.

The Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland (FSA NI) was recently involved in the production of a report into childhood obesity presented to the Ministerial Group on Public Health, titled "Fit Futures—focus on food activity and young people!"

The Fit Futures taskforce considered in detail the issue of food provision within schools, including the provision of food and drink through vending machines, and has recommended that food and nutrient-based standards should be introduced for all food in schools.

A cross-departmental working group has been set up in order to progress this issue. The FSA has developed a healthy drinks vending toolkit and other relevant resource materials to support the initiative.

The FSA nationally has commenced discussions with stakeholders on a strategy to address the calorie levels in certain food to help consumers achieve energy balance; the levels of sugar in some foods, including soft drinks, is being explored as part of this strategy.

Chiropracters

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans there are in Northern Ireland for statutory regulation of chiropractors from *(a)* the rest of the UK and *(b)* EU countries. [74234]

Paul Goggins: There are no plans for further regulation as chiropractors in Northern Ireland like their colleagues in the rest of the United Kingdom are statutorily regulated under the Chiropractors Act 1994.

Chiropractors practising in the EU who wish to work in the UK must satisfy the following rules before admission to the General Chiropractic Council (GCC) register.

1. Chiropractors who practise in EU countries that have statutory regulation can apply to the GCC register under EU General Directive 89/48/EEC.

2. Where a EU country does not have statutory regulation of chiropractors the applicant may still be eligible for registration under the GCC (Registration of Chiropractors with Foreign Qualifications) Rules 2002. This allows applicants who hold a recognised qualification to apply for registration and would include passing a test of competence.

In both cases the chiropractor must have been practising in the EU for a minimum of three years before they can be considered for registration to the General Chiropractic Council.

Cholesterol

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent in the Province on *(a)* drug treatment and *(b)* dietary advice for those at risk of elevated cholesterol levels in each of the last five years. [74575]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not readily available.

Primary care expenditure on prescribed cholesterol-lowering drugs over the last five years is shown in the table.

	Cost of drugs (£ million)
2001	17.31
2002	20.96
2003	26.35
2004	32.85
2005	30.04

One of the classes of cholesterol-lowering drugs, known as the statins, can also be bought over the counter at community pharmacists, under pharmacist supervision, and this spend is not available. Most health professionals, such as GPs and nurses, would offer advice on a range of measures to improve health including advice on reducing cholesterol levels but the cost cannot be separately identified. Similarly, there is also hospital expenditure on cholesterol-lowering drugs, but the amounts in question are not identified.

Community Health Care

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to increase the range of activities delivered by health care professionals in the community. [74389]

Paul Goggins: Too many people in Northern Ireland are admitted to hospital unnecessarily or have their discharge delayed because the community services are not available to support them at home. A key element of our programme of reform for the Health and Personal Social Services (HPSS) is the expansion of community-based health and social care so that people can have access to quality services close to their own homes.

These will include a range of diagnostic, treatment, rehabilitation and social care support services specifically designed to support people to live independent lives and reduce unnecessary reliance on acute hospital services.

Complementary Therapists

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complementary therapists are practising in Northern Ireland who are affiliated to a general practitioner practice; and what legislation is in place to ensure those offering this type of alternative medicine are qualified to do so. [74227]

Paul Goggins: There are no complementary therapists practising in Northern Ireland who are affiliated to a general practitioner practice.

Osteopaths are statutorily regulated under the Osteopaths Act 1993 and chiropractors are statutorily regulated under the Chiropractors Act 1994. There is no statutory regulation of any other form of complementary or alternative therapy. Legislation which regulates doctors, nurses, midwives, health visitors, the professions registered by the Professions Allied to Medicine Act 1960 and pharmacists covers their practice of complementary or alternative therapies, or provision of advice by them to the public about such products.

Council Staff Sickness

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average sickness rates were for staff employed at each district council in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [74210]

David Cairns: The information on sickness rates within district councils is not held centrally and could

be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the Local Government Auditor, under the provisions in Article 26 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005, is in the process of collecting information about absenteeism for 2005-06. This information will be published and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Criminal Justice

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to introduce legislation in Northern Ireland containing provisions on sentences analogous with those in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 in England and Wales for those convicted of serious sexual or violent offences. [73541]

Mr. Hanson: The indeterminate and extended sentences legislated for in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 are under consideration in the current review of the Sentencing Framework in Northern Ireland. Protection of the public will be central to my thinking in the development of a new Framework.

I will make an announcement in due course.

Criminality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria he uses to define criminality. [53135]

Mr. Woodward: Criminality involves an illegal act prohibited by common law or by statute which may result in prosecution and punishment by the state if the accused is convicted.

Curran Report

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action has been taken to implement the recommendations of the Curran Report commissioned by the Department of Education in Northern Ireland. [74376]

Maria Eagle: The recommendations of the Final Report Part 1 (Parity, Performance and Progression) of the Teachers' Pay and Conditions of Service Inquiry have been largely implemented. The Final Report Part 2 (Improving Conditions, Raising Standards and Negotiating Arrangements) made a number of wide-ranging recommendations, which, if implemented, would place a significant demand upon the education budget.

Successive Ministers have asked the Teachers' Negotiating Committee, which comprises both employers and teacher unions, to consider how the recommendations in the report can be progressed through alternative and innovative ways of working. To this end the Committee has established a working group to identify potential strategies that will free up teachers' time and help reduce teacher workload in line with the recommendations.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate has been made of the costs required to implement in full the recommendations of the Curran Report. [74377]

Maria Eagle: Of the 25 recommendations of the Final Report Part 2 (Improving Conditions, Raising Standards and Negotiating Arrangements) of the Teachers' Pay and Conditions of Service Inquiry ("Curran 2"), the Department of Education estimates that five would have significant financial implications, and would cost some £84 million a year to implement at 2004-05 prices.

A number of the report's other recommendations will have cost implications but these are not expected to be significant.

Curricula

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average annual cost was of educating a child in the *(a)* enriched curriculum and *(b)* traditional curriculum in 2005-06. [74690]

Maria Eagle: The enriched curriculum is primarily a pedagogical approach to teaching and learning for children in years one and two of statutory education. It is designed to be sensitive to the way young children learn naturally and to provide greater flexibility in how children learn at an early age. It is not possible to make a direct comparison in the cost of delivery of the enriched curriculum and traditional curriculum, as there are other contributory factors, such as school size and type and involvement in other initiatives that influence costs in any individual school.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his policy is on the use of synthetic phonics in the enriched curriculum in Northern Ireland's schools. [74691]

Maria Eagle: Synthetic phonics is one of a range of measures available to teachers in schools in Northern Ireland for the teaching of reading. The Department of Education has no plans to specify that schools should only use this measure.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment was made in preparing the final report of the Early Years Enriched Curriculum Project of the contribution of the enriched and traditional curriculums to improving the educational standards achieved by children in the Shankill Road area. [74814]

Maria Eagle: The Enriched Curriculum pilot arose from concerns expressed by teachers in the Shankill area, where the traditional curriculum was not meeting the needs of their pupils. The external evaluation by Queens University was undertaken on a longitudinal basis. It compares the achievements of Enriched Curriculum pupils and traditional curriculum pupils in different classes within the same school. The findings are that children in the Enriched Curriculum in Shankill schools benefit from the approach. Their educational achievements are at least of the same standard as those taking the traditional curriculum by the end of Year 4, and in addition they demonstrate increased self-esteem, confidence, oral skills and enjoyment of learning.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list *(a)* Acts and *(b)* parts of Acts which received Royal Assent between 1976 and 2006 for which his Department has policy responsibility and which remain in force. [70097]

Mr. Hain: The information requested is not held centrally. It could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Press Office

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his Department's press office. [74353]

Paul Goggins: Information on ethnicity is provided by staff in the Northern Ireland Office on a voluntary basis. The purpose for which this personal data is collected is to enable the Department to monitor the effectiveness of its policies on equality of opportunity. Such monitoring is neither undertaken nor appropriate at the level of directorates, branches or offices. The following table shows the ethnic composition of the NIO both in Belfast and London as at 24 May 2006.

	Number
Black or Asian	14
Others	1,839
Ethnicity not declared	229
Total	2,082

Departmental Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men are employed in the Department; what the average pay was for (i) women and (ii) men in the Department in (A) 1997 and (B) 2006; what women's average pay is as a percentage of men's average pay; and how many (1) women and (2) men the Department employed in each of the last five years, broken down by grade. [67778]

Paul Goggins: The information is as follows.

(a) There are 1,245 women employed in the Department at present.

(b) There are 820 men employed in the Department at present.

With regard to pay, SCS staff and those at Grade A and below are covered by two separate pay systems. The figures have, therefore, been broken down on this basis:

(i) (A) The average pay for women, both at SCS and Grade A and below, in the Department in 1997 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(i) (B) The average pay for women at SCS level in the Department in 2006 is £64,506.

The average pay for women at Grade A and below in the Department in 2006 is £19,842.

(ii) (A) The average pay for men, both at SCS and Grade A and below, in the Department in 1997 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(ii) (B) The average pay for men at SCS level in the Department in 2006 is £76,509.

The average pay for men at Grade A and below in the Department in 2006 is £23,074.

For those staff at SCS level, women's average pay in 2006 is 84.3 per cent. of men's.

For those staff at Grade A and below, women's average pay in 2006 is 83.7 per cent. of men's.

(1) and (2) The figures for the numbers of women and men employed in the Northern Ireland Office in each of the last five years, broken down by grade, are as follows:

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Females					
SCS	7	7	9	10	12
Grade A	52	61	67	75	75
Grade B1	53	61	65	74	86
Grade B2	81	102	112	111	122
Grade C	256	273	283	297	318
Grade D1	279	314	322	346	364
Grade D2	168	192	179	163	167
Female totals	896	1,010	1,037	1,076	1,144
Males					
SCS	34	35	38	38	38
Grade A	86	72	82	95	98
Grade B1	86	100	103	114	112
Grade B2	104	121	136	144	146
Grade C	138	134	114	128	146
Grade D1	104	107	114	111	129
Grade D2	101	103	102	100	103
Male totals	653	662	689	730	772
Overall totals	1,549	1,672	1,726	1,806	1,916

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Northern Ireland civil servants attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event in London in 2005; and what the total cost was of their attendance. [73084]

Mr. Hain: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will write to the hon. Member with details of the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event. Copies of her letter will be placed in the Library.

Domestic Violence

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of domestic violence were reported *(a)* against women and *(b)* against men in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [74238]

Mr. Hanson: Statistics on domestic violence incidents are available from the Police Service of Northern Ireland and from the Domestic Violence Helpline run by Women's Aid Federation. The number of incidents reported and calls received are given in the following table. Within the police statistics for incidents reported there is no official breakdown available for male and female but it is known that women are the

victims in the majority of reported cases. The Domestic Violence Helpline service was only extended to cover male victims from February 2005 and it is estimated that in 2005-06 about 200 calls to the Helpline (1 per cent.) were from male victims.

Domestic violence incidents reported to PSNI and calls received by domestic violence helpline

Year (April/March)	*Incidents reported to PSNI*	*No breakdown by gender is available*	*Calls to the domestic violence helpline*	*Percentage female victims*
2003-04	16,926	n/a	17,120	100
2004-05	20,959	n/a	19,472	99
2005-06	23,039	n/a	20,257	99

Note:
These figures do not represent the prevalence of the problem as domestic violence is seriously under-reported There is also likely to be some degree of overlap in the figures from the two sources as victims may report abuse to the police and also seek help and advice through the Helpline.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have died in Northern Ireland in the past three years as a direct result of domestic violence. [74240]

Mr. Hanson: Deaths as a result of domestic violence in the past three years are given in the following table.

	Deaths	
Year (April-March)	*Male*	*Female*
2003-04	2	2
2004-05	1	6
2005-06	3	3

Source:
Police Service of Northern Ireland

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what facilities exist for men who present themselves as victims of domestic violence; and how many refuge centres exist in the Province. [74241]

Mr. Hanson: A strategy for addressing domestic violence in Northern Ireland, "Tackling Violence at Home", was launched in October 2005. The strategy is aimed at providing protection and support to all victims of domestic violence, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation. All victims can seek information and advice through the free-phone Domestic Violence Helpline and male victims are sign-posted to organisations that provide services for men, such as the Men's Advisory Project, Men-to-Men or the Rainbow Project. Any victim of a domestic assault can seek protection from the police who will investigate, arrest the alleged abuser if power exists and prosecute where there is evidence of a crime. Alternatively a victim can engage a solicitor and apply to a court for a civil order (a non-molestation order and/or an occupation order) to prevent further abuse or exclude the abuser from the family home. There are 12 Women's Aid Refuges for women and children fleeing domestic violence. There are no refuges in operation specifically for male victims of domestic violence given the small numbers involved but men may seek assistance from the Housing Executive who will offer the full range of homelessness services including supported or unsupported temporary accommodation.

Domiciliary Care Workers

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what rate per mile is paid for travel carried out by domiciliary care workers in each of the Northern Ireland health and social services trusts. [73544]

Paul Goggins: The actual rate of travel for HPSS employees is a matter for the employer to decide and up to date information on the rates in payment is not held centrally. It will take some time to collate this information and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available and place a copy in the Library.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the terms are of the increased offer of mileage rate to domiciliary care workers in each health and social services trust in Northern Ireland. [74275]

Paul Goggins: Discussions are currently underway with the relevant trade union but at this stage no offer has been made by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the business rate of mileage paid to domiciliary care workers will be when Agenda for Change is fully implemented by the health and social services trusts in Northern Ireland. [74276]

Paul Goggins: The responsibility for the payment of mileage to domiciliary care workers rests with HPSS employers. The level of mileage allowance applicable is determined by the circumstances of the individual and the organisation. Three categories are available:

	Engine capacity		
	Up to 1000cc	*1001 to 1500cc*	*Over 1500cc*
Regular user allowance			
Lump sum (£)	508	626	750
Up to 9,000 miles	27p	33.5p	40p

	Engine capacity		
	Up to 1000cc	1001 to 1500cc	Over 1500cc
Thereafter	16.2p	18.3p	20.5p
Standard rate			
Up to 3,500 miles	34p	43p	53p
Thereafter	16.2p	18.3p	20.5p

Public transport mileage rate

Public Transport mileage is payable at 23p per mile where the employer deems that standard or regular user rates do not apply.

Education and Library Boards

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what budget was allocated to each of the Education and Library Boards in Northern Ireland for *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [72713]

Maria Eagle: The following tables show the funding (recurrent and capital) allocated to each of the Education and Library Boards by the three funding Departments, Department of Education (DE), Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) and Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) in the last two financial years, ie 2005-06 and 2006-07. It should be noted that the 2005-06 figures relate to initial and final end-year allocations while the 2006-07 figures cover only the initial allocations provided at the start of the financial year. Further funding held by my Departments including end year flexibility allocations carried forward from 2005-06 and earmarked for ELBs have still to be allocated.

2005-06 (initial allocation)

	Recurrent	Capital	£ million Total
BELB	195.0	13.9	208.9
NEELB	256.0	17.5	273.5
SEELB	225.5	20.6	246.1
SELB	267.2	17.5	284.7
WELB	220.3	15.8	236.1
Total	1,164.0	85.3	1,249.3

2005-06 (final allocation)

	Recurrent	Capital	£ million Total
BELB	220.2	10.0	230.2
NEELB	281.2	16.7	297.9
SEELB	250.5	21.7	272.2
SELB	296.1	16.2	312.3
WELB	299.9	12.7	312.6
Total	1,347.9	77.3	1,425.2

2006-07 (initial allocation)

	Recurrent	Capital	£ million Total
BELB	[1]191.8	10.6	202.4
NEELB	265.8	11.9	277.7
SEELB	[1]226.4	11.7	238.1
SELB	277.8	13.6	291.4
WELB	228.8	16.2	245.0
Total	1,190.6	64.0	1,254.6

[1] In 2006-07, the amounts allocated by the Department of Education to BELB and SEELB were net of part-repayments of deficit by both Boards amounting to £3 million and £4.5 million respectively.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of how much has been spent over the last 10 years on job evaluations within education and library boards in the Province. [74651]

Maria Eagle: A total of £125 million has been allocated for the job evaluation exercise by the Department of Education and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure since 1995-96 for school-based staff, former-manual staff, classroom assistants and library staff. This figure includes the estimated cost for annual uplift of salaries until 2007-08. However, it does not include the costs for the job evaluations of former non-manual headquarters and out-centre staff that the education and library boards have had to absorb within their annual running costs. That information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding was provided to the education and library boards in Northern Ireland in the last year for which figures are available; and whether this funding is ring fenced. [71342]

Maria Eagle: A total of £1,425.2 million (made up of £77.3 million capital and £1,347.9 million resource allocations) was provided to the education and library boards in Northern Ireland in 2005-06, the last year for which full year information is available. These allocations were made by the three funding departments:

Department of Education (DE);

Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL); and

Department for Employment and Learning (DEL).

The funding provided by each Department is ring fenced for use only on the functions that the boards provide for or on behalf of that Department. In all cases, capital funding cannot be transferred to resource budgets. In the case of the Department of Education, funding provided via Local Management of Schools

for school budgets is also ring fenced for individual schools and funding for youth is ring fenced for youth service activities.

The allocations from each Department also include separate, smaller earmarked allocations to boards for specific activities and initiatives.

Fallen Stock

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many fallen livestock have been recorded in the Strangford constituency over the past three years. [74729]

David Cairns: The information is not available in the format suggested. Data is available in relation to collections recorded for the National Fallen Stock Scheme in Northern Ireland from 22 November 2004, when the scheme was introduced, to 25 May 2006 (see table 1 following). Figures are not available for other legal means of disposal including independent collection through approved hunt kennels. The National Fallen Stock Scheme does not collect fallen bovines over 24 months old, for which the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development provides a free collection service for the purposes of BSE testing (refer to table 2).

Table 1: National fallen stock scheme collections in Northern Ireland recorded from 22 November 2004 to 25 May 2006

Category	*Number of collections*
Bovines 0 to 24 months	47,705
Container for bovine	4
Bovine per 10 litre volume	10
Sheep and lambs	26,090
Container for lambs	164
Sheep/lambs per 10 kg weight	1,649
Sheep/lambs per 10 litre volume	295
Goats and kids	76
Container for goats	8
Goats per 10 kg weight	533
Pigs and piglets	5,823
Container for piglets	507
Pigs/piglets per 10 kg weight	72,359
Pigs/piglets per 10 litre volume	1,576
Poultry per 10 kg weight	375,323
Container for poultry	6,476
Poultry per 10 litre volume	8,220
Deer	2
Horses and foals	73
Donkeys	2
Ponies and foals	23
Mixed animals per 10 kg weight (bovine/sheep/goats/pigs)	7,708

Table 2: Over 24 months fallen bovines tested for BSE in Northern Ireland

	Number of bovines tested
2003	7,095
2004	8,997
2005	9,734

Female Employment

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of women employed in Northern Ireland doing low-paid work on a part-time basis; and if he will make a statement. [74715]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to provide estimates of the number of women employed in Northern Ireland doing low-paid work on a part-time basis using minimum wage definitions. This is because the sample size of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) used for this purpose is too small to provide reliable estimates. For information, ASHE estimates that the lowest paid 10 per cent. of part-time female employees (approximately 12,000) earned less than £4.85 per hour[1], excluding overtime, in April 2005.

[1] This estimate is for part-time female employees of all ages on adult rates of pay, and with no loss of earnings during the survey reference period. The estimate does not reflect compliance with the national minimum wage levels which vary by age group.

Former Police Officers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what grounds the contracts of employment in the Northern Ireland Police Fund of *(a)* Mr. Desmond Clayton and *(b)* Mr. Thomas Hale were terminated; what the total cost was of the severance package for each; and what budget the severance packages were paid from. [75085]

Paul Goggins: The employment and termination of employment for staff members of the Northern Ireland Police Fund is a matter for the Board of Directors of the Police Fund.

Gaelic Athletic Association

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much public money has been made available to support the Gaelic Athletic Association in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [53149]

Mr. Hanson: These figures have been placed in the Library of the House.

Glenshane Pass

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vehicles per day on average used the Glenshane Pass in either direction between Dungiven and Maghera in the latest period for which figures are available. [74213]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Malcolm McKibbin, dated 30 May 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding how many vehicles per day on average used the Glenshane Pass in either direction between Dungiven and Maghera in the latest period for which figures are available.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

By way of background I should explain that Roads Service collects traffic volume data by means of 270 automatic census points strategically located throughout the Northern Ireland road network. The information is recorded for one week in each

quarter during the year and an annual average calculated. The results are published in Roads Service's annual Traffic and Travel Information Report, which presents the traffic volumes in a variety of formats for each site.

Roads Service have a counter on the A6 Castledawson to Dungiven road, west of Maghera at Ranaghan. The latest data on the average daily number of vehicles using the Glenshane Pass in either direction between Dungiven and Maghera is shown in the table below.

Location	Average daily flow
Between Dungiven and Maghera	5,430
Between Maghera and Dungiven	5,500

General Practitioners

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many GP retainer places are provided in the Province; and what plans there are to increase the number of places. [74577]

Paul Goggins: There are currently 45 GP retainer places in the Province. All those that have applied to enter the scheme have been accommodated. There are no plans to increase the number of places.

Health Trusts

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much each health trust in the Province spent on adminstration in each of the last five years; and what percentage of overall budget this represented in each case. [74634]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is provided in the following tables.

Analysis of total trust expenditure on administration, from 2000-01 to 2004-05

£000

NI HSS Trust	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Altnagelvin Hospitals	4,535	5,173	5,738	6,652	7,695
Armagh and Dungannon	4,614	4,167	4,937	5,465	5,876
Belfast City Hospital Group	10,416	11,571	12,562	13,940	14,969
Causeway	6,666	7,182	7,666	8,370	9,139
Craigavon and Banbridge Community	3,985	4,393	4,832	5,377	6,166
Craigavon Area Hospital Group	4,988	5,668	6,156	7,028	7,794
Down and Lisburn	8,233	9,104	9,912	11,956	11,876
Foyle	7,891	8,313	8,955	9,842	10,917
Greenpark	4,291	4,505	4,911	5,174	5,559
Homefirst Community	10,150	11,241	11,970	14,555	16,337
Mater Infirmorum Hospital	2,976	3,194	3,235	3,878	4,234
Newry and Mourne	4,578	4,985	5,494	6,258	6,976
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service	958	1,223	1,370	2,032	1,910
North and West Belfast	8,090	8,692	9,223	10,299	11,506
Royal Group of Hospitals	14,662	16,204	17,623	19,357	21,025
South and East Belfast	9,106	9,915	10,800	11,974	12,863
Sperrin Lakeland	6,135	6,530	7,079	7,958	8,711
Ulster Community and Hospitals Trust	10,645	11,524	12,695	14,264	15,730
United Hospitals	8,708	9,201	9,666	10,424	11,075
NI total expenditure on administration	131,625	142,784	154,824	174,805	190,358

Notes:
1. Total administration includes chairman's and non-executive members' remuneration, executive board members, administration and clerical and agency staff working on administration.
2. Senior clinical professionals on management contracts, can not be separately identified and excluded from administration costs.

Administration as a percentage of total trust expenditure on staff costs and other expenses from 2000-01 to 2004-05

Percentage share

Trust	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Altnagelvin Hospitals	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.9
Armagh and Dungannon	7.0	6.7	7.1	7.0	7.7
Belfast City Hospital Group	8.4	8.4	8.2	8.3	8.1
Causeway	9.1	9.3	9.3	9.0	9.2
Craigavon and Banbridge Community	8.6	8.8	8.8	8.8	9.8
Craigavon Area Hospital Group	7.7	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.6
Down and Lisburn	8.3	8.3	7.8	8.5	8.0
Foyle	10.3	10.1	9.7	9.6	10.4
Greenpark	8.6	8.7	9.5	9.3	9.0
Homefirst Community	8.3	8.6	7.9	8.6	9.5
Mater Infirmorum Hospital	10.9	10.2	9.0	9.7	9.4
Newry and Mourne	7.9	7.7	7.7	7.6	8.0

Administration as a percentage of total trust expenditure on staff costs and other expenses from 2000-01 to 2004-05

Trust	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Percentage share 2004-05
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service	4.0	4.6	4.8	6.2	4.9
North and West Belfast	8.1	7.9	7.5	7.5	8.4
Royal Group of Hospitals	7.7	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.1
South and East Belfast	8.5	9.6	8.5	8.8	9.2
Sperrin Lakeland	6.6	6.5	6.2	6.3	6.6
Ulster Community and Hospitals Trust	8.3	8.1	8.1	7.6	8.2
United Hospitals	9.0	8.7	9.7	9.1	8.8

Healthcare-acquired Infections

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of *(a) Clostridium difficile* and *(b)* vancomycin-resistant enterococcus have been reported in each health trust in the Province in each month of the last three years. [74654]

Paul Goggins: The information is as follows.

(a) Mandatory surveillance for *Clostridium difficile* only commenced in Northern Ireland on 1 January 2005. Hospital laboratory reports are filtered and data on over 65-year-olds are then analysed on a quarterly basis.

Number of Clostridium difficile patient episodes reported to the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (NI) by trust and quarter[1]

Trust	January-March 2005	April-June 2005	July-September 2005
Altnagelvin Hospitals	16	37	9
Belfast City Hospital	40	44	52
Causeway	9	20	19
Craigavon Area Hospital Group	75	64	27
Down Lisburn	8	14	18
Green Park	6	1	3
Mater Infirmorum Hospital	10	10	8
Newry and Mourne	13	8	5
Royal Group of Hospitals	35	27	29
Sperrin Lakeland	4	4	2
Ulster Community and Hospitals	51	56	42
Ulster Community and United Hospitals	39	23	27

[1] All data provisional

(b) The number of vancomycin-resistant blood isolates of enterococci has been collated through voluntary laboratory reporting in Northern Ireland since 1 January 2003. Each laboratory may serve a number of different Trusts, including acute, specialist and community trusts. The following table shows the number of reports since 2003 compiled by the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (NI).

Laboratory	2003 April	2003 June	2004 July	2004 September	2004 October	2005 August	2006 January
Antrim Area Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Belfast City Hospital	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
Causeway laboratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Craigavon Area Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mater Infirmorum Hospital	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ulster Hospital	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Annual total	2			4		1	1

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many healthcare-acquired infections there were within each health trust in the Province in each month of the last three years. [74666]

Paul Goggins: It is not feasible to have active surveillance of all healthcare associated infections (HCAIs). Currently there are three mandatory HCAI surveillance programmes in Northern Ireland on *Clostridium difficile*, *Staphylococcus aureus* (and MRSA) bacteraemias, and orthopaedic surgical site infections. When collated, these act as markers for the level of HCAI found in hospitals.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of MRSA have been reported within each health trust in the Province in each month of the last three years. [74668]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the requested form.

Statistics on MRSA bacteraemias are recorded quarterly by trust and are provided in the following table. The results collated are of infections which have been identified by testing within a hospital. However, no distinction can be made between where the infection was actually acquired, i.e. in hospital or in the community. Trusts with different clinical mixes and specialties will have differing proportions of patients at high risk of infection.

Trust	January to March 2004	April to June 2004	July to September 2004	October to December 2004	January to March 2005	April to June 2005	July to September 2005
Altnagelvin Hospitals	10	6	1	5	5	7	3
Belfast City Hospital	18	9	13	7	7	18	6
Causeway	3	1	4	1	3	3	3
Craigavon Area Hospital Group	7	8	5	4	4	6	5
Down Lisburn	5	4	5	3	4	0	2
Green Park	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
Mater Infirmorum Hospital	4	0	0	5	4	7	7
Newry and Mourne	2	0	1	2	0	0	1
Royal Group of Hospitals	13	8	11	12	13	13	14
Sperrin Lakeland	7	5	4	0	2	1	1
Ulster Community and Hospitals	2	12	12	8	4	11	7
United Hospitals	13	10	10	8	10	5	7

Trust	July to September 2002	October to December 2002	January to March 2003	April to June 2003	July to September 2003	October to December 2003
Altnagelvin Hospitals	2	3	5	2	4	6
Belfast City Hospital	13	13	10	13	15	17
Causeway	4	2	0	5	2	2
Craigavon Area Hospital Group	6	2	2	6	5	12
Down Lisburn	0	3	3	5	2	2
Green Park	1	0	2	0	2	1
Mater Infirmorum Hospital	4	6	7	5	7	6
Newry and Mourne	2	0	1	4	1	4
Royal Group of Hospitals	4	8	9	11	12	10
Sperrin Lakeland	1	0	6	2	6	1
Ulster Community and Hospitals	8	11	7	5	7	4
United Hospitals	6	9	10	17	9	10

Hepatitis A

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information is available in the Province to ensure people who do not have access to the internet are able to access hard copy material warning them about contracting hepatitis A due to poor water quality. [74228]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and the Department of the Environment do not have written material available for the public about contracting hepatitis A through water in Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom water industry, including Northern Ireland, has drinking water processes and procedures in place, which ensure that health risks from contamination are extremely low.

The booklet, "Health Advice for Travellers", published jointly by the Department of Health and DHSSPS, is available from post offices. Under the heading hepatitis A, advice on infection risk in relation to water and food and on hand washing is provided for travellers going to countries where sanitation is basic. Country-by-country risks and recommendations for travellers on hepatitis A are also contained in the jointly published book, "Health Information for Overseas Travel", which is aimed at health professionals and available from the Stationery Office.

Holy Cross College, Strabane

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to ensure that there is no further delay in the construction of Holy Cross college in Strabane. [72924]

Maria Eagle: Having fully considered the representations made to exempt Holy Cross college

from the policy changes in respect of cleaning services in PPP projects, I have concluded that this project must be in line with all other PPP school projects and apply the policy on cleaning services.

A letter has now issued to the trustees and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools advising them of this decision. My officials will shortly be in contact with the project manager to convene a meeting of relevant stakeholders to agree an action plan that will ensure any delays and costs are kept to a minimum.

Hospital Security

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to increase resources allocated for hospital security at *(a)* Ulster hospital and *(b)* other Northern Ireland hospitals. [74725]

Paul Goggins: The resources made available to the health and personal social services (HPSS) do not specify an amount for hospital security. However, it is within the remit of each trust to allocate appropriate resources for security, as it considers necessary in fulfilling its duty of care to patients, staff and visitors.

The Department is fully committed to improving health and safety protection for all HPSS staff and there are a number of measures already in place to demonstrate this commitment e.g. personal alarms for lone workers, panic buttons and restricted access in A and E, CCTV, joint protocols between the Department and the Police Service of Northern Ireland on reporting incidents, publicity campaign that violent attacks on staff are crimes. Also, a controls assurance standard for security management for the HPSS is being developed and will further ensure that there is a secure environment that protects all service users, staff and visitors.

Hospital Staff Shortages

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* operations and *(b)* other hospital procedures have been cancelled at short notice over the last five years because of staff holidays. [74576]

Paul Goggins: The information requested on cancelled operations and procedures is not collected centrally. Hospitals currently use a mixture of computerised and manual theatre systems from which consistent and reliable data cannot be extracted.

A computerised regional theatre management system is currently being procured. Once it is operational in all trusts, it will be possible to obtain consistent information on cancelled operations from all trusts.

Hospital Waiting Times

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average waiting time to be seen by a consultant was for people in North Belfast for *(a)* cardiac problems, *(b)* cancer and *(c)* other conditions in the last period for which figures are available. [74720]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not available.

Hotels

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many hotel *(a)* rooms and *(b)* beds there were in each district council area in Northern Ireland (i) in the last 12 months and (ii) 10 years ago. [74388]

Maria Eagle: On 30 April 1996 there were 3,696 hotel rooms and 8,132 bedspaces available in Northern Ireland and 6,105 hotel rooms and 13,827 bedspaces on 30 April 2006. Breakdown by local authority Area is in the following table:

	Hotels as at 30 April 1996			*Hotels as at 30 April 2006*		
	Number of hotels	*Number of rooms*	*Number of bedspaces*	*Number of hotels*	*Number of rooms*	*Number of bedspaces*
Antrim Borough Council	5	222	566	6	393	832
Ards Borough Council	5	89	177	2	51	103
Armagh District Council	3	35	89	2	129	317
Ballymena District Council	5	149	310	5	155	322
Ballymoney Borough Council	1	9	16	1	9	16
Banbridge District Council	2	22	36	3	41	73
Belfast City Council	11	614	1,158	21	1,812	3,768
Carrickfergus Borough Council	2	30	56	4	151	356
Castlereagh Borough Council	1	38	75	4	334	750
Coleraine Borough Council	16	367	934	14	398	1,125
Cookstown District Council	4	90	207	4	98	215
Craigavon Borough Council	4	112	227	3	83	169
Derry City Council	7	237	512	9	585	1,416
Down District Council	11	279	753	6	255	628
Dungannon District Council	5	78	199	3	72	172
Fermanagh District Council	9	223	510	10	319	781
Larne Borough Council	8	131	263	5	145	328

	Hotels as at 30 April 1996			Hotels as at 30 April 2006		
	Number of hotels	Number of rooms	Number of bedspaces	Number of hotels	Number of rooms	Number of bedspaces
Limavady District Council	5	147	359	3	183	471
Lisburn Borough Council	4	191	408	3	100	225
Magherafelt District Council	0	0	0	2	33	93
Moyle District Council	5	94	219	4	103	260
Newry and Mourne District Council	3	58	119	5	211	494
Newtownabbey Borough Council	2	95	188	2	92	198
North Down Borough Council	8	300	571	6	268	541
Omagh District Council	2	48	97	1	46	88
Strabane District Council	2	38	83	2	39	86
Northern Ireland Total	130	3,696	8,132	130	6,105	13,827

Human Rights Commission

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 699W, on the Human Rights Commission, what nationality criteria are applied when appointing the Chief Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission. [73072]

Mr. Hanson: No nationality criteria are applied to the appointment of the Chief Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission.

Incorrect Labelling

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many companies in Northern Ireland have been fined in the last five years in Northern Ireland for incorrect information contained on their products. [74230]

Maria Eagle: In the five-year period between 1 April 2001 and 31 March 2006 four companies were prosecuted under the Weights and Measures (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 and fined for displaying the wrong weight on their products. In addition, in the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2005 for which we have statistics, there were six prosecutions under food labelling legislation.

Independent Monitoring Commission

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's contribution is to the expenses of the Independent Monitoring Commission; what the cost of the Commission has been in each year since its formation; and how much of the cost is accounted for by *(a)* administrative costs including staff, *(b)* members' allowances and emoluments and *(c)* members' expenses. [44893]

Mr. Woodward: The Independent Monitoring Commission is jointly funded by the Northern Ireland Office and the Department of Justice, each contributing 50 per cent. of the overall expenses of the Commission.

The costs of the Commission to the Northern Ireland Office are set out in the following table:

	January 2004-March 2005	£ April 2005-March 2006
Total cost	546,579	220,516
(a)	50,528	38,470
(b)	101,621	86,655
(c)	88,078	95,391

Influenza Pandemic

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what containment measures have been drawn up in Northern Ireland should an influenza pandemic break out in the Province. [74232]

Paul Goggins: The Government are taking the issue of pandemic flu very seriously.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) believes the United Kingdom to be one of the best prepared countries in the world for dealing with a pandemic influenza.

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) has been working on pandemic influenza plans for two years. These dovetail with the UK National Plan and are based on the framework recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) for national pandemic plans.

Health and Social Services Boards and Trusts within Northern Ireland have also developed contingency plans based on the DHSSPS plan.

Antivirals will provide the first form of defence against a pandemic flu. In line with the rest of the UK we have ordered sufficient doses of antivirals to treat the predicted number of people who will become ill. The full supply is on target to be received here by September 2006.

Vaccination will offer the best form of protection against pandemic flu but a vaccine cannot be manufactured until the exact flu strain is known. It will take around 4-6 months for Northern Ireland Office stocks to become available. Once the vaccine is available, Government plan to vaccinate the whole population.

As a further precautionary measure, Government have ordered 3.5 million doses (and Northern Ireland will get its share) of the H5N1 vaccine as part of the work to prepare for and reduce the impact of a possible flu pandemic. The vaccine will be used to carry out further research and may also be used to vaccinate front line health care workers before a specific pandemic vaccine is developed.

Integral to Government's preparedness on pandemic flu is surveillance. For the past four years Northern Ireland has had an enhanced surveillance scheme for human influenza operated by the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSDC NI) through a network of GP spotter practices. This enhanced surveillance will provide early warning of new viruses circulating here in NI and CDSC and will also link to the Health Protection Agency (UK) to provide timely information for the production of UK surveillance data in the event of a pandemic.

DHSSPS recently carried out a large-scale tabletop exercise to test its contingency plan. The report of the lessons learned will be available shortly.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many professionals are employed in the Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety dealing with the potential threat of a full pandemic. [74316]

Paul Goggins: There are currently the equivalent of 1.5 members of medical staff and 0.5 principal officer dedicated solely to pandemic flu preparedness. Within the Department other members of staff also provide advice and support on this matter from time to time as required. These include medical, nursing, pharmacy, social services and senior administrative staff.

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is working in partnership with the wider health and personal social services, and other Government Departments and agencies to plan for the consequences of a flu pandemic.

Informants

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many arrests were made due to information provided by informants in Northern Ireland in each of the last 20 years. [67073]

Paul Goggins: It is Government policy never to comment on specific national security and intelligence matters.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on information technology (IT) sourced from outside his Department in each of the last five years; who is responsible for such projects in his Department; and what IT *(a)* expertise and *(b)* qualifications they possess. [71771]

Paul Goggins: The following table covers the NIO core department, agencies, the legal offices (Director of Public Prosecutions and Crown Solicitors Office). It does not cover the Northern Ireland Departments, the police or other independent bodies.

ICT Expenditure

	£
2001-02	2,399,200
2002-03	5,341,000
2003-04	8,090,000
2004-05	17,014,300
2005-06	10,724,400
Total	43,568,900

The person responsible for ICT expenditure and related projects is the assistant director, information systems, who sets policy and advises the Permanent Secretary on these matters.

Any person project-managing a medium to large project within information systems would be trained to the industry standard project management level, for example, Prince 2.

All technical members of ISD have a minimum of HND/HNC in computing or a minimum of five years technical experience.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was in each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed with outside suppliers over the last five years. [71772]

Paul Goggins: The following table covers the NIO Core Department, agencies, the legal offices (Director of Public Prosecutions and Crown Solicitors Office) and the Bloody Sunday Inquiry (BSI). It does not cover the Northern Ireland Departments, the police or other independent bodies.

Project	*Purpose*	*Amount spent (£ million ex. VAT)*	*Most recently estimated (£000 ex. VAT)*	*Outturn cost (£ million)*
COMPASS (to 2002)	To provide an e-human resources system for the Northern Ireland Prison Service	5	5.06	5. 06
PRISM (to spring 2006)	To provide a prisoner record system for the Northern Ireland Prison Service	7	7.26	Project ongoing
CAUSEWAY (PPP project to 2013)	A joint enterprise by criminal justice organisations in Northern Ireland to share information electronically	45	45	Project ongoing

Project	Purpose	Amount spent (£ million ex. VAT)	Most recently estimated (£000 ex. VAT)	Outturn cost (£ million)
FLAX (to 2005)	Replace NIO IT infrastructure, provide Internet and intranet and meet electronic document and records management targets	8.5	8.5	8.5
Bloody Sunday Inquiry-Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the Inquiry			
1998		1.1	1.1	1.1
2002		7.1	7.1	7.1
2003		5	5	5
2004		2.6	2.6	2.6
2005		3.7	3.7	3.7

Insulin Products

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the availability of synthetic and animal-derived insulin products in the Province over the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [74662]

Paul Goggins: During the past three years the availability of insulin has been affected by a number of issues. Some manufacturers have rationalised the range of insulin products they produce. Six synthetic insulin products have been discontinued but three new synthetic products have been introduced. As a result some patients have had to agree new insulin regimes with their prescriber.

However, the full range of animal-derived and synthetic insulin products continues to be available in Northern Ireland from pharmaceutical wholesalers.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prescription items were issued of *(a)* animal and *(b)* synthetic insulin in the Province in each of the last five years. [74663]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of prescription items dispensed for *(a)* animal and *(b)* synthetic insulin in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

	Animal insulin	Synthetic insulin
2001	2,655	91,921
2002	2,448	100,726
2003	2,379	117,401
2004	2,204	138,156
2005	2,217	151,530

Notes.
1. Insulins are those defined in the British National Formulary (BNF) sections, 6.1.1.0, 6.1.1.1 and 6.1.1.2. 2. The count of items does not relate to individual people, as a person will be prescribed multiple items in the course of a year.
Source:
Central Services Agency.

Intelligence Gathering

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether *(a)* the Police Service of Northern Ireland and *(b)* MI5 has primacy in intelligence gathering for paramilitary and subversive activity by the (i) UVF, (ii) UDA, (iii) LVF, (iv) Provisional IRA, (v) Continuity IRA and (vi) Real IRA. [72926]

Paul Goggins: Lead responsibility for intelligence work to counter the threat from terrorism in Northern Ireland posed by all the groups listed, currently lies with the PSNI. In line with the Government's Written Statement to Parliament of 24 February 2005, lead responsibility for that work will transfer to the Security Service during 2007 and provide consistency with the rest of the United Kingdom.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he discusses paramilitary activity with the same sources as the Independent Monitoring Commission. [73080]

Paul Goggins: I discuss paramilitary activity with my security advisers. The IMC is an independent international organisation and I therefore cannot comment on the sources it speaks to.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Independent Monitoring Commission accesses security sources that are unavailable to him. [73081]

Paul Goggins: The Independent Monitoring Commission is an independent international organisation and all meetings it has are confidential. I am therefore not aware of the bodies that the IMC consults as part of its work.

Invest Northern Ireland

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many new jobs were secured in each of the district council areas of the Province by Invest Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [74385]

Maria Eagle: Table 1 shows the number of jobs promoted within each district council area as a result of inward investment projects during the 10 years from 1996-97 to 2005-06. Information supplied for 2005-06 is provisional and may be subject to change.

Table 1: New jobs promoted by district council area in inward investment projects (1996-97 to 2005-06)

District council	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Antrim	20	90	86	166	—	223	5
Ards	—	100	14	113	—	—	70
Armagh	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Ballymena	290	115	—	—	12	—	—
Ballymoney	73	129	—	—	—	—	—
Banbridge	—	12	—	—	—	—	—
Belfast	781	2,658	2,462	3,833	2,361	905	251
Carrickfergus	—	55	—	130	723	76	100
Castlereagh	55	54	—	—	—	122	—
Coleraine	12	52	77	123	—	—	—
Cookstown	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Craigavon	45	298	202	145	37	72	16
Derry	340	1,225	158	960	357	520	93
Down	23	75	—	—	—	85	—
Dungannon	344	75	—	106	20	98	—
Fermanagh	—	22	—	130	—	10	350
Larne	369	45	71	147	—	—	—
Limavady	759	10	—	—	26	—	—
Lisburn	566	—	512	32	—	90	—
Magherafelt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moyle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newry and Mourne	131	—	275	—	300	64	50
Newtown Abbey	779	140	150	374	1,640	93	—
North Down	—	51	—	325	—	18	41
Omagh	—	—	—	—	—	150	—
Strabane	100	—	155	—	30	—	—
Grand total	4,687	5,206	4,162	6,584	5,506	2,526	1,033

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Council total
Antrim	—	319	20	929
Ards	5	—	—	302
Armagh	—	—	—	25
Ballymena	—	—	—	417
Ballymoney	—	—	—	202
Banbridge	—	13	—	25
Belfast	884	2,561	1,157	17,853
Carrickfergus	—	—	—	1,084
Castlereagh	—	24	—	255
Coleraine	—	—	—	264
Cookstown	—	148	40	220
Craigavon	110	—	49	974
Derry	486	40	361	4,540
Down	—	—	—	183
Dungannon	8	17	—	668
Fermanagh	194	—	11	717
Larne	25	112	155	924
Limavady	24	—	—	819
Lisburn	—	16	71	1,287
Magherafelt	—	1	—	1
Moyle	—	23	—	23
Newry and Mourne	—	—	1,045	1,865
Newtown Abbey	42	—	82	3,300
North Down	200	140	—	775
Omagh	—	—	75	225
Strabane	175	53	34	547
Grand total	2,153	3,467	3,100	38,424

Table 2 shows the number of jobs expected to be created as a result of the Start a Business Programme during the past 4 years (2002-03 to 2005-06). This information is not available over a longer time period.

Table 2: Jobs created in business start-ups by district council area (2002-03 to 2005-06)

District council area	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	DCA total
Antrim	53	65	101	92	312
Ards	118	191	199	224	732
Armagh	99	137	161	164	560
Ballymena	77	73	121	92	363
Ballymoney	47	47	82	85	260
Banbridge	85	100	131	142	458
Belfast	243	390	521	478	1,633
Carrickfergus	53	66	111	68	298
Castlereagh	60	87	129	108	384
Coleraine	74	86	160	133	452
Cookstown	70	87	127	116	400
Craigavon	114	172	248	225	759
Derry	165	260	459	325	1,209
Down	118	198	300	257	874
Dungannon	98	138	191	176	602
Fermanagh	116	185	291	263	854
Larne	69	72	111	101	352
Limavady	59	83	146	122	410
Lisburn	190	157	209	205	762
Magherafelt	121	131	166	189	607
Moyle	17	17	52	57	143
Newry and Mourne	199	181	346	260	985
Newtown Abbey	100	178	174	179	632
North Down	105	161	173	146	585
Omagh	78	90	131	151	450
Strabane	51	78	103	99	330
Total	2,579	3,430	4,943	4,457	15,406

Irish Language

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will seek to legislate to provide legal protection for the Irish language; and if he will make a statement. [72925]

Maria Eagle: The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and the UK Government's signature of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages underpin Government support for minority languages in Northern Ireland, including Irish. It is considered that the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and the Charter provide a suitable framework for the development of linguistic diversity.

The Government have no plans at present to introduce a Northern Ireland Language Bill. This could instead be a matter for a returned NI Assembly to consider.

Knife Amnesty

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what further efforts are planned to publicise the knife amnesty recently announced by the Northern Ireland Office. [74341]

Mr. Hanson: The campaign to tackle knife crime in Northern Ireland including the introduction of a three week amnesty was launched on Wednesday 24 May. This received significant attention from all the main media outlets in Northern Ireland. A list of the amenity sites where bins for collection of knives are situated was provided to the media and the police have established a helpline to provide information to anyone who wishes to surrender a knife.

In addition, relevant information has been provided to both District Policing Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships to allow them to provide information to local media and the public at district council levels. I know that a number of them have already taken that opportunity.

I am confident that over the next three weeks everyone in Northern Ireland will have been given an opportunity to surrender any knife which they do not have a legitimate reason to hold and sufficient information as to how they can do this. I would urge everyone falling into this category to do so.

Lakewood School

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the consultees in relation to the proposed move of Lakewood School in Bangor to Childhaven near Millisle in County Down; and what the nature was of the consultation. [74339]

Paul Goggins: Children who are currently accommodated in the Lakewood Centre will shortly move to Craigmore children's home (formerly named

Childhaven) in Millisle and North Road children's home in Belfast. The Lakewood School will not transfer to Millisle, and interim arrangements will be put in place before September to meet the education needs of these children.

The accommodation of these children in Craigmore and North Road is a temporary measure whilst the Ulster Community and Hospitals Trust commissions two new intensive support units, and all appropriate safeguards will be put in place. As Craigmore is currently registered as a children's home, and there will be no change in function, public consultation has not been carried out. However, staff from the Lakewood Centre met with local residents on 18 May 2006 and a further meeting is due to take place on 1 June to address any concerns they may have.

Loyalist Violence Arrests

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many arrests were made in relation to loyalist violence between 10 and 17 September. [36538]

Mr. Woodward: The Police Service of Northern Ireland arrested 82 people in relation to the public disorder which blighted loyalist areas between 10 and 17 September 2005.

Lung Cancer

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he plans to take to improve the survival *(a)* terms and *(b)* rates of lung cancer patients in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [74675]

Paul Goggins: The Government and the DHSSPS are committed to improving the survival terms and rates for all cancers including lung cancer. This commitment is underpinned in the Department's Public Service Agreement which aims to increase the five-year survival rate for lung cancer by five per cent. of the 1993-95 figure by 2010.

The Department in partnership with the Northern Ireland Cancer Network is taking forward work on a number of fronts which have the potential to both increase survival terms and improve survival rates for lung cancer patients. These include:

the provision of better information for lung cancer patients;

the development of GP referrals guidelines and improved primary care pathways for those suspected of having lung cancer; and;

further improvements in oncology protocols for the treatment of lung cancers.

Mental Health

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many psychiatrists per head of population are needed in Northern Ireland to provide adequate service across all mental health areas; what is being done to encourage psychiatrists *(a)* to come to Northern Ireland and *(b)* to train in this field of medicine. [74222]

Paul Goggins: We will be looking to the reports from the Bamford Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability to inform us on future workforce needs across all professions for mental health services. We will also take account of the changes in team working practices outlined in the New Ways of Working report.

In recent years there has been no difficulty in attracting applicants to the specialty of psychiatry.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* young children and *(b)* young adults are unsuitably accommodated in adult psychiatric units in each health board area. [74223]

Paul Goggins: The number of children and young people aged under 18 who are accommodated in adult psychiatric units in each health board is detailed in the table.

Health Board	*Number*
Eastern	8
Northern	<5
Southern	<5
Western	<5
Northern Ireland Total	14

Notes:
1. Figures are as at 30 April 2006.
2. Figures include those on home leave.
3. Please note that cell sizes that have a value of less than 5 have been masked in order to help protect confidentiality.

Source:
HSS Trusts.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of the current intake of student nurses at Queen's University Belfast have indicated their intention to specialise in psychiatric nursing; and what assessment he has made of the extent to which this meets the number of nurses required in this field of nursing. [74224]

Paul Goggins: There are currently 120 pre-registration student nurses specialising in mental health nursing at Queen's University Belfast, from a total of 1,320. There are a further 113 students specialising in mental health nursing at the University of Ulster or through the Open University. A recent review of the Mental Health and Learning Disability work force indicates the need for further investment in the training of a range of staff in this work force. A recruitment drive for mental health nursing was taken forward by Queen's University and the Department in 2004. This has resulted in substantially increased applications for training in mental health nursing.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress is being made in providing *(a)* sufficient facilities and *(b)* adequate professional and nursing expertise for children and young adults with psychiatric needs in each board area. [74225]

Paul Goggins: It is the responsibility of the four Health and Social Services boards to assess the needs of their populations and prioritise their resources, both facilities and work force, to best meet those needs. Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services are provided by each of the boards, while access to specialist services, including in-patient care, is commissioned on a regional or multi-district basis.

An interim Regional Adolescent In-patient Unit at Knockbracken is now open for admissions. A new 18-bed mental health adolescent in-patient unit is to be built by 2008-09, with the intention that it will be subsequently linked to a new replacement 15-bed child psychiatric unit at the Forster Green hospital site.

The Children and Young People's Funding Package, which was announced in March, will strengthen Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service provision by providing funding to establish two to three Child and Adolescent Crisis Response Teams across Northern Ireland. The four boards are currently developing a proposal on the establishment and locations of these teams to best respond to need.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent research he has commissioned into levels of social stigma attached to people who present forms of mental illness; and if he will make a statement. [74231]

Paul Goggins: An inter-departmental group has been identifying and tackling the factors, including stigma, which can contribute to the social exclusion of people with mental health problems and a report will be issued for consultation in the summer.

Missed Hospital Appointments

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many missed hospital appointments there were in each health trust in the Province over the last 12 months. [74629]

Paul Goggins: The total number of missed hospital appointments in the financial year 2004-05 for each health trust is provided in the following table. These figures represent the number of out-patient appointments where a patient did not attend and failed to give advance warning to the hospital.

HSS trust	*Number of missed appointments*
Altnagelvin Group	16,788
Armagh and Dungannon	2,519
Belfast City Hospital	22,283
Causeway	5,080
Craigavon Area Hospital Group	13,416
Craigavon and Banbridge Community	2,010
Down Lisburn	6,558
Foyle Community	1,884
Green Park Healthcare	8,169
Homefirst Community	4,251
Mater Infirmorum	12,302
Newry and Mourne	8,934
North and West Belfast	419
Royal Group of Hospitals	51,100
South and East Belfast	2,890
Sperrin Lakeland	6,043
Ulster Community and Hospitals Trust	19,951
United Hospitals Group	13,141
Northern Ireland	197,738

Source:
Departmental Information Return K1109

MRI Scans

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans there are for introducing MRI scans of young people in Northern Ireland where there is a familial history of arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplastia; and if he will make a statement. [74233]

Paul Goggins: Relatives of those diagnosed with arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC) are advised to undertake testing for this condition. There is no single diagnostic test for the condition and investigation involves a series of tests, one of which includes magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the heart.

Provision for those patients who require cardiac MRI scanning is currently provided at the Belfast City hospital. Some patients are also referred to other centres in the UK (London or Oxford).

Murals

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure is taking to assist communities in promoting cultural and historic artistic murals to replace those of a militaristic and paramilitary type. [74420]

Maria Eagle: The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is taking forward a project entitled "Re-imaging Communities" which will focus on the replacement of paramilitary murals and other offensive items with new and more positive imagery. The priority areas are housing estates, peace lines and interface areas and derelict public spaces throughout Northern Ireland. The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure has secured £2 million for this project over the period 2006-08. The Arts Council is seeking additional funding from other sources.

The Arts Council is also delivering a project entitled "If Walls Could Talk". The aim of this project is to transform the peace line along Cupar Way into a world-class exhibition space for public art and to stimulate the development of arts in the Shankill area. This project is due to commence in 2006-07 and £170,000 per annum is available over two years.

The Ulster Scots Agency encourages communities to engage in promoting cultural and historic artistic murals to replace those of a militaristic and paramilitary type and the Agency will consider applications for financial assistance where there is an Ulster Scots theme.

Music Therapy

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will estimate how many *(a)* schools and *(b)* children have been involved in the Arioso music therapy project in Northern Ireland. [74386]

Paul Goggins: The Arioso music therapy project covers 17 schools for severe learning disability across Northern Ireland, and provides a service to around 260 children each week.

National Development Plan

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what input the Northern Ireland Office will have into the National Development Plan in preparation in the Republic of Ireland, with particular reference to border regions; and if he will make a statement. [71930]

Mr. Hanson: The National Development Plan is a matter for the Government of the Republic of Ireland. The two Governments are committed to working closely together to identify ways they can maximise the mutual benefits of co-operation across a broad range of issues. These reflect substantial contacts through the North-South bodies and in areas of mutual co-operation, such as economic development, health, higher education, infrastructure and spatial development. The actions planned by both Governments to maximise the benefits of such co-operation will be reflected in their respective strategic plans to promote economic and social development.

Northern Ireland Civil Service

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2006, *Official Report*, columns 700-01W, on the Northern Ireland Civil Service, which Northern Ireland departments have vacancies at *(a)* AO, *(b)* EOII, *(c)* EOI, *(d)* SO and *(e)* DP grades, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [73500]

Mr. Hanson: Details of vacancies, in Northern Ireland departments, at *(a)* AO, *(b)* EOII, *(c)* EOI *(d)* SO and *(e)* DP grades, broken down by parliamentary constituency have been placed in the Library. These figures relate to vacancies for which Departments have current financial provision and are within the departmental headcount.

The tables also show identified surpluses for each grade.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was to the public purse of Civil Service away-days for his Office in each of the last three years, broken down by Government Department. [65507]

Paul Goggins: The Department did not capture information at this level through financial coding for financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05, so to provide this would incur a disproportionate cost. A total of £57,243.92 was spent on development days in the Northern Ireland Office in financial year 2005-06. This equates to approximately £150 per head for the total number of staff involved. Development days are used for training and team building.

Northern Ireland Fire Rescue Order

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Fire Authority on the impact on costs of the provisions of the Northern Ireland Fire Rescue Order 2006. [75008]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 877W. As explained in my answer, the requirements of the Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 will not have any significant bearing on the associated costs of the Fire and Rescue Service.

The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service has been fully consulted about the provisions contained in the Fire and Rescue Services Order.

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, which is the sponsor Department for the Service, has ongoing discussions with senior officers in the Service about resourcing issues.

Nuclear Power

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the development of nuclear power in Northern Ireland. [74340]

Maria Eagle: The Strategic Energy Framework does not anticipate nuclear new build in Northern Ireland. Energy policy in Northern Ireland is currently focussed on building the all-island market which will offer further options in terms of security and diversity of supply, and on expanding the role of renewables.

The Secretary of State's recently-launched £60 million Environment and Renewable Energy Fund will make Northern Ireland an exemplar region in the use of renewable energy.

We are also driving forward on energy efficiency, having set a target of reducing electricity consumption by 1 per cent. per year from 2007. The Environment and Renewable Energy Fund also provides an additional £11 million for energy efficiency in Northern Ireland.

Work to mainstream renewables is also being taken forward in collaboration with the Republic of Ireland through the 2020 Vision launched by both Governments last July.

Paediatric Cardiology

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average waiting time was for an initial paediatric cardiology assessment in the Province in the last period for which figures are available. [74627]

Paul Goggins: Waiting list information is collected by time band. It is therefore not possible to calculate the arithmetic mean (average) length of time waiting. It is however possible to identify the median or mid-point waiting time band. Current median (average) waiting times for children waiting an initial paediatric

cardiology outpatient assessment, in each applicable Health and Social Services Trust, are shown in the following table:

HSS trust	Median waiting times for an outpatient paediatric cardiology assessment (months)
Royal Group of Hospitals	7
United Hospitals	6-9
Craigavon Area Hospital Group	3-5
Altnagelvin Group	3-5
Causeway	Within 2
Ulster Community and Hospitals	>30

Paramilitaries

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether activity by *(a)* loyalist and *(b)* republican paramilitaries is considered to be a threat to national security; and if he will make a statement. [66977]

Paul Goggins: It is the activities, not the affiliation, of particular groups that determines whether they represent a threat to national security.

Perinatal Mental Health Teams

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made towards establishing specialist perinatal mental health teams to serve each health board area in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [72667]

Paul Goggins: In Northern Ireland care for those suffering from perinatal mental health problems including psychiatric illness takes place at all levels within the health care system (psychiatric services, maternity and child welfare services and primary health care).

However, the ongoing Bamford Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability has recommended that "A regional specialist mental health services should be established for women with mental health problems occurring in the perinatal period". This is being considered in light of the wider findings of the review, which deals with a number of highly complex issues. I hope to publish my response to this and other recommendations of the review by the end of this year.

Personal Protection Weapons

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland are in possession of on-loan personal protection weapons. [68982]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has informed me that at 1 April 2006, 867 persons were in possession of on loan personal protection weapons. The General Officer Commanding informs me that, as at the 12 May 2006, there were 217 Army Department PPWs issued to army personnel; and the Northern Ireland Prison Service has 688 PPWs on loan to Prisons personnel.

Planning

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many management board referrals of planning applications have been made by each district council in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; [74322]

(2) how many management board referrals of planning applications by each district council in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years *(a)* have proved successful, *(b)* have proved unsuccessful and *(c)* are pending. [74323]

David Cairns: Details of the number of planning applications referred to the Planning Service Management Board in each of the last three years are in the following tables:

Management Board Referrals (MBRs) for 2003

District/borough council	Total number of MBRs	Number where Division's opinion was overturned	Number where Division's opinion was upheld	Number which are still pending
Antrim	0	0	0	0
Ards	11	1	10	0
Armagh	0	0	0	0
Ballymena	3	0	3	0
Ballymoney	2	0	2	0
Banbridge	0	0	0	0
Belfast	2	0	2	0
Carrickfergus	4	0	4	0
Castlereagh	2	0	2	0
Coleraine	2	0	2	0
Cookstown	1	0	1	0
Craigavon	3	0	3	0
Derry	0	0	0	0
Down	0	0	0	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	1	0	1	0

Management Board Referrals (MBRs) for 2003

District/borough council	*Total number of MBRs*	*Number where Division's opinion was overturned*	*Number where Division's opinion was upheld*	*Number which are still pending*
Fermanagh	6	0	6	0
Larne	4	0	4	0
Limavady	0	0	0	0
Lisburn	9	2	7	0
Magherafelt	18	1	17	0
Moyle	10	1	9	0
Newry and Mourne	19	0	19	0
Newtownabbey	4	0	4	0
North Down	14	1	13	0
Omagh	19	0	19	0
Strabane	0	0	0	0
Total	134	6	128	0

Management Board Referrals (MBRs) for 2004

District/borough council	*Total number of MBRs*	*Number where Division's opinion was overturned*	*Number where Division's opinion was upheld*	*Number which are still pending*
Antrim	0	0	0	0
Ards	7	0	7	0
Armagh	1	1	0	0
Ballymena	1	0	1	0
Ballymoney	1	0	1	0
Banbridge	1	0	1	0
Belfast	3	0	3	0
Carrickfergus	3	0	3	0
Castlereagh	4	0	4	0
Coleraine	5	0	5	0
Cookstown	10	0	9	1
Craigavon	3	0	3	0
Derry	0	0	0	0
Down	0	0	0	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	1	0	1	0
Fermanagh	3	0	3	0
Larne	9	0	8	1
Limavady	1	0	1	0
Lisburn	13	0	12	1
Magherafelt	5	0	5	0
Moyle	4	0	4	0
Newry and Mourne	18	1	17	0
Newtownabbey	3	0	3	0
North Down	13	3	10	0
Omagh	99	1	97	1
Strabane	0	0	0	0
Total	208	6	198	4

Management Board Referrals (MBRs) for 2005

District/borough council	*Total number of MBRs*	*Number where Division's opinion was overturned*	*Number where Division's opinion was upheld*	*Number which are still pending*
Antrim	3	0	2	1
Ards	3	0	3	0
Armagh	0	0	0	0
Ballymena	1	0	1	0
Ballymoney	3	0	3	0
Banbridge	0	0	0	0
Belfast	4	0	3	1
Carrickfergus	5	1	4	0
Castlereagh	6	0	6	0
Coleraine	0	0	0	0
Cookstown	2	0	2	0
Craigavon	0	0	0	0

Management Board Referrals (MBRs) for 2005

District/borough council	Total number of MBRs	Number where Division's opinion was overturned	Number where Division's opinion was upheld	Number which are still pending
Derry	0	0	0	0
Down	1	0	1	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	0	0	0
Fermanagh	0	0	0	0
Larne	6	0	6	0
Limavady	0	0	0	0
Lisburn	170	1	167	2
Magherafelt	4	0	4	0
Moyle	11	0	11	0
Newry and Mourne	3	0	3	0
Newtownabbey	1	0	1	0
North Down	4	0	4	0
Omagh	14	0	14	0
Strabane	4	0	4	0
Total	245	2	239	4

Management Board Referrals (MBRs) for 2006 (to 26 May)

District/borough council	Total number of MBRs	Number where Division's opinion was overturned	Number where Division's opinion was upheld	Number which are still pending
Antrim	2	0	2	0
Ards	0	0	0	0
Armagh	0	0	0	0
Ballymena	1	0	0	1
Ballymoney	0	0	0	0
Banbridge	1	0	1	0
Belfast	0	0	0	0
Carrickfergus	0	0	0	0
Castlereagh	1	0	1	0
Coleraine	6	0	2	4
Cookstown	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	1	0	0	1
Derry	0	0	0	0
Down	0	0	0	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	0	1	0
Fermanagh	0	0	0	0
Larne	2	0	2	0
Limavady	0	0	0	0
Lisburn	2	0	2	0
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0
Moyle	0	0	0	0
Newry and Mourne	1	0	0	1
Newtownabbey	0	0	0	0
North Down	2	0	2	0
Omagh	0	0	0	0
Strabane	0	0	0	0
Total	19	0	13	6

Planning Applications (Health Factors)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will consider the merits of the introduction of a medical expert to advise on planning applications linked to health issues. [74678]

David Cairns: The merits of the introduction of a medical expert to advise on planning applications linked to health issues, has been carefully considered on two previous occasions, where it was concluded on each occasion that such an expert should not be used. On this basis I have no plans to reconsider the issue.

Plastic Surgeons

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many whole-time equivalent plastic surgeons are employed by the NHS in Northern Ireland. [74368]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is presented in the following table.

Plastic surgeons employed within the NI HPSS by grade as at 31 March 2006

Grade	Headcount	Whole-time equivalent
Consultant	8	8.00
Specialist Registrar	9	9.00
Total	17	17.00

Source:
Human Resource Management System.

Police

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police drivers in Northern Ireland have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* relieved of driving duties in each of the last three years. [73079]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland do not hold a central record of police drivers disciplined or relieved of driving duty. To obtain such details would require a manual trawl of officers' files across all district command units and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Policing Board

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* (i) status and (ii) powers and *(b)* payments to members of the Policing Board in Northern Ireland will be from 25 November 2006. [70463]

Paul Goggins: While section 1 of the Northern Ireland Act 2000 (suspension of devolved Government in Northern Ireland) is in force part II of schedule 1 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 applies to the membership of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Under this part of the Act the current membership of the Policing Board came into effect on 1 April 2006 for a term of four years.

On restoration of the Assembly part III of schedule 1 of the Police (NI) Act 2000 requires the Policing Board to be reconstituted and in these circumstances new terms of appointment would be issued to all members of the newly reconstituted Board.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the police board in Northern Ireland spent on advertising for recruitment of police officers during 2005. [72716]

Paul Goggins: The policing board for Northern Ireland is responsible for the appointment of senior police officers, at the ranks chief constable and assistant chief constable. I am advised that during 2005 the policing board spent £7,249.75 to advertise an assistant chief constable post which was filled in 2006.

Primary to Post-Primary Transfer

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to receive a definitive proposed format for the pupil profile from the Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment to guide the transfer of pupils from primary to post-primary schools in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [74695]

Maria Eagle: An independent evaluation of the current trial of the Pupil Profile will report back via the Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment at the end of July 2006. The outcomes of this evaluation will inform the finalised format of the Key Stage 2 Pupil Profile, which it is intended will be introduced for Year 5 pupils from September 2007.

Prisoners' Compensation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much in compensation has been paid to *(a)* serving and *(b)* remand prisoners in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [74343]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Prison Service does not hold separate records for remand and sentenced prisoners for the purpose of compensation claims. The tables indicate total compensation paid to prisoners in each of the last five years.

	Total paid (£)
2001	89,594.65
2002	126,666.23
2003	192,701.84
2004	661,522.37
2005	45,480.35

Claim settlements in excess of £10,000

Name	Location	Allegation	DOI	Amount (£)	Date paid
David Brown	Maghaberry	Assault by prisoners	28 October 1998	10,000.00	10 October 2001
Joseph Ferguson	Belfast	Smoke inhalation	14 October 1995	18,427.21 (this figure includes payment of CRU = 15,427.21)	25 June 2002
Robert Davidson	Maze	Assault by officers—tunnel	23 March 1997	10,000.00	27 June 2002
David Clarke	Magilligan	Accident	7 January 1997	10,000.00	26 June 2003
Robert McDougall	Maze	Assault by inmates	17 February1997	20,000.00	1 December 2003
Eugene McKee	Maze	Assault by officers—tunnel	23 March 1997	85,000:00 (this figure includes payment of CRU = 30,349.52)	14 February 2003

Claim settlements in excess of £10,000

Name	Location	Allegation	DOI	Amount (£)	Date paid
Paul Kean	Belfast	Medical claim	25 December 1994	500,000.00 (this figure includes payment of CRU = 51,037.86)	19 February 2004
Samuel Henry	Maghaberry	Accident	16 October 1995	12,500.00	11 October 2004
Joseph Cassidy	Magilligan	Smoke inhalation	16 February 1999	15,783.68	13 February 2004
James Davidson	Magilligan	Accident	30 August 1998	26,977.79	10 March 2004
Dominic Nicholl	Maze	Assault by officers—tunnel	27 March 1997	12,880.35 (this figure includes payment of CRU = 12,380.35)	28 April 2005

Prisons

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the decision by the Director of Custodian Services at the Juvenile Justice Centre at Bangor not to recognise representation of Prison Officers Association staff during the review of work practices. [73506]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Officers Association have lodged an application before the Industrial Court and the matter is currently under consideration. It would therefore not be appropriate to comment further.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list those Private Members' Bills in respect of which his Department has adopted a policy of neutrality in each Session since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [72486]

Mr. Hain: There have been no such Bills relating to Northern Ireland.

Prostate Cancer

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of males over the age of 75 in Northern Ireland are estimated to have prostate cancer. [74417]

Paul Goggins: The following table details information on the prevalence[1] of prostate cancer (ICD-10 C61) in Northern Ireland since 1993.

	Aged 75 and over
Prevalence of prostate cancer[1]	899
Male population[2]	38,880
Percentage of population living with prostate cancer	2.31

[1] Prevalence has been estimated by counting the number of patients diagnosed between 1 January 1993 and 31 December 2003 with prostate cancer, who were still alive on 31 December 2003. This may represent an undercount of the actual number of people living with prostate cancer as those diagnosed prior to 1993 and still alive at the end of 2003 are not included.
[2] 2004 Mid-year population estimate, NISRA

This information has been provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry and is the most up to date currently available.

Psychology Degrees

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many students have graduated in psychology from universities in the Province in each of the last five years. [74647]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

Qualifications obtained in the psychology subject area at NI higher education institutions 2000-01 to 2004-05

Academic year	Qualifications obtained
2000-01	371
2001-02	329
2002-03	394
2003-04	380
2004-05	416

Source:
HESA

Psychology is commonly studied alongside other disciplines. Accordingly a procedure of apportionment is used from 2002-03 onwards to allocate students to specific subject areas, by dividing each headcount in a way that reflects the pattern of split programmes. The figures therefore refer to a full-person equivalent value. Prior to 2002-03, enrolments split equally between two or more subject areas were assigned to the combined subject group and are not included in this table.

Public Bodies

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the religious affiliation is of each member of each public body in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [74256]

Mr. Hanson: Individuals appointed to the boards of non-departmental public bodies in Northern Ireland are not required to declare their religious affiliation, however, they are asked to provide, on a voluntary basis, details of their community background. This information is sought for monitoring purposes only and forms no part of the selection process. Disclosure of this information by reference to each public body in Northern Ireland would contravene the data protection principles set out in the Data Protection Act 1998.

An overview of the community background of both applicants and appointees to bodies sponsored by Northern

Ireland's 11 Government Departments can be found in the Public Appointments Annual Report, and similar details in respect of NIO sponsored bodies is included in the NIO Departmental Report. Copies of the latest versions of both these reports are available from the Library of the House and can be found on the Internet at www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/public-appointments and www.nio.gov.uk/nio_departmental_report_2006.pdf respectively.

Public Sector Wages

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1636W, on average annual industrial wages, what the change was in average wage levels in the public sector between 1995 and 2005. [74410]

Maria Eagle: Average gross weekly earnings in Northern Ireland for full-time employees in the public sector are available from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and are provided in the table[1].

[1] Please note, ASHE statistics prior to 1997 are currently not available.

	Median gross weekly earnings (£)[1]	*Annual percentage change*
1997	358.7	?
1998	380.3	6.0
1999	387.2	1.8
2000	407.8	5.3
2001	407.8	0.0
2002	427.2	4.8
2003	439.9	3.0
2004[2]	469.4	[2]n/a
2005[2]	489.0	4.2

[1] Please note that the above information relates to full-time employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[2] Estimates for 2004 and 2005 are based on an improved methodology as recommended in the Office for National Statistics review of Distribution of Earnings Statistics. Accordingly, estimates for 2004 are not available on an equivalent basis to earlier years.

Public Toilets (Vandalism)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of repairing vandalism to public toilets under the ownership of Government Departments in Northern Ireland was during 2005. [70913]

David Cairns: The cost of repairing vandalism to public toilets under the ownership of Government Departments in Northern Ireland in 2005 was approximately £12,000.

Pupil Absences

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average number of *(a)* unauthorised and *(b)* total days was that a pupil was off school in each education board in the Province over each of the last five years. [74652]

Maria Eagle: Statistics on unauthorised absence are not available. Overall absence rates for primary and post primary schools are provided in the following tables.

Percentage rate of absence for primary schools in Northern Ireland by education and library board area, 2000/01?2004/05

Education and library board area	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*
Belfast	8.2	7.7	8.5	7.6	8.0
North Eastern	4.0	3.9	4.5	4.8	4.8
South Eastern	5.0	4.5	4.9	4.4	4.7
Southern	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.6
Western	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.4	4.7
Northern Ireland	5.2	5.0	5.6	5.2	5.2

Percentage rate of absence for post-primary schools in Northern Ireland by education and library board area, 2000/01?2004/05

Education and library board area	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*
Belfast	8.4	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.6
North Eastern	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.4	7.2
South Eastern	8.2	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.8
Southern	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.3
Western	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.3
Northern Ireland	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.4

Pupil Injuries (Compensation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 887W, on pupil injuries (compensation), to how many incidents in each of the last five years the figures for compensation relate; which Northern Ireland schools recorded injuries that resulted in compensation payments; and how much was paid out in compensation in each school. [70497]

Maria Eagle: The figures provided have now been updated to reflect the final 2005-06 position and relate to 183 incidents. The table, which has now been placed in the Library, shows, for each year, the number of incidents by funding authority; the overall amounts; and the schools involved. It would not be appropriate to provide details of compensation at individual school level simply because, given the very small numbers, this would allow amounts to be linked to individual pupils.i

Railway Security

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for how long the railway line between Lisburn and Portadown was closed as a result of the security alert on 24 May; and how many passengers were re-directed onto buses. [74476]

David Cairns: I can advise that the line between Lisburn and Portadown was closed three times on 24 May during the following hours:

06.00-08.24

11.25-21.10

22.45-23.37

As a result of the line closures approximately 1,600 passengers were carried on buses to continue their local

journeys between Portadown, Lurgan, Moira and Lisburn. In addition approximately 2,250 passengers were carried in buses between Newry and Belfast as a result of disruptions to 16 cross-border Enterprise services.

Real IRA/ Continuity IRA

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the threat posed by the *(a)* Real IRA and *(b)* Continuity IRA to the security of the people of Northern Ireland. [71320]

Paul Goggins: The 10th IMC Report states that:

"RIRA continues efforts to recruit and train members. It has a continuing aspiration to arm and equip itself. We believe that although RIRA's level of activity is not very high it is still engaged in efforts to maintain its position as a paramilitary organisation".

"CIRA remains committed to terrorism. Looking back over about a year, it has been the most active of the dissident groups. We conclude that it remains an active threat and that it will undertake serious acts of violence if it is able to do so".

I fully concur with the IMC report. In addition it is clear that effective action is being taken by the PSNI with support from military colleagues to eradicate dissident activity. This excellent work has resulted in three stymied attacks in the past month.

Road Service

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how much road service funding has been allocated to each district council area in Northern Ireland in each of the last five financial years; [74756]

(2) how much road service funding has been allocated to *(a)* bridge strengthening programmes and *(b)* road maintenance and resurfacing in each district council area in Northern Ireland in each of the last five financial years. [74757]

David Cairns: The chief executive of roads service, Dr. Malcolm McKibbin has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to these questions.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 2 June 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland two Parliamentary Questions regarding how much Road Service funding has been allocated to each district council area in Northern Ireland in each of the last five financial years; and, how much Road Service funding has been allocated to (a) bridge strengthening programmes and (b) road maintenance and resurfacing in each district council area in Northern Ireland in each of the last five financial years.

I have been asked to reply as these issues fall within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service.

The following table at Annex 1 shows the total expenditure incurred by Roads Service on capital (major and minor) road improvement schemes and on maintenance activities during the period 2000/01-2004/05. Expenditure details by district council area for 2005/06 are not yet available.

In providing this information, I should like to emphasise that Roads Service does not simply apportion its total budget for capital and maintenance expenditure equally across district council areas. In particular, major road improvements are prioritised on a country-wide basis, not on a district council basis, taking account of a broad range of criteria such as strategic planning policy, traffic flows, number of accidents, potential travel save times, environmental impact and value for money. While the actual spend on a major works scheme may be within one council area, the benefits of such schemes are not confined to the district council area or constituency in which they are located.

The resources available for minor capital schemes are allocated to the four Roads Service Divisions and, in turn, apportioned across district council areas on a needs-based priority approach using indicators such as population, weighted road lengths and the number of accidents. This ensures, so far as possible, an equitable distribution of funds across the country. Similarly the resources available for each maintenance activity (e.g. resurfacing, patching, gully emptying, grass cutting etc) are apportioned to district council areas using appropriate indicators of need.

You also asked for a separate breakdown of funding in relation to bridge strengthening programmes and roads maintenance and resurfacing. The attached table at Annex 2 details the information per district council area in the years 2000/01-2004/05. Again, expenditure details by district council area for 2005/06 are not yet available.

Annex 1: Total roads service expenditure from 2000-01 to 2004-05

£000

District council	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Antrim	3,996	4,892	13,688	15,042	8,865
Coleraine	5,092	5,632	4,673	6,310	6,515
Limavady	2,908	4,328	12,189	7,045	5,771
Moyle	1,926	1,278	1,661	1,959	2,168
Ballymoney	3,093	2,600	2,944	3,032	3,390
Londonderry	6,492	8,210	10,299	10,148	14,980
Ballymena	8,042	6,426	4,970	6,078	6,279
Larne	2,439	2,172	2,817	4,388	2,966
Belfast	21,092	25,918	24,392	23,338	35,283
Castlereagh	3,450	3,739	2,689	2,991	3,730
Newtownabbey	4,453	4,608	5,987	8,085	9,370
Carrickfergus	1,977	2,121	2,038	1,977	2,046
North Down	3,350	3,527	5,015	4,570	3,719
Lisburn	5,532	6,379	7,533	9,290	10,466
Ards	3,377	3,777	6,095	7,232	5,520
Armagh	5,648	5,428	5,223	6,429	8,424

Annex 1: Total roads service expenditure from 2000-01 to 2004-05

£000

District council	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Newry and Mourne	5,726	7,108	6,441	14,849	27,489
Banbridge	3,264	3,923	4,837	7,853	7,708
Craigavon	6,915	7,848	6,401	7,202	9,353
Down	4,476	5,992	5,169	5,808	6,763
Magherafelt	2,854	2,939	3,329	4,086	4,993
Omagh	5,498	6,435	7,449	8,414	12,374
Strabane	5,903	8,960	12,185	6,885	7,586
Cookstown	2,749	2,947	3,137	3,955	3,974
Fermanagh	6,265	6,209	6,717	8,624	10,484
Dungannon	4,680	5,344	5,404	7,784	8,953
Overall total	131,197	148,790	173,282	193,374	229,169

Annex 2: Roads services expenditure for bridge strengthening and road maintenance 2000-2005

£000

	2000-01		2001-02	
District council area	Bridge strengthening programmes	Total maintenance	Bridge strengthening programmes	Total maintenance
Antrim	42	2,804	187	3,571
Ballymena	323	3,555	78	4,350
Carrickfergus	25	1,669	9	1,846
Larne	20	2,161	8	1,907
Magherafelt	108	1,969	49	2,107
Belfast	1,780	11,927	7,278	13,496
Castlereagh	18	2,438	3	2,519
Newtownabbey	16	3,219	61	3,011
Ballymoney	54	1,923	38	1,986
Coleraine	62	2,898	77	3,723
Limavady	169	2,132	38	2,331
Londonderry	1,415	4,139	2,074	5,745
Moyle	103	1,728	45	1,114
Armagh	414	4,270	322	4,359
Banbridge	60	2,633	17	2,813
Craigavon	760	4,612	1,426	4,050
Newry and Mourne	287	4,466	568	5,456
Ards	31	2,784	35	3,087
Down	128	3,608	123	4,366
Lisburn	76	4,239	56	5,141
North Down	1	2,389	89	2,695
Cookstown	157	1,938	209	2,328
Dungannon	125	3,805	157	4,384
Fermanagh	269	4,233	182	4,911
Omagh	152	4,147	273	5,291
Strabane	1,009	3,628	305	4,044
Total per year	7,604	89,314	13,707	100,631

	2002-03		2003-04	
District council area	Bridge Strengthening Programmes	Total Maintenance	Bridge Strengthening Programmes	Total Maintenance
Antrim	101	3,863	388	4,976
Ballymena	223	4,011	200	5,354
Carrickfergus	41	1,646	201	1,536
Larne	30	2,205	39	2,432
Magherafelt	134	2,668	140	3,449
Belfast	4,914	14,517	219	14,895
Castlereagh	18	2,183	53	2,327
Newtownabbey	104	3,607	34	3,513
Ballymoney	14	2,590	24	2,768
Coleraine	44	3,740	55	5,167

	2002-03		2003-04	
District council area	Bridge Strengthening Programmes	Total Maintenance	Bridge Strengthening Programmes	Total Maintenance
Limavady	87	2,636	21	3,555
Londonderry	2,456	7,290	424	6,067
Moyle	32	1,448	53	1,808
Armagh	114	4,542	316	5,482
Banbridge	49	3,586	50	4,008
Craigavon	357	4,991	553	5,258
Newry and Mourne	361	5,256	1,013	7,069
Ards	220	3,216	47	3,547
Down	100	4,641	56	5,089
Lisburn	110	6,225	56	7,081
North Down	36	4,068	6	4,002
Cookstown	137	2,600	63	3,282
Dungannon	259	4,985	314	7,038
Fermanagh	324	5,822	701	7,461
Omagh	504	5,779	590	7,048
Strabane	172	4,357	171	4,829
Total per year	10,941	112,472	5,787	129,041

	2004-05	
District council area	Bridge Strengthening Programmes	Total Maintenance
Antrim	170	3,913
Ballymena	293	5,020
Carrickfergus	32	1,325
Larne	20	2,316
Magherafelt	249	3,029
Belfast	416	15,123
Castlereagh	47	2,178
Newtownabbey	89	3,676
Ballymoney	94	2,442
Coleraine	73	3,960
Limavady	52	3,156
Londonderry	508	5,655
Moyle	145	1,835
Armagh	372	5,863
Banbridge	19	3,690
Craigavon	1,750	5,380
Newry and Mourne	904	7,567
Ards	26	3,661
Down	67	5,042
Lisburn	124	7,369
North Down	13	2,409
Cookstown	278	3,026
Dungannon	186	5,397
Fermanagh	725	6,809
Omagh	855	6,173
Strabane	238	5,312
Total per year	7,745	121,326

Notes:

1. Spend figures exclude notional costs
2. Bridge strengthening figures include both capital and maintenance costs
3. Total maintenance includes all maintenance costs e.g. structural maintenance (includes resurfacing, reconstruction, surface dressing, patching etc), routine maintenance (grass cutting, gully emptying and environmental work), traffic management and car park maintenance costs.

Road Traffic Accidents

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the Answer of 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 507W, on road traffic accidents, to what he attributes the increase in road traffic accidents involving police vehicles in the last three years; and what steps have been taken to reduce the number of accidents. [73078]

Paul Goggins: As detailed in the answer to the hon. Gentleman of 11 May 2006, both major and minor traffic collisions have reduced during the period 2003-2005. Only 'slight contact' collisions have increased, and these have only recently been recorded under this category.

PSNI Transport Services are in the process of fitting over 1,500 vehicle Black Box collision data recorders to PSNI operational vehicles. The black box recorder holds data relating to vehicle speed, emergency operational and vehicle electrical systems in use and ensures accurate information is collected when a vehicle collision occurs. When this system was introduced in the London Metropolitan Police, accidents were reduced by over 20 per cent.

It should also be noted that all drivers of police vehicles are trained to national driving standards in response driving and advanced driving.

Roads

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much salt was *(a)* acquired for use to treat salted road networks and *(b)* left unused by the Department for Regional Development in Northern Ireland during the winter of 2005-06. [74212]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Malcolm McKibbin, dated 30 May 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding how much salt was (a) acquired for use to treat salted road networks and (b) left unused by the Department for Regional Development in Northern Ireland during the winter of 2005-06.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

The total salt purchased during the period 1 May 2005-30 April 2006 was 59,270 tonnes. This was in addition to approximately 23,000 tonnes already in storage from the previous year. The total salt left unused at the end of April 2006 was approximately 25,400 tonnes.

Rural Development Council

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Rural Development Council will be designated as a non-departmental public body under the review of public administration. [73424]

David Cairns: The decision not to designate the RDC as an NDPB was taken by the Secretary of State in his announcement on 21 March 2006 about a reduction in public bodies. His statement read that the delivery of rural development functions will transfer to local government while the remaining policy functions of the Rural Development Council will transfer to central Government.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether Rural Development Council staff will be able to transfer to *(a)* local government and *(b)* central Government agencies with a rural development function. [73425]

David Cairns: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development officials are currently working through what is a complex issue with the RDC and other stakeholders to determine how the council's staff will be affected by the RPA decisions. It is premature therefore to determine what that outcome may be.

School Children

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many school children there are in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland. [74317]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is as follows.

Education and library board area	*Number of school children in 2005-06*
Belfast	59,657
Western	60,308
North Eastern	73,743
South Eastern	65,120
Southern	73,732

Note:
Figures exclude children in voluntary and private pre-school centres, and independent and hospital schools.

School Meals

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in ensuring that all school meals in Northern Ireland offer a healthy balanced diet. [74278]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education, in conjunction with the education and library boards, began the implementation of New Nutritional Standards for School Meals in September 2005. Over 800 schools have now implemented the standards and the remainder will be included by the end of 2006.

The standards aim to help pupils make healthy choices by providing a range of healthy meals, conveying the meaning and importance of a healthy diet and contributing to a reduction in levels of child obesity.

It is proposed that the standards programme be extended to include other sources of food in schools, such as tuck shops and vending machines. The Department is currently consulting on the issue of providing only healthy choices in these areas.

Sex Offenders

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people resident in Northern Ireland are on the register of sex offenders;

and in how many of those cases the police do not know the offender's current residential address. [67658]

Mr. Hanson *[pursuant to the reply, 11 May 2006, Official Report, c. 508W]*: The information I provided the hon. Gentleman contained an error. The answer should have stated that in 14 of the cases the police do not have a current residential address. The correct answer in full is as follows. I apologise to the hon. Gentleman for this error.

On 28 April 2006, 644 people in Northern Ireland were subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and in 14 of these cases the police do not have a current residential address. This represents a compliance rate of over 97 per cent.

In line with the Police Service of Northern Ireland's zero tolerance policy on breaches of the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act, all offenders who do not comply are pursued and reported to the Public Prosecution Service with a view to prosecution.

Sheep-worrying (Dogs)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many dogs have been put down for sheep-worrying under court orders in Northern Ireland in the last five years, broken down by constituency. [74726]

David Cairns: Information on the number of dogs put down for sheep-worrying under court orders in Northern Ireland in the last five years is not available by constituency but is provided in the following table by council area.

	Number of dogs put down for sheep-worrying				
Council name	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Antrim	2	3	1	0	0
Newtownards	0	0	0	0	0
Armagh	0	0	0	1	2
Ballymena	0	0	0	1	0
Ballymoney	4	0	0	3	0
Banbridge	0	0	0	1	2
Belfast	0	0	0	0	0
Carrickfergus	0	0	0	0	0
Castlereagh	0	0	0	0	0
Coleraine	1	1	3	4	5
Cookstown	0	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	0	0	0	0	0
Londonderry	0	0	0	0	0
Down	6	0	0	0	0
Dungannon	0	0	0	0	0
Fermanagh	14	12	15	5	9
Larne	1	0	0	0	0
Limavady	0	0	0	0	0
Lisburn	3	0	3	0	0
Magherafelt	0	0	1	2	3
Moyle	0	0	0	0	0
Newry	0	0	0	0	0
Newtown abbey	0	0	0	0	0
North down	0	0	0	0	1
Omagh	0	0	0	0	0
Strabane	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	16	23	17	22

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* reports of and *(b)* prosecutions for sheep-worrying dogs there have been in Northern Ireland in the last three years. [74731]

David Cairns: Details of the number of reports of sheep-worrying by dogs and prosecutions in respect of sheep-worrying incidents by dogs in Northern Ireland in the last three years are set out in the following table.

	Number of reports of sheep worrying			*Number of prosecutions for sheep worrying*		
Council name	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Antrim	5	8	10	1	0	0
Newtownards	0	0	0	1	0	0
Armagh	1	23	32	0	1	0
Ballymena	10	8	9	0	4	0
Ballymoney	10	10	3	0	0	0
Banbridge	23	21	23	3	1	2
Belfast	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrickfergus	0	1	4	0	0	0
Castlereagh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coleraine	17	37	14	0	0	0
Cookstown	15	22	11	0	0	0
Craigavon	4	4	4	0	0	0
Londonderry	36	25	20	0	0	0
Down	21	21	20	0	0	0
Dungannon	13	12	16	1	0	0
Fermanagh	55	33	23	1	0	1
Larne	1	3	0	1	1	0
Limavady	5	1	3	0	0	0
Lisburn	12	9	11	0	0	0
Magherafelt	15	9	0	0	0	0
Moyle	6	6	6	0	0	0
Newry	26	19	13	4	0	0
Newtownabbey	2	3	3	0	0	0
North Down	0	0	1	0	0	1
Omagh	22	19	18	0	1	0
Strabane	4	8	15	0	1	0
Total	303	302	259	12	9	4

Sick Leave

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the longest time is that an employee has been on sick leave in each of the health trusts in Northern Ireland in the last five years. [74371]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many sick leave days were taken

in Northern Ireland by *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* other health professionals and *(d)* other employees in each health trust in Northern Ireland in the last five years. [74372]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of sick leave days, in the format requested, is not held centrally. However details supplied directly by Health and Social Services Trusts have been collated and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Sinn Fein/IRA Stormont Spy Ring

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was of ensuring the safety of people whose details were stolen as part of the Sinn Fein/IRA Stormont spy ring; how many people were advised that their details were included in the Sinn Fein/IRA Stormont spy ring; how many *(a)* police officers, *(b)* prison officers, *(c)* Royal Irish Regiment/Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers, *(d)* politicians, *(e)* members of the Loyal Orders and *(f)* civilians had their details stolen as part of the Sinn Fein/IRA Stormont spy ring; and whether any people whose details were stolen as part of the Sinn Fein/IRA Stormont spy ring were not contacted by the authorities. [65339]

Paul Goggins: A full investigation into the total cost of ensuring the safety of all the individuals concerned would be complex and wide-ranging. Such an investigation could not be conducted without incurring disproportionate cost.

2,195 individuals were informed of their details having been compromised. This included 77 PSNI/ Garda officers, 1,583 prison officers, 13 army personnel and 37 politicians. PSNI advise that details are not available on individuals' membership of Loyal Orders, given its confidential nature, nor are accurate figures on numbers of civilians readily available given difficulties of classification.

The decision was taken at a senior level in the PSNI as to which individuals should be notified, in the context of the contents of the material obtained, and taking security and human rights considerations into account.

Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Tourism Ireland plan to emphasise the historical and cultural link between Northern Ireland and the United States of America at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington DC during July 2007. [74419]

Maria Eagle: The Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Tourism Ireland are already working with the Smithsonian Institution and the Smithsonian Associates to maximise the tourism opportunities which the 2007 Folklife Festival will present. The overall programme will include reference to Northern Ireland's scenery including the Causeway Coast and Glens and the opportunities for golfing and activity holidays. Given the historical and cultural links which exist between Northern Ireland and the United States a bespoke series of events entitled "Northern Ireland—A Storied Land waiting to be Discovered" will highlight aspects of NI including cuisine, sights, Belfast's Maritime Heritage, Scots-Irish, C S Lewis and St. Patrick. The programme has already started with a series of lectures and other events planned for June 2006.

Special Needs

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how he proposes to meet the needs of young adults with special needs after they pass from the responsibility of the Department of Education to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety; and if he will make a statement. [74242]

Paul Goggins: Day care services are provided through the Health and Social Services boards and trusts are for those individuals who will be unable to access services provided elsewhere. In 2003-04, 100 additional places were created and in March 2006, funding was provided for a further 100 places. The "Transitions Report", March 2006, set out service improvements for young people with special needs. Proposals made in the Bamford Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability are likely to set out a strategic direction for the development of services over time and as resources allow.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children with special needs in mainstream primary schools in the South Eastern Education and Library Board are suffering from a lack of one-to-one classroom assistance; and if he will make a statement. [74243]

Maria Eagle: Special education provision is matched to a child's individual needs.

The South Eastern Education and Library Board has confirmed that should a child require one-to-one classroom assistance on the basis of professional advice provided by medical professionals/educational psychologists, it is given. Not all children, however, require one-to-one assistance.

Speech Therapy

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action has been taken to establish the regional taskforce to improve the provision of speech language therapy in Northern Ireland; which Department is leading the establishment of this taskforce; which Department will lead the taskforce's operation once established; and who the main stakeholders in the taskforce will be. [73307]

Paul Goggins: The establishment of the regional taskforce, nominating members, setting objectives and a date for completing the work will be the responsibility of the Special Education Needs Inter-Departmental Group (SEN IDG), which comprises officials from the Department of Health, Social

Services and Public Safety and the Department of Education. The SEN IDG will act as the steering group to direct the work of the taskforce and will be meeting in the near future to discuss and make decisions on these issues.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children are waiting to be assessed by a speech and language therapist in each health and social services board area in Northern Ireland. [73312]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of children waiting to be assessed by a speech and language therapist is not collected centrally.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average waiting time was for assessment for speech and language therapy for children in *(a)* special needs and *(b)* schools in each health and social services board area in Northern Ireland in the last period for which figures are available. [73340]

Paul Goggins: Children with speech and language therapy requirements, as part of their Statements of Special Educational Needs, are referred to the health and social services trusts for therapeutic provision. Education and library boards do not separately keep waiting lists for this provision.

Information on the average waiting times for speech and language therapy for children is not collected centrally.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children are waiting post-assessment to commence speech and language therapy in each health and social services board area in Northern Ireland; and what the average waiting time was for commencement of such therapy in the last period for which figures are available. [73341]

Paul Goggins: Information on the numbers of children waiting post-assessment to commence speech and language therapy, and average waiting times for commencement of such therapy is not collected centrally.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children are awaiting initial speech therapy assessment in each health board area in the Province. [74649]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children awaiting initial speech therapy assessment in each Health Board area is not collected centrally. However, information is collected centrally on completed waiting times for a first outpatient appointment of an episode of care with a community speech and language therapist. The following table contains information for the quarter ending 30 December 2005 (the latest date for which such information is available) and shows that, of the 2,686 persons who attended their first outpatient appointment, 497 (19 per cent.) had waited for between three and six months, and a further 96 (4 per cent.) had waited for six months or more.

Board area	Patients attending first appointment	Time waiting: Less than 3 months	Time waiting: 3-6 months	Time waiting: 6 months or over
Eastern	1,049	883	137	29
Southern	448	277	147	24
Western	463	382	67	14
Northern	726	551	146	29
Total	2,686	2,093	497	96

Suicide

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent provision has been made in East Belfast, Strangford and North Down *(a)* to support families of suicide victims and *(b)* to offer help to those contemplating suicide and self-harm. [74220]

Paul Goggins: The Ulster Community and Hospitals Health and Social Services Trust provides a range of mental health intervention and strategies to support the families of suicide victims, including counselling for bereavement in conjunction with specialized agencies such as CRUSE.

Since February 2004, the trust has been operating a Crisis Response and Home Treatment Team, which is available 365 days per year to provide an appropriate response to individuals who have attempted self-harm or are suicidal.

In addition to this service, members of this team assess any patient who presents to the A&E department of the Ulster hospital, Dundonald, suffering from mental health problems. Furthermore, the trust has recently trained three staff in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, and arrangements are presently being made for suicide awareness sessions in local sports and community clubs.

Taxis

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been convicted of *(a)* driving a taxi and *(b)* operating a taxi service illegally in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [72546]

David Cairns: The information requested, which is set out in the following table, is available only for the period since 1 April 2003, when a dedicated taxi enforcement team was set up by the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency.

Detection period	Recorded convictions: Driver	Recorded convictions: Operator
1 April 2003-31 March 2004	220	2
1 April 2004-31 March 2005	116	0
1 April 2005-31 March 2006	27	0

Teacher Absences

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average number of days was on which teachers were absent from work in each education and library board area in the Province in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* education sector and *(b)* reason for absence. [74664]

Maria Eagle: I have arranged for a copy of the information to be placed in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on substitute teachers in each Education and Library Board area in the Province in each of the last three years, broken down by education sector. [74665]

Maria Eagle: The information is supplied in the following table.

£

	Management type		
	Controlled	*Maintained*	*Integrated*
BELB			
2003-04	4,949,483.87	4,512,801.54	559,201.00
2004-05	4,754,546.76	4,580,969.09	559,447.80
2005-06	4,415,064.39	4,558,782.46	674,862.69
WELB			
2003-04	3,616,144.43	5,507,201.02	521,194.23
2004-05	3,783,409.28	5,794,316.78	564,163.19
2005-06	4,253,844.03	8,794,699.68	585,420.21
NEELB			
2003-04	7,911,348.63	3,523,289.98	665,976.80
2004-05	8,208,085.52	3,497,037.02	780,988.75
2005-06	8,411,756.97	3,673,365.16	906,750.75
SEELB			
2003-04	6,635,166.17	3,134,787.66	982,920.74
2004-05	6,629,066.53	3,161,413.86	592,126.82
2005-06	6,516,918.92	3,370,733.59	1,500,513.72

£

	Management type		
	Controlled	*Maintained*	*Integrated*
SELB			
2003-04	4,704,520.55	7,112,112.98	648,727.60
2004-05	5,102,743.11	6,986,822.30	835,948.40
2005-06	5,277,409.30	7,360,66978	1,010,865.95

Notes:
1. Controlled, Maintained and Integrated taken from temp teacher board tape totals.
2. Costs are for financial years and reflect salary plus employers costs.

Teacher Training

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what retraining opportunities will be provided for teachers ahead of the introduction of the new curriculum. [74375]

Maria Eagle: An extensive programme of in-service training and support will be provided through the Curriculum Advisory and Support Services of the education and library boards, complemented by guidance and resource material provided by the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment. The programme will be sequenced to match the phasing-in of the revised curriculum, to ensure manageability for teachers and schools.

Teenage Pregnancies

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many teenage pregnancies have been registered in each health board area in the last three years; and how many of these young mothers were aged between 13 and 14 years. [74226]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to provide information on the number of pregnant teenagers in Northern Ireland, as the number of pregnancies is not recorded.

The number of births to teenage mothers registered in Northern Ireland and how many of these mothers were aged 13 and 14-years-old in the last three years are shown in the table.

Number of births registered in Northern Ireland by mother's resident Health and Social Services Board and by age, 2003-05

		Health and Social Services Board				
	Age of mother	*Eastern*	*Northern*	*Southern*	*Western*	*Northern Ireland*
2003	13	0	0	0	0	0
	14	2	0	0	2	4
	19 and under	686	314	231	250	1,481
2004	13	0	1	2	0	3
	14	1	0	0	0	1
	19 and under	673	344	224	242	1,483

Number of births registered in Northern Ireland by mother's resident Health and Social Services Board and by age, 2003-05

		Health and Social Services Board				
	Age of mother	*Eastern*	*Northern*	*Southern*	*Western*	*Northern Ireland*
2005[1]	13	0	0	1	0	1
	14	3	2	0	0	5
	19 and under	663	303	213	221	1,400

[1] Data for number of births during 2005 are currently provisional as are subject to change.

Notes:

1. The number of births to teenage mothers refers to all live and still births to women aged 19 and under at the time of birth and resident in Northern Ireland.
2. Pregnancies resulting in multiple birth are counted only once.

Source:

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Translink

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what consideration is given when changes to bus routes are being undertaken by Translink to the effects on disabled passengers who may have to cross busy thoroughfares to board buses. [73204]

David Cairns: Translink has advised that, in line with passenger demand, minor route changes regularly occur. Recently more substantial alterations have been made to some Goldline service routes, specifically those operating between Coleraine, Larne, Ballymena and Belfast. Also, Coleraine itself has recently seen a major reorganisation of services in the Coleraine/Portrush/Portstewart areas. Following the introduction of the new Metro network in February 2005, Translink is now developing Metro Phase 2, which will extend Metro-type services to areas outside Greater Belfast.

In considering requests in relation to bus operational issues, particularly with regard to bus stops, Translink examines the individual locations in conjunction with other relevant authorities, ie Roads Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

Roads Service, in conjunction with the PSNI, provides advice on road safety matters pertaining to the location of bus stops as and when requested. Where a demand to cross a particular road has been highlighted, Roads Service may carry out an assessment to ascertain whether the location may qualify for a pedestrian crossing. The assessment procedure takes into account the demand to cross the road, together with the difficulty crossing the road. Vulnerable road users are given extra weighting in the assessment. Pedestrian refuges may be provided at sites that do not qualify for a pedestrian crossing facility.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much each education and library board area in Northern Ireland paid to Translink in each of the last five years. [74320]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not immediately available for the period prior to the 2002-03 financial years. However, education and library boards paid the following amounts to Translink in each of the last three financial years:

			£
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Belfast Board	822,000	845,000	866,000
North-Eastern Board	7,3[illegible],000	7,620,000	8,373,000
South-eastern Board	6,419,000	5,918,000	6,931,000
Southern Board	5,135,000	5,446,000	5,966,000
Western Board	3,731,000	3,731,000	4,341,000
Total	23,485,000	23,560,000	26,477,000

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of Translink income in each of the last five years was obtained from education and library boards. [74321]

David Cairns: The percentage of Translink income in each of the last five years obtained from education and library boards was:

	Percentage
2000-01	22.0
2001-02	21.0
2002-03	21.2
2003-04	20.5
2004-05	21.1

Treatment Compensation

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much compensation was paid out in the 2005-06 financial year to complainants against their treatment at hospitals in each board area. [74215]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the amounts paid out in 2005-06 in each board area in respect of clinical negligence claims. In some instances the figures include additional costs such as legal fees.

Board area	*Amount (£)*
Eastern Health and Social Services Board	3,133,043
Northern Health and Social Services Board	1,095,786
Southern Health and Social Services Board	424,459
Western Health and Social Services Board	1,648,430

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints against

(a) nurses, *(b)* general practitioners and *(c)* consultants were upheld and in each of the last three years in each trust area; and what compensation was paid to complainants in each case. [74216]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the form requested. The following table shows amounts of compensation paid in respect of clinical negligence in the last three years in each trust area, including additional costs such as legal fees.

£

Trust	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Royal Group of Hospitals and Dental Hospital	2,248,603	733,404	475,500
Belfast City Hospital	593,229	548,435	327,250
Ulster Community and Hospitals	709,542	229,083	427,250
Down Lisburn	502,850	493,610	1,651,654
Southand East Belfast	666,667	0	65,000
North and West Belfast	45,489	0	22,716
Mater Infirmorum	179,036	61,280	93,062
Green Park	112,032	36,884	70,611
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service	0	0	0
Causeway	0	1,027,781	363,767
Homefirst Community	0	0	7,315
United Hospitals	2,123	625,142	724,705
Armagh and Dungannon	144,349	132,026	45,215
Newry and Mourne	205,000	36,499	103,500
Craigavon and Banbridge	0	0	71,000
Craigavon Area Hospital Group	645,146	2,636,041	204,744
Foyle	5,000	10,000	0
Sperrin Lakeland	56,761	124,272	1,176,623
Altnagelvin	0	0	471,807

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints were recorded against *(a)* nursing staff, *(b)* general practitioners and *(c)* consultants in a three-year period in each trust area. [74217]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the format requested, however, the total number of complaints by trust area in a three-year period is as follows:

HSS Trust	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Belfast City Hospital	110	195	153
Down Lisburn	289	282	299
Green Park Healthcare	132	144	203
Mater Infirmorum	136	92	98
North and West Belfast	150	110	143
Royal Group	490	415	623
South and East Belfast	270	284	252
Ulster Community and Hospitals	360	382	294
Causeway	506	455	456
Homefirst Community	185	286	327
United Hospitals	262	275	310
Armagh and Dungannon	85	77	69
Craigavon and Banbridge Community	82	90	128
Craigavon Area Hospital Group	193	168	220
Newry and Mourne	112	141	150
Altnagelvin Hospitals	200	229	213
Foyle	55	78	71
Sperrin Lakeland	96	54	64
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service	157	181	144
Northern Ireland Total	3,870	3,938	4,217

In addition the number of complaints recorded against general practitioners in a three-year period by HSS board area is:

HSS Board	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Eastern	247	250	232
Northern	135	134	160
Southern	97	114	132
Western	160	103	154

Truancy

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average rates of truancy were in *(a)* controlled and *(b)* maintained schools in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland in each year since 2000. [74279]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education does not collect the requested information. However, information about referrals of pupils to the Education Welfare Service is collected from each of the education and library boards on an annual basis. Referrals can be for a variety of reasons, including truancy.

The following table shows the percentage of pupils referred to the Education Welfare Service in controlled and maintained schools in Northern Ireland for school years 2000-01 to 2004-05:

Percentage of pupils referred

	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Board area	C	M	C	M	C	M	C	M	C	M
Belfast	5.31	4.20	4.72	3.32	5.77	4.43	6.61	5.10	5.29	4.97
Western	2.24	5.46	2.17	2.80	3.24	5.62	2.09	3.21	1.19	2.12
N. Eastern	1.95	2.25	4.10	3.78	4.15	4.51	3.07	2.28	1.38	0.90
S. Eastern	3.90	4.32	4.15	4.60	2.73	3.08	2.61	2.76	1.84	1.67
Southern	2.50	3.23	5.30	4.03	4.54	3.83	1.40	1.33	1.27	1.50

Notes:
1. C—Controlled
2. M—Maintained

Undergraduate Numbers

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many undergraduate students attended *(a)* St. Mary's college and *(b)* Stranmillis college in each of the last five years, broken down by religious background. [73283]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is as follows.

Undergraduate enrolments at St. Mary's and Stranmillis university colleges by religion 2000/01 to 2004/05

St. Mary's university college

Academic year	Protestant	Roman Catholic	Other	Not known	Total
2000/01	10	713	0	85	808
2001/02	5	524	0	334	863
2002/03	—	715	0	*	958
2003/04	—	769	0	*	1,015
2004/05	—	759	0	*	1,010

Stranmillis university college

Academic year	Protestant	Roman Catholic	Other	Not known	Total
2000/01	563	72	14	407	1,056
2001/02	812	110	19	287	1,228
2002/03	866	125	23	185	1,199
2003/04	891	134	32	143	1,200
2004/05	924	159	35	159	1,277

Note:
To prevent the identification of individuals, figures less than five have been suppressed and are denoted by —.
Figures which could allow those figures to be calculated have been replaced by *.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency

HESA data relating to the 2005/06 academic year are not available at this time.

Urologists

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many whole-time equivalent urologists are employed in each health trust in the Province; and what plans there are to increase the number. [74625]

Paul Goggins: The number of whole-time equivalent urologists is as follows:

	Whole-time equivalents
Altnagelvin Hospitals HSS Trust	2.00
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	5.00
Causeway HSS Trust	2.00
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	1.82

In recognition of the historic under-provision of consultant urologists locally, in comparison with other parts of the UK, there has been investment in additional specialist training, there is currently capacity for seven specialist registrars.

Vaccinations

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information is available in *(a)* leaflet and *(b)* website format to people travelling abroad from Northern Ireland which highlights the appropriate vaccinations, if required; what other general information on health insurance and contact numbers of British embassies he provides for travellers; and if he will make a statement. [74229]

Paul Goggins: Advice to UK citizens travelling abroad is contained in the booklet T7, "Health Advice for Travellers", which is available in all post offices. The information contained in the booklet is also available online, and can be accessed directly on the Department of Health website or by linking to it from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety website. The online version also contains links to other Government Departments' websites, in particular the Foreign and Commonwealth Office where information on British embassies can be obtained.

Vehicle Registration

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to simplify the process for motorists moving to Northern Ireland from other parts of the UK wishing *(a)* to register their vehicles in Northern Ireland and *(b)* to continue with their United Kingdom road fund licence until it expires; and if he will make a statement. [73856]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

Work is under way to integrate the separate vehicle computer systems operated by Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland (DVLNI). This will simplify the registration and licensing process when vehicles move between Northern Ireland and other parts of the United Kingdom. The vehicle keeper will only need to notify a change of address. This could be in place as soon as October 2007.

Velcade Treatment

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many patients in each health board area in Northern Ireland are receiving velcade treatment for cancer. [74373]

Paul Goggins: There are currently 11 patients receiving velcade treatment at the cancer centre at Belfast city hospital and at the cancer units at Altnagelvin, Antrim, Craigavon and Ulster hospitals on the 25 May 2006.

It is not possible to provide information at health board level as the small numbers involved pose a potential risk of disclosure of individual's details.

Victim Support

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much public money has been spent on *(a)* consultants and *(b)* advertising by Victim Support Northern Ireland in each year since its formation; what the (i) administrative and (ii) salary costs were of the organisation in the last year for which figures are available; how many people are employed by the organisation, broken down by grade; and how much money has been allocated by his Department to the organisation in each year since its formation. [71405]

Mr. Hanson: Victim Support Northern Ireland (VSNI) is an independent voluntary organisation core-funded by the Northern Ireland Office to provide information, support and practical help to victims of crime and witnesses.

The following table provides a breakdown of expenditure made by VSNI for consultants and advertising. In line with VSNI retention policy, information is not available from the formation of the organisation:

Financial year	*Consultants*	£ *Advertising*
1999-2000	34,509	16,803
2000-01	20,398	18,743
2001-02	11,633	14,095
2002-03	1,093	55,270
2003-04	3,917	60,311
2004-05	5,279	29,799
2005-06	27,606	21,544

In 2005-06 VSNI's administrative costs were £622,963 and the salary costs were £1,263,936.

The following is a list of the staffing posts within VSNI broken down by grade:

Post	*Number of staff*
Branch Managers	8
Branch Co-ordinators	8
Advice Workers	9
Administrative Officers (P/T)	3
Administrative Officers (F/T)	18
Court Witness Co-ordinators (P/T)	2
Court Witness Co-ordinators (F/T)	4
CEO	1
Senior Management Team	4
C/Injuries Technical Manager	1
Court Witness Project Manager	1
Training Officer	1
HR Officer	1
Finance Officer (P/T)	1
IT Support (P/T)	1
Domestic Assistant (P/T)	1
Staff	64

The following table details the NIO funding provided to VSNI since 1999-2000. Funding substantially increased from 2001-02 with the development of two new services—assistance for those claiming criminal injuries compensation and support for victims and witnesses attending court. In line with NIO retention policy information is not available from the formation of the organisation:

Financial year	*Funding (£000)*
1999-2000	767
2000-01	787
2001-02	1,405

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much financial support his Department gives to Victim Support Northern Ireland; and what mechanisms are in place to monitor how that funding is spent. [74120]

Mr. Hanson: Victim Support Northern Ireland (VSNI) is an independent voluntary organisation core-funded by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) to provide information, support and practical help to victims of crime and witnesses.

In 2005-06 the NIO provided funding of £1,907,000 to VSNI for the provision of its Community Service, Criminal Injuries Compensation Service and Court Witness Service.

The NIO has an agreed Conditions of Grant with VSNI which specifies the services to be delivered by VSNI, the arrangements for monitoring service delivery and performance, the roles and responsibilities for the stewardship of public funds and general conditions. In accordance with the Conditions of Grant, the Department closely monitors both business and financial performance on a quarterly basis and also holds quarterly bilateral meetings with VSNI.

Violent Offenders

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to extend the role of the Multi-Agency Procedures for the Assessment and Management of Sex Offenders to include violent offenders in Northern Ireland. [73542]

Mr. Hanson: I believe it is important that we continually review and develop how we manage offenders in the community. This is why I intend

introducing legislation later this year which will strengthen the current sex offender management arrangements in Northern Ireland by placing these on a statutory footing and extending the arrangements to include the management of non-sexual violent offenders. My officials are currently engaged in detailed consultation with colleagues who operate the offender management procedures, both here and in England and Wales, about the implications of such a change.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will ensure that the Violent Offender and Sex Offender Register is available to the Probation Board and Prison Service on the same basis as it is to the police in Northern Ireland. [73543]

Mr. Hanson: The Violent Offender and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR), is a secure, confidential, fully auditable national database which allows the police, probation and prison services to monitor and manage sexual and violent offenders and others who may cause serious harm to the public. The three criminal justice agencies have agreed that access to ViSOR for prisons and probation should be provided through Causeway and are currently engaged in the development of the platform and protocols necessary for access to be granted.

Waiting Times

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest waiting time is for (i) inpatient admission and (ii) initial outpatient assessment in the plastic surgery speciality in Northern Ireland. [74369]

Paul Goggins: Official waiting list information is collected by time band. It is therefore not possible to calculate the average (arithmetic mean) and longest waiting time. It is however possible to identify the median or mid-point waiting and longest waiting time band.

The latest available waiting list statistics show the position at 31 March 2006. Plastic surgery numbers relating to the *(a)* median and *(b)* longest waiting time bands for (i) inpatient admission and (ii) initial outpatient assessment are shown in the following table.

Waiting time numbers for plastic surgery specialty at 31 March 2006

	(a) Median wait	*(b) Longest wait*
	Months	
(i) Inpatient admission	3-5	9-11
(ii) Initial outpatient assessment	21-23	24+

Source:
Departmental Information Returns CH1 Parts A and B and CH5 Parts 1 and 2.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average waiting time was at each accident and emergency department in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months. [74387]

Paul Goggins: Information on the time that patients wait to be seen in accident and emergency departments is not collected centrally. Not all hospitals have electronic systems to record accident and emergency department activity. For those hospitals that have only manual recording systems in place, data extraction is a lengthy and time-consuming process.

Water Supplies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what changes are planned to the funding of water supplies in Northern Ireland. [73174]

David Cairns: From 1 April 2007 Northern Ireland's water and sewerage services will be provided by a Government-owned company, Northern Ireland Water Limited (NIWL). Self-financing arrangements will be introduced which will result in the full costs incurred in providing water and sewerage services being recovered from charges to customers. The comprehensive water and sewerage charging regime to be introduced will involve the general introduction of unmeasured domestic water and sewerage charges with measured charges (i.e. metering) being introduced for all new properties and new connections. Meters will also be offered to pensioner households. In the non-domestic sector, water charges will be extended and sewerage charges introduced for all non-domestic customers.

All these new charges will be phased in over three years so NIWL will not be fully self-financing until 2009-10. There will also be a low-income protection scheme in the form of an affordability tariff which will involve capping charges for eligible customers at an affordable level. The affordability tariff will ensure that eligible low-income households spend no more than 3 per cent. of their income on water and sewerage charges. As many as 200,000 households (30 per cent. of all households) in Northern Ireland who presently qualify for rate rebate, housing benefit or the new Northern Ireland rate relief scheme should benefit from this scheme. The affordability tariff will also extend to all 16 to 17-year-old householders and to children leaving care up to the age of 21. For those on low incomes, the affordability tariff will mean that no-one will pay more than £180 regardless of the value of the property in which they live. On 1 June 2006 the Government published draft legislation, entitled The Water and Sewerage Services (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, which will introduce important changes to the way water and sewerage services are delivered in Northern Ireland. Among other things the Draft Order sets out a framework for the levying of charges for water and sewerage services.

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to public funds was of water lost through leaks in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [74983]

David Cairns: The chief executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katherine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Mrs. Katharine Bryan, dated 5 June 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about the cost to public funds of water lost through leaks in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years (74983). I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

The estimated costs are set out in the table below. They are based on the additional operating costs, principally for power and chemicals, associated with supplying water above the economic level of leakage. The economic level of leakage is the point at which it would cost more to make further reductions than to produce water from an alternative source.

	£ million
	Cost of water lost through leaks
2001-02	3.8
2002-03	2.9
2003-04	1.9
2004-05	1.2
2005-06	0.42

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 6 June 2006

PRIME MINISTER

Bonuses

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of his staff in each of the last three years; and at what total cost. [73044]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. McFadden) today.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how many of his staff did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75093]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. McFadden) today.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was in each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed with outside suppliers over the last five years. [71775]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. McFadden) today.

SCOTLAND

Wave Technology

9. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with Scottish Ministers on the use of wave technology for energy production in Scotland. [74961]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Ministers and officials from the Scotland Office regularly discuss a wide range of matters with colleagues in the Scottish Executive.

Scottish/UK Parliaments (Relationship)

11. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to review the relationship between the Scottish and UK Parliaments. [74963]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The relationship between the Scottish and UK Parliaments is defined in the Scotland Act 1998. However, the Government believe the relationship is strong and constructive.

Junior Football Clubs

12. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the tax regime as it affects Scottish junior football clubs. [74964]

David Cairns: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor on a range of issues. I am aware that my right hon. Friend the Paymaster General, as Minister responsible for HM Revenue and Customs, responded to this morning's Adjournment debate on this issue.

Renewable Energy

13. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on funding for renewable energy in Scotland. [74965]

David Cairns: I refer to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Edinburgh, West (John Barrett).

Unemployment

14. **Miss Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the figures for Scottish unemployment published during May. [74966]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Labour Market data published in May showed a slight rise in unemployment in Scotland. However, it remains the case that unemployment has been cut by nearly a third since 1997 and is lower than almost all other countries within the EU. Employment in Scotland remains close to record levels with over 200,000 more people in work today compared to 1997.

Businesses (Regulations)

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he next expects to meet representatives of the small business sector in Scotland to discuss the level of central Government regulation on businesses. [74954]

David Cairns: I regularly meet representatives from all business sectors in Scotland and am a member of the Small Business Consultative Group, chaired by the Scottish Executive.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Reorganisation

15. **Mr. Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish proposals on local government reorganisation. [74892]

Ruth Kelly: Local government restructuring raises complex and difficult issues. I will set out details of the approach I will take in the forthcoming local government White Paper, which I can today tell the House I intend to publish shortly after the summer recess.

Local Enterprise Growth Initiative

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to make announcements on the next round of the local enterprise growth initiative. [74902]

Mr. Woolas: On 31 March it was announced that £60 million will be available for the second round of the local enterprise growth initiative (LEGI) from January 2007. Given that LEGI is delivered through the Local Area Agreement framework the timetable for round 2 has been more closely aligned with the Local Area Agreement timetable. The deadline for applications is now the 14 September. We expect to be announcing which local authorities have successfully applied for round 2 in December 2006.

Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 492W, on Brighton and Hove Albion, if she will list all other contacts with *(a)* Brighton and Hove council and *(b)* Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club since 25 October 2005 which she classifies as not relevant to the planning decision to which she refers. [72148]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 18 May 2006]:* The information requested is as follows.

(a) My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister met the Leader and Chief Executive of Brighton and Hove council, as well as a number of other councillors, on 16 December 2005, for discussions about fulfilling Brighton's potential as a centre of economic success.

(b) My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister met senior executives of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club on 16 December 2005, when he attended the ground for the Club's game against Hull City.

Freedom of Information

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to the letter of 27 April from the hon. Member for Vale of York on information requested under the Freedom of Information Act regarding which *(a)* companies, *(b)* contracting bodies and *(c)* local authorities have received monies in each of the last five years from the European regional development fund. [69923]

Angela E. Smith: I replied to the hon. Member on 5 June 2006.

I have made available in the Library of the House a spreadsheet containing the information requested by the hon. Member.

Government Offices for the Regions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* total budget and *(b)* administrative costs were of each of the Government offices for the regions in each year since their creation; what the projected costs are for the next financial year; what Government grant has been allocated to each of the regional chambers in each year since their creation; and what estimate she has made of the (i) total budget and (ii) administration cost of regional chambers in 2005-06. [70635]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Programme budgets administered by the Government Offices are the responsibility of the Secretaries of State for the relevant sponsor Departments. Information is however contained in GO Annual Reports, as was referred to the hon. Member on 17 November 2004, *Official Report*, column 1463W.

(b) The administrative running costs for each Government Office for the period since their creation are detailed in the table. The table includes the current expenditure recorded for the financial year just completed, 2005-06 and the initial budget allocation for 2006-07.

The total level of Government grant made to regional assemblies since 2001 is tabled as follows.

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
North East	500,000	600,000	1,408,000	1,708,000	1,708,000
North West	500,000	600,000	1,837,000	2,536,000	2,536,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	500,000	600,000	1,655,000	1,923,000	1,923,000

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
West Midlands	500,000	600,000	1,671,000	2,071,000	2,071,000
East Midlands	500,000	600,000	1,631,000	2,056,000	2,056,000
East	500,000	600,000	1,874,000	2,112,000	2,112,000
South East	500,000	600,000	2,186,000	3,280,000	3,280,000
South West	500,000	600,000	1,613,000	2,101,000	2,101,000
English regions network	1,000,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
	5,000,000	5,000,000	14,075,000	17,987,000	17,987,000

The grant supports the assemblies in the performance of their designated functions to scrutinise the work of the regional development agencies; fulfil their regional planning responsibilities; and for the development of their strategic regional role.

The increase in funding from 2003-04 was granted in recognition of the statutory responsibilities that were placed on them as regional planning bodies by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

For details of 2006-07 central Government grant to the eight regional assemblies outside London, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 121W.

The Government does not hold details of the administration costs of regional assemblies.

Government office administrative running costs

£000

GO	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
North East	8,842.76	8,687.15	8,616.75	8,618.84	8,312.05	8,197.33
North West	9,983.71	9,839.09	9,442.59	13,690.13	13,048.58	13,651.03
Merseyside	4,753.84	4,349.95	4,199.53	12.24	—	—
Total MW/M	14,737.55	14,189.04	13,642.12	13,702.37	13,048.58	13,651.03
Yorks and Humber	9,060.51	8,765.04	8,475.01	8,683.92	8,888.68	9,357.48
West Midlands	10,435.73	10,040.37	9,757.79	9,474.35	9,330.15	9,960.76
East Midlands	7,116.85	6,616.67	6,436.24	6,754.39	6,951.28	7,335.77
East	6,122.84	6,168.97	6,270.62	6,269.43	7,005.47	7,542.48
South West	7,574.14	7,140.74	6,825.73	6,985.03	7,796.87	8,711.38
South East	8,331.06	8,406.16	8,544.99	8,561.40	8,658.61	9,477.26
London	11,106.26	14,106.47	13,458.82	13,238.12	13,715.79	13,860.98
Total	83,327.70	84,120.63	82,028.07	82,287.85	83,707.48	88,094.47

£000

GO	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
North East	9,002.29	9,954.46	12,167.24	13,887.09	13,138.16	13,055.28
North West	15,344.87	15,523.52	16,808.94	17,777.86	17,745.45	17,400.06
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total MW/M	15,344.87	15,523.52	16,808.94	17,777.86	17,745.45	17,400.06
Yorks and Humber	10,036.85	10,943.77	12,480.23	13,453.18	13,494.30	13,286.28
West Midlands	10,295.51	10,662.85	13,381.47	15,286.08	14,497.15	14,972.21
East Midlands	8,244.80	8,713.24	11,153.67	11,937.13	12,530.66	11,495.78
East	8,631.95	9,355.85	12,841.51	15,075.61	13,296.12	12,672.06
South West	10,666.90	11,860.77	13,960.23	14,724.92	14,823.08	14,766.46
South East	10,326.44	10,874.74	14,099.03	14,372.51	14,624.51	14,094.74
London	13,161.20	14,038.84	16,654.91	18,870.09	18,483.70	17,881.17
Total	93,710.81	101,928.04	123,547.22	135,384.47	132,633.13	129,624.04

Notes:
1. GO-North West and GO-Merseyside merged during 1998/1999.
2. Expenditure for 2005-06—as at April 2006 (before production of final accounts).
3. Figures for 2006-07 relate to initial GO budgets as at end-March 2006.

Housing

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it a priority to increase the supply of quality affordable housing. [74895]

Ruth Kelly: Yes. We have committed to provide 75,000 additional social rented homes between 2004-05 and 2007-08, and social housing will be a Government priority in the current comprehensive spending review.

This is in the context of our ambition, as announced in the Government's response to the Barker review last December, to increase the overall supply of housing in England—market as well as affordable homes—to 200,000 per year over the next decade.

Mixed Communities Initiative

Ms Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the Mixed Communities Initiative pilot schemes. [74903]

Meg Munn: The Department for Communities and Local Government is committed to tackling poverty and social exclusion in the most deprived areas of the country. Successful mixed communities bring together the economic, social and physical aspects of renewal and development to create sustainable change in communities.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is working with a number of demonstration projects around the country to test the mixed communities approach. The projects are all at early stages of development and we are working with them to evaluate progress and learn lessons. Where appropriate the approach will be rolled out more widely across other deprived areas.

Standards Board for England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate the cost of legal advice sought by the Standards Board for England in pursuit of its duties and responsibilities in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [73731]

Mr. Woolas: I have asked the chief executive of the Standards Board to write to you on this matter. I shall arrange for a copy of his reply to be placed in the Library of the House.

TREASURY

Departmental Pension Liability

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the pension liability of his Department over the next 30 years. [75275]

Mr. Timms: A technical note by HM Treasury was placed in the Library of the House on 2 March 2006 following an oral statement in Parliament by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury, *Official Report*, columns 388-90. Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual Departments, they are estimated for individual pension schemes, as shown in the breakdown of liabilities per pension scheme given in table 1 of the technical note.

Income Growth

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the rate of growth of incomes for *(a)* the top 1 per cent. of income earners, *(b)* the top 10 per cent. of income earners, *(c)* the bottom 10 per cent. of income earners and *(d)* the bottom 20 per cent. of income earners (i) for each year from 1978-79 and (ii) for the period as a whole; and if he will make a statement. [41443]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information on the top 1 per cent. of income earners is not available.

To give a more detailed and informed view of the income distribution, DWP provides measures by both deciles and quintiles. The available information is in the tables.

Median income and the rate of income growth for the bottom 10 per cent., the top 10 per cent., the bottom 20 per cent. and the top 20 per cent. of the Before Housing Costs (BHC) income distribution are presented in the following tables in 2004-05 prices from 1979 to 2004-05:

	Bottom 10 per cent. (BHC)		*Top 10 per cent. (BHC)*		*Bottom 20 per cent. (BHC)*		*Top 20 per cent. (BHC)*	
	Median Income	*Annualised growth (Percentage)*	*Median Income*	*Annualised growth (Percentage)*	*Median Income*	*Annualised growth (Percentage)*	*Median Income*	*Annualised growth (Percentage)*
1979	113	n/a	460	n/a	129	n/a	388	n/a
1981	111	-1	468	1	126	-1	399	1
1987	118	1	623	5	134	1	504	4
1988-89	116	-2	663	4	135	0	538	5
1990-91	111	-2	727	5	133	-1	576	3
1991-92	113	1	724	0	135	2	579	1
1992-93	113	1	719	-1	137	2	578	0
1993-95	119	4	730	1	142	3	581	0
1994-96	124	4	734	1	147	3	588	1

	Bottom 10 per cent. (BHC)		Top 10 per cent. (BHC)		Bottom 20 per cent. (BHC)		Top 20 per cent. (BHC)	
	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)
1995-97	126	2	746	2	149	1	398	2

Source:
Family Expenditure Survey

	Bottom 10 per cent. (BHC)		Top 10 per cent. (BHC)		Bottom 20 per cent. (BHC)		Top 20 per cent. (BHC)	
	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)
1994-95	121	n/a	723	n/a	144	n/a	574	n/a
1995-96	121	1	725	0	146	2	578	1
1996-97	125	3	745	3	148	1	599	4
1997-98	123	-1	757	2	150	1	605	1
1998-99	126	3	801	6	152	1	629	4
1999-2000	128	2	807	1	157	3	638	1
2000-01	130	1	836	4	162	3	662	4
2001-02	139	7	877	5	172	6	690	4
2002-03	138	-1	885	1	175	1	700	1
2003-04	138	0	881	0	176	1	694	-1
2004-05	141	2	897	2	179	2	702	1

Source:
Family Resources Survey.

Median income and the rate of income growth for the bottom 10 per cent., the top 10 per cent., the bottom 20 per cent. and the top 20 per cent. of the After Housing Costs (AHC) income distribution are presented in the following tables in 2004-05 prices from 1979 to 2004-05:

	Bottom 10 per cent. (AHC)		Top 10 per cent. (AHC)		Bottom 20 per cent. (AHC)		Top 20 per cent. (AHC)	
	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)
1979	89	n/a	381	n/a	103	n/a	322	n/a
1981	86	-2	394	2	99	-2	335	2
1987	86	0	528	5	102	0	419	4
1988-89	84	-2	559	4	103	1	453	5
1990-91	77	-4	617	5	101	-1	483	3
1991-92	74	-4	618	0	100	-1	486	1
1992-93	73	-1	615	-1	100	0	490	1
1993-95	78	5	630	2	103	3	496	1
1994-96	82	6	639	1	104	1	502	1
1995-97	81	-1	650	2	105	1	513	2

Source:
Family Expenditure Survey.

	Bottom 10 per cent. (AHC)		Top 10 per cent. (AHC)		Bottom 20 per cent. (AHC)		Top 20 per cent. (AHC)	
	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)	Median Income	Annualised growth (Percentage)
1994-95	69	n/a	615	n/a	99	n/a	488	n/a
1995-96	76	10	620	1	104	4	491	1
1996-97	79	3	642	3	104	0	514	5
1997-98	77	-2	651	1	105	2	520	1
1998-99	83	8	695	7	109	3	541	4
1999-00	83	0	710	2	112	3	553	2
2000-01	83	-1	731	3	119	5	581	5
2001-02	92	11	777	6	127	7	603	4
2002-03	91	-1	788	1	131	3	617	2
2003-04	89	-2	798	1	130	-1	624	1
2004-05	91	2	820	3	136	5	638	2

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Income growth for the bottom 10 per cent, the top 10 per cent., the bottom 20 per cent. and the top 20 per cent. of the Before Housing Costs and After Housing Costs income distributions between 1979 and 1995-97 and 1994-95 and 2004-05:

1979 to 1995-97	Bottom 10 per cent.	Top 10 per cent.	Bottom 20 per cent.	Percentage Top 20 per cent.
BHC	12	62	15	54
AHC	-9	70	2	59

Source:
The Family Expenditure Survey (FES)

1994-95 to 2004-05	Bottom 10 per cent.	Top 10 per cent.	Bottom 20 per cent.	Percentage Top 20 per cent.
BHC	17	24	25	22
AHC	32	33	37	31

Notes to all tables:
1. The groupings Bottom 10 per cent., Top 10 per cent., Bottom 20 per cent. and Top 20 per cent. of the Before Housing Costs and After Housing Costs income distributions are consistent with DWP's National Statistics' series, Households Below Average Income (HBAI). It is presented in this manner to be consistent with HBAI. The Bottom 10 per cent. relates to individuals in households with the lowest 10 per cent. of equivalised household income.
2. Real income growth is represented by the percentage change in decile or quintile income medians that have been adjusted for inflation. Year on year growth estimates are volatile.
3. Comparisons for the bottom decile should be treated with particular caution. Decile medians for the bottom 10 per cent. are more volatile as they are affected to a greater extent by fluctuations in households reporting very low incomes.
4. The Family Expenditure Survey (FES) data covers selected years from 1979 until 1995-97 where information is available. The Family Resources Survey (FRS) data is for all financial years 1994-95 until 2004-05.
5. Comparisons of estimates between the two sources should be treated carefully: FES figures are for the United Kingdom, FRS figures are for Great Britain;
The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years. FES figures are single calendar years in 1979, 1981 and 1987, two combined calendar years from 1988-89 to1992-93 and two financial years combined from 1993-95 to 1995-97;
The FRS was established by the then Department of Social Security in order to meet the Department's analytical demands; A review, available on the internet, into the differences in income values between the two surveys concluded that the differences in monetary value estimates across surveys were too large to justify publishing direct comparisons. Furthermore, large fluctuations in the difference between surveys for overlapping years mean that a spliced time series may be no more accurate than the unadjusted series. 6. Page 5 of the Child Poverty Progress Report showed growth by quintiles AHC and much higher growth for Q1 than Q5. This is borne out in this PQ. However, BHC progress was only slightly better for the bottom quintile than the top quintile.
Source:
The Family Resources Survey (FRS)

Innovative Financing for Development

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his written statement of 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 29WS, on Innovative Financing for Development, how the money committed by the UK for HIV/AIDS over the next three years is planned to be spent. [75147]

Ed Balls: The UK Government will increase funding for AIDS related work in the developing world and spend at least £1.5 billion from 2005-06 to 2007-08.

These resources will: (i) fund action that prioritises women, young people and vulnerable groups, and focuses on human rights; (ii) ensure that the UK spends at least £150 million on programmes to meet the needs of orphans and other children, particularly those in Africa, made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS; (iii) double UK funding for the Global Fund over the next three years; (iv) provide £36 million to UNAIDS over the next four years to support its global leadership; and (v) provide £80 million to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) over the next four years to support its HIV prevention, sexual and reproductive health work with women.

The "Taking Action Strategy" (which can be found at the following address: www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/hivaidstakingaction.pdf) outlines the UK's approach to tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world over this three-year period.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written statement of 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 29WS, on Innovative Financing for Development, what financial contribution the UK will make to the Drug Purchase Facility; and when such financial support will begin. [75166]

Ed Balls: The UK recognises the importance of long-term predictable finance on a significant scale to meet the challenge of the purchase of drugs for tackling HIV/AIDS and other diseases. As agreed at the Paris conference in March, the UK supports the International Drug Purchase Facility (IDPF) and is working with international partners on the details of the initiative.

As the detailed technical structure of the IDPF is still under discussion, it is not yet possible for the UK to determine the size or timing of a contribution. However, the UK is fully committed to working closely with international partners in the coming months to develop a strong initiative that works effectively and complementarily with existing organisations and institutions in the global health field.

Sterling Stamp Duty

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 353-54W, on sterling stamp duty, if he will publish the Government's study into the technical implications of the proposal for a sterling stamp duty. [75165]

Ed Balls: In the context of achieving the millennium development goals, the Government have considered several ideas and proposals for raising development finance and has concluded that a sterling stamp duty could not be practically enforceable given the multiple avenues for avoidance, and the consequently heavy regulatory and implementation costs such a tax would require. There is no intention of going further than this. The UK Government remain fully committed to the millennium development goals, and have set a timetable to reach the target of 0.7 per cent. overseas development assistance-GNI by 2013.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why the letter of 2 May 2006 from the hon. Member for Walsall, North, regarding a constituent's suggestion for a generator, was not transferred to the Department of Trade and Industry. [73889]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The letter in question has been transferred to and accepted by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Minister for Animal Welfare expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 12 April. [74446]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The Department has no record of having received this letter. If the hon. Member will write to me again, I will ensure his letter is answered promptly.

Environmental Liability Directive

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why the consultation on the implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive has been delayed. [74282]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The Government's intention is to hold two public consultations on the transposition of the Environmental Liability Directive, the first on policy options and the second on draft legislation. They are currently considering the basis for the first of these consultations.

Oil Storage

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to assess the costs and benefits of introducing mandatory fitness for purpose annual inspections of oil storage tanks. [74801]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency is responsible for maintaining and enforcing The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001. The Agency takes a risk-based approach to enforcement, and does not consider that a further targeted programme of oil storage tank inspections would be a cost-effective way of dealing with oil pollution. The existing regulations apply minimum prescriptive standards to all premises storing oil in above ground fixed or mobile tanks or facilities.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Environment Agency next plans to carry out a review of the effectiveness of the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001; when this review is expected to report; and which stakeholders will be consulted in the review. [74802]

Ian Pearson: The final stage of the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 came into force on 1 September 2005. A full year of incident data is needed before any meaningful evaluation can be undertaken. However, the latest available data show four consecutive annual reductions in the number of oil pollution incidents since the regulations were introduced.

Patio Heaters

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the annual carbon dioxide emissions from patio heaters. [74825]

Ian Pearson: Only very limited information is currently available about the number of outdoor patio heaters in use in the UK.

The Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) estimates that the number of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) patio heaters is around 630,000 in the domestic sector and between 3,000 and 12,500 in the hospitality sector (pubs, restaurants and hotels). This does not include electric outdoor heating appliances, however, which appear to be gaining market share. The MTP estimates are not derived from surveys or detailed research, and should not be interpreted as accurate data on energy consumption and carbon emissions.

The Liquid Petroleum Gas Association has provided sales figures for LPG supplied in cylinders sized for outdoor heating appliances each year. From the Association's 2005 figures the MTP estimates that annual carbon dioxide emissions from patio heaters in the UK are around 22.2k tonnes.

Perfluorooctane Sulphonate

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what advice and guidance *(a)* the Government's Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances and *(b)* the Environment Agency has issued on the use of perfluorooctane sulphonate; [70608]

(2) what guidance the Drinking Water Inspectorate have issued on the use of perfluorooctane sulphonate; [70631]

(3) what guidance his Department has issued on the use of perfluorooctane sulphonate. [70662]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1916-917W.

Transport Emissions

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will establish a study to evaluate the changes in carbon dioxide emissions from cars as a result of the closure of post offices, bank branches and independent retail shops in the South West region in the last five years. [75039]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* Defra has no plans to establish such a study. Emissions from these journey types are part of the estimate for road transport as a whole in the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and in the UK projections of emissions.

In considering the external impacts of any closures, it is important to consider a range of environmental, social and economic issues and changes in the transport infrastructure as a whole, not just changes in car use. The report on the validity of food miles as an indicator of sustainable development, published by Defra in July 2005, gives some useful data and an indication of some of the issues that need to be taken into account http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2005/food-0715.htm

TRANSPORT

Automatic Number Plate Recognition Cameras

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many automatic number plate recognition cameras are positioned for the purpose of capturing images on the parts of the road network managed by the Highways Agency. [74732]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency (HA) has responsibility for approximately 1,140 Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras on its network. The Highways Agency uses them for traffic information and monitoring

Cameras used for enforcement purposes are the responsibility of the relevant enforcement agencies and so detailed information would have to be sort from them directly. The HA currently has eight permanent sites where SPECS safety cameras are deployed and these use [redacted]chnology. These are also operated on a n[redacted]ork sites but no central record is kept d[redacted]orary nature.

Traf[redacted] has ANPR cameras (blue cameras) [redacted]k road network for providing current t[redacted] information to their customers.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the accuracy of the automatic number plate recognition translation software used by his Department. [74734]

Dr. Ladyman: Three of DfT's Agencies operate automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) systems: Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, and Highways Agency.

DVLA's ANPR cameras are type approved by the Home Office for the detection and prosecution of Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) offences. The type approval process involved rigorous testing of both the hardware and software. The ANPR systems also undergo an annual programme of testing and calibration in accordance with Home Office approved procedures to ensure continual accuracy.

VOSA's ANPR cameras are used to identify non compliant commercial vehicles and operators for stopping or checking, and if necessary to initiate enforcement action. VOSA's ANPR system complies with the ACPO national minimum standards for approval and performance acceptance. During testing the system gave 98 per cent. recognition and identification, which is in line with ACPO guidelines.

Highways Agency's ANPR cameras are used solely for live traffic information such as journey time information and incident warnings, and for monitoring scheme performance and success, such as changes in traffic patterns and delays. The National Traffic Control Centre (NTCC) only requires a match rate between adjacent cameras of about 10 per cent. to provide accurate traffic information, and the system meets this requirement.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on the *(a)* purchase, *(b)* installation and *(c)* maintenance of automatic number plate recognition camera systems on roads managed by the Highways Agency in each of the last five years. [74735]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency (HA) has responsibility for approximately 1,140 Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras on its network. These cameras are purchased, installed and maintained through different methods.

National Traffic Control Centre (NTCC) has around 1,033 of the ANPR cameras on the HA network provided by the operating company TiS. TiS is contracted to deliver a number of services to the NTCC and receives a monthly payment for service delivery. TiS are responsible for purchasing, installing and maintaining the equipment to support service delivery and the cost of providing that infrastructure is a matter for the operating company.

The remaining 108 ANPR cameras are deployed on the motorway network in the West Midlands. 50 cameras were installed on the Active Traffic Management (ATM) section of the M42 during 2005-06 at a cost of £350,000. The other 58 cameras were purchased and installed in 2002-03 at a cost of £271,000 and upgraded in during 2004-05 and 2005-06 at a cost of £340,000 primarily for the purchase and installation of ancillary equipment such as fibre optic cables but not new cameras.

Maintenance of cameras and other technology equipment is carried out under a specialised traffic technology maintenance contract for all such facilities in the West Midlands. The annual cost for maintaining the 108 ANPR cameras as part of the overall maintenance contract is estimated as £62,500.

British Transport Police

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce proposals for reforms to the British Transport Police; what the expected cost is of the reforms; and if he will make a statement. [74079]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* A review of the British Transport Police is currently being undertaken. Once a conclusion is reached a statement will be made to both Houses.

High Speed Rail Link (North-east)

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had regarding the possibility of a high speed rail link from London to the North East. [75260]

Derek Twigg: Looking at the feasibility and affordability of a north-south high-speed link is a manifesto commitment. The Government have committed to take this forward as part of Sir Rod Eddington's study and in the development of a long term strategy for the railways.

The Department has had a wide range of discussions with interested parties on this topic and will continue to do so as it progresses this work towards the publication of the rail strategy next summer.

Lime Street Station, Liverpool

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the internal redevelopment of Lime Street Railway Station, Liverpool. [74600]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The redevelopment of Lime Street station is a high priority in the Liverpool City Region Development Plan (LCDP). Network Rail, Liverpool Vision, Liverpool city council, the train operators and Merseytravel have developed proposals.

Network Rail have advised me that they are liaising regularly with Merseytravel and have now agreed to jointly develop a list of planned works. Wider ranging improvements to the Station would require third party funding.

MOT Tests

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many minutes an average MOT test took in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 1998 and *(d)* the last period for which figures are available. [74549]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Transport calculated that an average MOT test for a car took *(a)* 52.2 minutes in 2005-06; *(b)* 48.6 minutes in 2001-02; and, *(c)* 44 minutes in 1997-98.

We have recently undertaken a test timing exercise to determine the time it takes to conduct an average MOT test now. The results of the exercise are currently being analysed and will be made public shortly.

Railways

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to encourage the continued manufacture of rail vehicles in the UK. [73606]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* It is the policy of the Government to encourage open competition for the supply of rail vehicles and decisions on where to manufacture such vehicles are ultimately taken by train manufacturers on the basis of cost and competitiveness. The Department for Transport has discussed the situation with train manufacturers and will seek to provide them with better information on future procurement timescales and to facilitate a more even spread of train orders, thus enabling longer term decisions to be made on the maintenance of UK manufacturing capability. It is worth noting that 70 per cent. of the trains procured between 1996 and 2005 were manufactured or assembled in the UK.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers have used Saltash Railway Station in each of the last five years. [71883]

Derek Twigg: Analysis based on ticket sales indicates that the number of journeys made to and from Saltash Railway Station each year since 2002 was as follows:

Year[1]	*Total operating journeys*
2002	34,663
2003	28,668
2004	29,479
2005	37,446
2006	34,695

[1] Rail reporting year—April to March

Road Maintenance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of roads maintained by the Highways Agency are covered by automatic number plate recognition cameras. [74733]

Dr. Ladyman: The National Traffic Control Centre (NTCC), which operates the majority of automatic number plate recognition cameras for the Highways Agency, currently covers about 90 per cent. of the trunk road network. Over the next couple of years this is expected to increase to around 99 per cent.

DEFENCE

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for changes in the number of scientists working on hydrodynamic testing at Aldermaston. [73816]

Des Browne: In the absence of the ability to undertake nuclear testing given that the UK has signed and ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban treaty, it is necessary to invest in hydrodynamic testing to provide assurance that the existing Trident warhead stockpile is reliable and safe. It is planned to increase the number of scientists working on hydrodynamics testing at AWE from 70 to 95 over the next three years.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Atomic Weapons Establishment has conducted studies into the use of *(a)* hydrodynamic test facilities at Aldermaston for developing new nuclear warheads, *(b)* hydrodynamic testing to build a nuclear weapon without having to use underground testing of such a weapon and *(c)* hydrodynamic test facilities at Aldermaston for developing a new warhead. [73818]

Des Browne: Hydrodynamics testing is essential in underwriting the safety and reliability of the existing stockpile without recourse to nuclear testing. There is no programme at Aldermaston to develop a new nuclear warhead.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total capital cost of the new Hydrodynamics Research Facility being considered by the Atomic Weapons Establishment is expected to be. [73820]

Des Browne: A number of options are under consideration. Mature costings are not available.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Identity Crimes

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General what plans he has to improve co-operation between the Crown Prosecution Service and the police in order to bring more prosecutions for identity theft and identity fraud. [74865]

The Solicitor-General: There already is significant cooperation between the police and the Crown Prosecution Service on ID theft and fraud issues.

The CPS is part of the ID fraud Steering Committee. The CPS was active in the setting up of the single point of contact scheme for identity crime issues within Government agencies and police forces in England and Wales. The scheme facilitates the gathering of evidence in order to bring the strongest cases before the courts.

In addition the CPS also has experienced prosecutors to give advice to the police on most charging and related evidential issues 24 hours a day via CPS Direct and local charging centres.

It is a matter for the police whether or not, or how, they will investigate an allegation that is referred to them. The CPS has no power to direct them regarding this. Following investigation, the police will decide whether to seek advice on charge, alternative disposals or to take no further action.

If the police seek advice on charging the CPS will review the case in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors and decide whether the case ought to be prosecuted and the most appropriate charge.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General how much was spent on information technology (IT) sourced from outside his Department in each of the last five years; who is responsible for such projects in his Department; and what IT *(a)* expertise and *(b)* qualifications they possess. [71777]

The Solicitor-General: I am answering this question on behalf of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), the Treasury Solicitors Department (TSol), the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO), HMCPS Inspectorate and my own Department. Figures for the latter two Departments are included in those for the CPS and the SFO respectively. In some cases it has not been possible to differentiate between payments to external companies and internal project costs; and figures for 2005-06 are, in some instances, provisional as final year accounts are being settled. The figures are shown in the following table.

£ million

	CPS	*SFO*	*TSol*	*RCPO*
2001-02	16.3	2.381	0.794	—
2002-03	14.7	2.793	2.373	—
2003-04	29	2.934	2.323	—
2004-05	43	3.175	2.416	—
2005-06	50.6	4.180	2.204	2.03

The Director of the CPS's Business Information Systems Directorate is the Department's Chief Information Office (CIO). The CIO has worked in the private sector in IT for about 15 years prior to joining the CPS and her experience is supplemented by an MBA.

The Director of the CPS's Business Development Directorate is the Senior Responsible Officer for the COMPASS programme. The Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Committee provides assurance to the CPS Board that ICT strategies and policies support delivery of the business strategy and PSA targets; provide value for money; and make the maximum contribution to joined-up IT across the CPS.

The CPS Programme and Project Management Centre of Excellence has responsibility for portfolio oversight of all CPS business change programmes and projects and provides expert guidance on programme and project management.

Within TSol the person responsible for IS projects in the IS Division is the Director Information Systems; she holds a Master of Science degree from City University in Business Systems Analysis and Design with many years experience both within and outside central Government.

All SFO projects are led by a Senior Responsible Office, usually at Assistant Director level, and are reviewed regularly under OCG Gateway procedures at critical stages of their lifestyle. The persons within the SFO whose responsibility it is to monitor such projects have extensive IT experience—over 15 years—with the public and private sectors as well as a wide variety of IT related degrees and professional qualifications.

RCPO has recently created a new post, Head of Information Services, and this was filled on 3 May 2006 initially for a six month period, by an IT Professional with 18 years experience in the IT industry and with technical, project management and service delivery expertise. He also has considerable experience in working with UK central Government. As well as receiving a considerable amount of technical and professional training from a previous employee, IBM, he has a Diploma in Business Studies.

Leased Land

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General what *(a)* land and *(b)* property his Department (i) leases and (ii) leased in (A) 1979, (B) 1983, (C) 1987, (D) 1992 and (E) 1997 in (1) the Southend West constituency, (2) Essex, (3) Hertfordshire and (4) the Metropolitan Police area of London. [72131]

The Solicitor-General: I am answering this question on behalf of the Crown Prosecution Service, the Serious Fraud Office, HMCPS Inspectorate, the Treasury Solicitors Department and my own office. The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office did not come into existence until April 2005 and is therefore not covered by the question.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) holds no relevant records prior to 1996. Prior to that date property records were held by Property Holdings, and prior to 1990 such records were held by the Property Services Agency. The CPS holds no land in any of the geographical regions referred to. Nor did it hold any land in those geographical regions in 1997. At present, the CPS holds leases for the following premises by location:

(1) Southend West constituency—none

(2) Essex—County House, Chelmsford CM2 ORG

(3) Hertfordshire—Queen's House, St Albans AL1 3HZ

(4) Metropolitan Police area of London—Prospect West, Croydon CRO 2RD; King's House, Harrow HA1 1YH; Marlowe House, Sidcup DA15 7ES; The Cooperage, Southwark SE1 2NE; Solar House, Stratford E15 4LJ; Tolworth Tower, Surbiton KT6 7DS; Artillery Row, Victoria SW1P 1RZ

In 1997, the property leases held by the CPS were:

(1) Southend West constituency—none

(2) Essex—County House, Chelmsford CM2 ORG

(3) Hertfordshire—Queen's House, St Albans AL1 3HZ

(4) Metropolitan Police area of London—Prospect West, Croydon CRO 2RD; King's House, Harrow HA1 1YH; The Cooperage, Southwark SE1 2NE; Solar House, Stratford E15 4LJ; Tolworth Tower, Surbiton KT6 7DS; Artillery Row, Victoria SW1P 1RZ; Portland House, Victoria SW1E 5BH; River Park House, Wood Green N22 4HQ

The Treasury Solicitor's Department currently leases offices at One Kemble Street, London, WC2B 4TS which is in (4) the Metropolitan Police area. It previously had a freehold and long leasehold interest in its offices at Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, which is in (4) the Metropolitan Police area which it occupied in all the relevant years. It has not held any leases in (1) the electoral constituency of Southend West, (2) Essex, or (3) Hertfordshire.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) is based in Elm House, which falls within the Metropolitan Police District. The lease for Elm House started in June 1988 and expires in 2012.

SFO have not held other leases for the years given.

SFO has not held leases for property in Southend West, Essex or Hertfordshire.

HMCPS Inspectorate is based at 26/28 Old Queen Street in the London Metropolitan area. The building is held on a 25 year lease until 2011.

My own office is in leased accommodation at Buckingham Gate, the lease expiring in April 2007.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisors in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in each of the last three years. [69010]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments had no special advisers in the period in question.

The total cost of overnight accommodation for civil servants in the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 is provided broken down, where possible, into the requested locations. In some instances the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost because details on location are not always held centrally (Crown Prosecution Service) or overnight accommodation costs cannot be separated from subsistence payments (SFO for 2003-04 and Treasury Solicitor's Department).

£

Department/Year	Great Britain	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland	Other Countries
Crown Prosecution Service				
2003-04		1,559,863		
2004-05		1,367,174		
2005-06		1,392,248		
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office[1]				
2005-06	8,370	0	0	2,360
Serious Fraud Office				
2004-05	110,806	1,515	27,332	
2005-06	77,457	711	55,730	
HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate				
2003-04		52,231		
2004-05		51,359		
2005-06		44,021		
Attorney General's Office				
2003-04	611	922	0	1,967

£

Department/Year	Great Britain	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland	Other Countries
2004-05	358	187	0	1,148
2005-06	582	487	0	1,533

[1] RCPO was established on 18 April 2005.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Annual Reports

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75091]

Mr. Straw: The Privy Council Office provides administrative support to the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons. No staff in the Office of the Leader have failed to achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report over the last three years.

The performance management policy of the Department is set up to help units deliver their objectives and the means of rating overall performance is designed to clearly identify performance which is unsatisfactory or unacceptable.

Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House what incentives are available to encourage members of his staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75090]

Mr. Straw: The Privy Council Office provides administrative support to the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons. They offer interest-free loans for season tickets for public transport and also bicycle loans to staff.

The majority of staff uses public transport for travelling to and from work.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms on each type of benefit paid to asylum seekers in (i) the Peterborough city council area and (ii) the Eastern region in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [48670]

Mr. Plaskitt: Due to the very small numbers of claimants involved it is not possible to accurately calculate the expenditure information requested.

From 3 April 2000 all new asylum seekers are excluded from social security benefits. Those asylum seekers who do require assistance are supported by the national asylum support service administered by the Home Office.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average amount claimed by an individual in *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* housing benefit and *(c)* income support (i) weekly and (ii) annually was in the last period for which figures are available. [73448]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested.

Annual average payments are not available; information from which to make such an estimate is not collected centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The information on average weekly payments is in the following table.

Average weekly amounts of incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance, housing benefit and income support in Great Britain

	November 2005 (£)
Income support	83.05
Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance	82.25
Housing benefit	64.20

Notes:
1. Average weekly amounts are rounded to the nearest penny.
2. A smaller number of former MIG cases did not convert to pension credit on 6 October 2003. These cases have been excluded from the IS figures and are mainly cases where the claimant is aged under 60 and the partner over 60.
3. Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance figures exclude credits-only cases.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) and Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in November 2005.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on public advertising for reporting benefit fraud in each year since 1997. [73254]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed on 8 June 2001 from parts of the former Department of Social Security, the former Department for Education and Employment, and the Employment Service. Information prior to 2001 is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department runs public information campaigns designed to positively reinforce honest behaviour, to create a climate of intolerance to benefit fraud and to undermine its social acceptability. The advertising expenditure for these campaigns is in the following table.

	Advertising spend (£000)
2001-02	8,039
2002-03	35
2003-04	8,383

	Advertising spend (£000)
2004-05	6,017
2005-06	7,042

Notes:
1. Figures are for the advertising spend on the 'targeting fraud' (2001 to 2002) and 'targeting benefit fraud' (2003 to 2006) campaigns.
3. All figures are exclusive of VAT.
4. The figures in these tables refer to media spend only, excluding production and other costs.
5. All figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* attendance allowance, *(c)* carers' allowance and *(d)* incapacity benefit claim forms his Department processes on average each day; and if he will make a statement. [72529]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested. Information on the average number of claims cleared for each benefit in 2005-06 is in the table.

Average number of claims cleared each working day, 2005-06: Great Britain

Disability living allowance	1,728
Attendance allowance	1,652
Carer's allowance	998
Incapacity benefit	2,709

Note:
There were 250.5 working days in 2005-06.
Source:
DWP management information.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to bring forward incapacity benefit legislation; and if he will make a statement. [72038]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government are committed to introducing legislation in this session for the reform of incapacity benefits; establishing a benefits regime supporting a return to employment, while offering long-term support to those unable to work.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* lower and *(b)* upper capital limits are for each income-related benefit. [75289]

Mr. Plaskitt: For income support and income-based jobseeker's allowance the upper capital limit is £16,000; this applies to both single claimants and couples. Capital up to £6,000 is disregarded in full. A tariff income is applied to capital between £6,000.01 and £16,000, at the rate of £1.00 for each £250 or part thereof.

The same rules apply to council tax benefit and housing benefit, with two exceptions. If a claimant or their partner is aged 60 or over and they are in residential care, capital up to £10,000 is disregarded in full; tariff income applies from £10,000.01 and £16,000. The upper capital limit does not apply to anyone in receipt of the guarantee-credit element of the pension credit.

For pension credit there is no set limit to the amount of capital a person may have. Capital of £6,000 or less is disregarded in full; for those in care homes the full disregard applies to capital up to £10,000. For capital over these limits, a tariff income is applied at the rate of £1.00 for each £500 or part thereof.

Carers

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of carers who would be entitled to claim carers' allowance but are discouraged from doing so because they are caring for someone in receipt of the extra amount for severe disability paid with the pension credit. [71190]

Mrs. McGuire: The requested information is not available because the data sources do not provide information about the reasons why carers do not claim carer's allowance.

Child Poverty

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children have been living in poverty in each parliamentary constituency in the North East in each year since 1997. [59921]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Specific information regarding low income for the North East and other regions of Great Britain is available in the latest publication of the "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2004-05".

The data source does not allow us to provide robust estimates below regional level, therefore estimates for numbers of children living in poverty in parliamentary constituencies in each year since 1997 are not available.

The following table shows the number of children living in households with income below the threshold 60 per cent. of relative median in the North East since 1996-97. The threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

Number of children living in households with less than 60 per cent. of relative median household income, for the North East region, years 1994-95 to 2004-05 in Great Britain

	Number of children (in millions)[1] as three-year moving averages	
	Before housing costs	After housing costs
1994-95 to 1996-97	0.18	0.22
1995-96 to 1996-98	0.18	0.22
1996-97 to 1998-99	0.18	0.22
1997-98 to 1999-2000	0.18	0.22
1998-99 to 2000-01	0.18	0.22
1999-2000 to 2001-02	0.15	0.19
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.16	0.19
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.15	0.17
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.15	0.17

[1] Figures are provided using a three-year moving averages, as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year on year changes. Hence, figures are not consistent with previously published single-year estimates and there may be differences in changes over time.

Notes:
1. Table show numbers in millions and rounded to the nearest 10,000.
2. In this answer relative low income is determined for individuals as living in a household with income below 60 per cent. of the GB median.

Source:
Family Resources Survey.

Child Support

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list occasions on which a decision has been made under section 29 of the Child Support Act 1991 to opt not to collect maintenance; why the decision was taken in each case; and whether the decision was made in respect of all maintenance collection options allowed under the Act in each case. [72445]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the child support agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply for the chief executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will list occasions on which a decision has been made under section 29 of the Child Support Act 1991 to opt not to collect maintenance; why the decision was taken in each case; and whether the decision was made in respect of all maintenance collection options allowed under the Act in each case.

Section 29 of the Child Support Act 1991 empowers the Secretary of State to collect child support maintenance. However, the wording of Section 29 enables the Secretary of State to decide, in a very limited range of circumstances, not to collect maintenance. Each case will be treated individually after careful investigation on its own merits and examples include:

Death of a non-resident parent;

Where a parent with care felt that to continue to collect would put her or her children at risk; and

Where an interim maintenance assessment cannot be converted to a full maintenance assessment the Agency will not pursue the punitive element of the debt.

As each case is individually considered it would require disproportionate effort to detail every decision.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the review of the Child Support Agency to report. [73482]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* Sir David Henshaw is currently undertaking his work on the redesign of child support policy and delivery and has been asked to report to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions before the summer recess.

Correspondence

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reply to the letter of 27 April from the hon. Member for Vale of York on information requested under the Freedom of Information Act regarding how much *(a)* companies, *(b)* contracting bodies and *(c)* local authorities received in each of the last five years from the European Social Fund. [69922]

Mrs. McGuire: I replied to the hon. Member on 25 May 2006, fifteen working days after the request was received and within the twenty day deadline.

Debt Collectors

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its (i) executive agencies and (ii) non-departmental bodies use the services of private debt collectors. [71079]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department has contracts with four private sector companies to provide debt collection services.

Additionally, since the inception of the Child Support Agency in April 1993 it has used the services of Bailiffs to enforce the collection of child support debt.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what is his Department's policy for reviewing instructional leaflets it has issued. [51980]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department's policy is that its leaflets should be reviewed every six months to ensure accuracy of content.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff are employed directly by his Department to process *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* attendance allowance, *(c)* carers' allowance and *(d)* incapacity benefit claim forms, broken down by location; what the average salary is at each grade; and if he will make a statement. [72527]

Mrs. McGuire: Disability living allowance and attendance allowance are processed at the same sites; no further breakdown of staff handling each type of allowance is available. Average salaries are not available; salary bandwidths have been given.

The most recent available information is in the tables.

Number of staff (full-time equivalent) involved in processing disability living allowance and attendance allowance, by location; April 2006

Disability Contact and Processing Unit	1,841.85
Benefit Enquiry Line / Helpline	471.80
Bootle Disability Benefits Centre	134.30
Bristol Disability Benefits Centre	148.00
Edinburgh Disability Benefits Centre	100.84
Glasgow Disability Benefits Centre	116.12
Leeds Disability Benefits Centre	172.04
Manchester Disability Benefits Centre	131.93
Midlands Disability Benefits Centre	353.94
Newcastle Disability Benefits Centre	116.42
Wales Disability Benefits Centre	124.57
Wembley Disability Benefits Centre	314.17

Note:
Figures include all administrative grade staff directly involved in processing disability living allowance and attendance allowance claims.
Source:
Disability and Carers Service management information

Number of staff (full-time equivalent) involved in processing carer's allowance; April 2006

Carer's Allowance Unit	843.87

Note:
Figures include all administrative grade staff directly involved in processing carer's allowance claims.
Source:
Disability and Carers Service management information

Number of staff (full-time equivalent) involved in processing incapacity benefit claims in each Jobcentre Plus region; March 2006

East Midlands	277.88
East of England	287.88
London	449.43
North East	267.21
North West	683.51
Scotland	509.72
South East	353.61
South West	294.16
Wales	369.01
West Midlands	438.49
Yorkshire and The Humber	395.80

Notes:
1. London includes processing sites outside the London area processing London claims.
2. Figures include all administrative staff involved in processing incapacity benefit claims.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus management information.

DWP administrative grade pay bands

£

	Minimum	*Maximum*
Grade AA/Band A	12,340	17,380
Grade AO/Band B	13,990	20,890
Grade EO/Band C	18,160	27,300

Note:
The figures given are the highest and lowest applicable to each band. Higher minimums and lower maximums apply in certain particular geographical areas.

Job Vacancies

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies there were on average on the register at job centres in Coventry South constituency in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [71754]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* Information on Jobcentre Plus vacancy data at parliamentary constituency level is only available from April 2004 and is set out in the following table.

Coventry South parliamentary constituency

Period	*Average number of 'live' unfilled vacancies on any given day*
2004	2,790
2005	2,280
2006	2,630

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System

Pension Credit

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of pension credit claimed the extra amount for carers in the last financial year for which figures are available; and how many pensioner households received double the extra amount because both partners were eligible to claim. [71189]

James Purnell: The information requested is in the following table:

Number of pension credit beneficiaries with prescribed additional amounts for carers in payment

	November 2005
All pension credit beneficiaries of the extra amount for carers	182,300
One beneficiary with a prescribed additional amount	164,800
Both beneficiaries with a prescribed additional amount	17,500

Notes:
1. Figures are based on a 5 per cent. sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. Beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.
Source:
The Department's Quarterly Statistical Enquiry (QSE) five per cent. administrative data.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of pension credit were also in receipt of *(a)* the lower rate and *(b)* the higher rate of extra amounts for severe disability in the last financial year for which figures are available. [71191]

James Purnell: The information requested is in the following table:

Number of pension credit recipients with the prescribed extra amount for severe disability

	November 2005
All recipients with an extra amount for severe disability	631,970
Recipients with the extra amount for severe disability—higher rate	46,360
Recipients with the extra amount for severe disability—lower rate	585,610

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Recipients are those people who claim pension credit either on behalf of themselves only or on behalf of a household. This number is equal to the number of households in receipt of pension credit.
Source:
Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Paul Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in the Medway towns local authority area received pension credit in the most recent period for which figures were available, broken down by ward; and what the average payment was. [74714]

James Purnell: The information is provided in the following table:

Pension credit individual beneficiaries and the average weekly amount of benefit for wards in Medway, November 2005

Ward name	*Individual beneficiaries*	*Average weekly benefit (£)*
Chatham Central	885	47.40
Cuxton and Halling	210	39.46
Gillingham North	745	42.60

Pension credit individual beneficiaries and the average weekly amount of benefit for wards in Medway, November 2005

Ward name	Individual beneficiaries	Average weekly benefit (£)
Gillingham South	650	43.81
Hempstead and Wigmore	175	38.46
Lordswood and Capstone	375	41.71
Luton and Wayfield	835	43.59
Peninsula	615	41.33
Princes Park	295	44.41
Rainham Central	425	36.76
Rainham North	345	36.15
Rainham South	425	38.72
River	340	46.36
Rochester East	600	39.52
Rochester South and Horsted	575	37.20
Rochester West	460	36.85
Strood North	530	42.55
Strood Rural	505	38.68
Strood South	775	39.52
Twydall	940	37.57
Walderslade	460	37.31
Watling	290	39.71
Medway total	11,390	41.02

Notes:
1. The numbers of individual beneficiaries are rounded to a multiple of five.
2. Average amounts are rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Totals do not always sum to area total due to rounding.
4. The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.
5. Wards are based on 2003 ward boundaries.

Source:
Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Pension Credit Helpline

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many telephone calls were made to the pension credit helpline in *(a)* March and *(b)* April; how many of these calls (i) were handled, (ii) received an engaged tone and (iii) were abandoned; and if he will make a statement. [73561]

James Purnell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 2036W.

Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to review the uprating arrangements for UK pensioners who have moved overseas in the context of the publication of the White Paper on Pensions. [73918]

James Purnell: We uprate the State Pension in countries with which the UK has a reciprocal agreement or a legal obligation to do so. We have no plans to change the current arrangements.

Portland PR

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what meetings officials in his Department have had with representatives of the public relations company Portland PR; what contracts Portland PR has with his Department and agencies for which he has responsibility; and what the nature of the contract is in each case. [70048]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department does not maintain a central list of such meetings. Civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and business delivery. All such meetings are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the civil service code and guidance for civil servants on contacts with lobbyists and people outside Government.

DWP holds no contract (either currently or historically) with Portland PR.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people held a Post Office card account on 1 April 2006 *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [70883]

Mr. Pleskitt: Information is not available in the format requested.

There were 1,041,324 Post Office card accounts in use mid April 2004, 4,255,512 at mid April 2005 and 4,253,566 at mid April 2006.

In addition to accounts used by my Department these figures include Post Office card accounts used by the Northern Ireland Social Security Agency, the Veterans Agency (Ministry of Defence) and Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs.

Savings Credit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* receiving Savings Credit in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06; how many he expects (A) to be eligible for and (B) to receive the credit in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [70329]

James Purnell *[holding answer 16 May 2006]:* The information requested is not available in the format requested. Information that is available is in Table 1 and contains estimates of eligibility in 2004-05 and projected estimates of eligibility in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Table 1

	Number eligible (million)
2004-05	2.7-3.1
2005-06	2.9-3.3

Table 1

	Number eligible (million)
2006-07	3.0-3.4

Notes:
1. Estimates of the numbers eligible are given as ranges in order to account for possible biases inherent in estimates from data that is less than perfect. They also take account of the effects of sampling variation.
2. The figures given relate to those who may be eligible for the Savings Credit, with or without the Guarantee element.
3. Estimates cover all those aged 60 and over in the private household population of Great Britain.
4. For the purposes of this analysis, the unit of analysis is the benefit unit. This is either a single person aged at least 60 years old or, if a couple, both will be termed pensioners if one is aged at least 60 years old. This is consistent with both the definition used in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-up" publications, and with the fact any individual aged 60 or over is entitled to pension credit.
5. The data source for eligibility estimates is the Family Resources Survey. Estimates of eligibility for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are based on Family Resources Survey data for 2003-04 and 2004-05, with incomes and benefits projected forward into the future in order to estimate the eligibility for each pensioner household on the survey. They are calibrated to the 2004-05 National Statistics estimates of non-eligibility to pension credit, which adjust 2004-05 Family Resources Survey data to take account of possible biases in reporting.
6. All figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.
7. Projections of eligibility may be adjusted following publication of future editions of the National Statistics take-up estimates.

Table 2: Number of pensioners receiving the Savings Credit in 2004-05

	Number receiving (million)
2004-05	1.8

Notes:
1. Figures relate to those in receipt of the Savings Credit, with or without the Guarantee Credit.
2. The numbers receiving in 2004-05 are derived from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, and relate to the average number of recipients over the financial year. They are consistent with the figures used to calculate National Statistics estimates of take-up, and so exclude cases in non-private households, and take account of any backdated awards that were paid in respect of 2004-05. Estimates presented here will therefore differ from other published sources.
3. The latest estimates of the take-up of Pension Credit can be found in the DWP report entitled "Pension Credit Estimates of Take-Up in 2004/2005". Copies of the publication are available in the Library.
4. Projected take-up figures are indicative only and not comparable to the published Take-Up figures for 2004/2005, which include backdated awards of Savings Credit. Forecasts of future recipients are based on extrapolation of administrative data from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
5. All figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

Current forecasts suggest that around 1.8 million pensioners may be in receipt of the Savings Credit in 2005-06 and around 1.9 million in 2006-07. However, these projections are indicative only and do not include adjustments for backdated awards so are not directly comparable with the take-up estimates for 2004-05.

Union Agreements

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to renew its no redundancies agreement with the public and commercial services union beyond 30 June 2006. [72491]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* A 'Seeking to avoid compulsory redundancy' agreement was reached between the Department and all three of its unions, including the public and commercial services union in November 2004.

This agreement, which incorporates best practice across Government Departments, states that the Department 'will take all practical and reasonable steps to avoid or, if that is not possible, minimise compulsory redundancies', staff will only be declared redundant after full and meaningful consultation with trade unions has taken place, with a view to reaching agreement about ways to avoid, or minimise redundancy.

The agreement has no time limit and is still in place. It can be terminated by either DWP management or the unions by giving six months notice to the other party. To date no notice of termination has been given by either side.

The Department will continue to work with its trade unions to avoid compulsory redundancy wherever possible.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casinos

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what reserve powers she has under the Gambling Act 2005 to remove the licences of casinos in the event of problem gambling increasing in the surrounding area. [74866]

Mr. Caborn: The Gambling Commission will have the power to revoke operating licences under sections 119 and 120 of the Gambling Act; and licensing authorities will have the power to revoke premises licences under section 202 of the Act. In either case, the decision whether to take any action will be predicated on the manner in which the casino is being operated, rather than the effects of the operation on the local community. An increase in problem gambling in a particular area could be evidence that a casino?or indeed other gambling establishment in the area?is not operating as it should, and that investigation or action may be needed.

In addition, if problem gambling did appear to be an issue in a particular area, or around casinos generally, conditions could be imposed to address the issue:

on individual licences by the Commission and licensing authorities, and

on licences of a particular class or type by the Commission or the Secretary of State.

Digital Television

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on access to the digital signal in North Yorkshire. [75055]

Mr. Woodward: We do not have a figure for digital terrestrial coverage in North Yorkshire. Currently, digital terrestrial television is available to 98.5 per cent. of households in the Vale of York and the vast majority of households can receive digital TV services via digital satellite, terrestrial or cable.

North Yorkshire straddles two broadcasting regions: Yorkshire and Tyne Tees. 67 per cent. of households in the Yorkshire TV region and 77 per cent. of households in Tyne Tees have already chosen to take up digital TV.

After switchover, which takes place in the Yorkshire TV region in 2011 and Tyne Tees in 2012, UK digital terrestrial television coverage will match the current analogue coverage of 98.5 per cent.

And, already 70 per cent. of households in Border have taken up digital TV.

Film Industry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on Government support for the UK film industry. [74999]

Mr. Woodward: In 2005-06, DCMS provided grant-in-aid funding of £24.11 million to the UK Film Council, its key strategic adviser on film policy. By the end of January, the Council had also received £28.1 million of lottery funding this financial year. In addition, the 2006 Finance Bill introduces a new tax relief for culturally British films, offering films costing up to £20 million a payable tax credit worth 20 per cent. of total qualifying expenditure. They will also be able to claim an enhanced deduction equal to 100 per cent. of qualifying expenditure. Other films will be entitled to a payable tax credit worth 16 per cent. of qualifying expenditure and an enhanced deduction worth 80 per cent. of UK qualifying film production expenditure.

Football Foundation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are employed by the Football Foundation; and what the budget of the foundation is. [75284]

Mr. Caborn: As at 31 May 2006, the Football Foundation has a staff of 42 employees and an annual budget of £45 million.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many grants were agreed by the Football Foundation to ethnic minority football clubs in the 2005-06 financial year. [75287]

Mr. Caborn: A key objective of all Football Foundation grants is the promotion of the game to under represented groups in football, in particular ethnic minority communities.

In the 2005-06 financial year 455 projects worth £46.97 million were supported. Of this, over £1.57 million was directly invested in projects with a primary aim of ethnic minority inclusion.

In addition the foundation also administered funds raised by the Stand Up Speak Up, anti-racism campaign, which resulted in 104 grants, totalling £885,000, being made towards projects designed to counter racism.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she has held any meetings with the chief executive of the Football Foundation since his appointment. [75288]

Mr. Caborn: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not held any meetings with the chief executive of the Football Foundation. However, I met with him on 18 April 2006, for an initial introductory meeting.

Licensing Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the operation of the Licensing Act 2003 (Premises licences and club premises certificates) Regulations 2005; and what recent representations she has received about the operation of these regulations. [73290]

Mr. Woodward: We are broadly satisfied with the operation of the Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) and the Regulations made under it. The Department estimates that some 190,000 premises have been successfully licensed under the 2003 Act.

However, as with any large-scale reform, there is a need to ensure that the actual operation of the 2003 Act reflects the purposes for which it was introduced, and to examine and address any anomalies as far as is possible. That is why the Government established an Independent Licensing Fees Review Panel in May last year to consider whether fees had been set at the right level. Their final Report is due for publication in the autumn.

We are also currently monitoring and evaluating the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 nationally through, for example, the Scrutiny Council initiative, in which officials from my Department are working with council officers and through them with local police and other responsible authorities, residents' groups, businesses and other stakeholders, to gather information about how the new regime is working on the ground.

In addition, our two-stage review of the Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 commenced on 1 December 2005. We expect to lay a revised version of the Guidance before Parliament by the end of 2006.

In the course of these monitoring and review processes, a number of representations have been received concerning matters covered by the 2003 Act and the regulations made under it, including the Licensing Act 2003 (Premises licences and club premises certificates) Regulations 2005.

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the effect of the Licensing Act 2003 on the costs to sporting bodies. [73332]

Mr. Woodward: I believe that the Licensing Act 2003 will benefit sports in the long term by removing the need for clubs to obtain a number of different permissions for different activities.

However, I recognise that some concerns have been expressed about how sports clubs will adapt to the new

licensing regime. An independent Licensing Fees Review Panel was established by the Government in May 2005 to consider whether fees had been set at the right level for community groups, including sports clubs, businesses and local authorities. The Panel—which is chaired by Sir Les Elton—published its interim findings on 5 December 2005. This identified a number of areas for more detailed work. The full interim report can be accessed on my Department's website at:

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/alcohol_and_entertainment/monitoring_and_evaluation/ifreview.htm>

The Panel is continuing to receive information from a number of stakeholder interests in order to gather the evidence that will inform their final Report, which is due to be published in the autumn.

As implementation continues, my Department is working closely with Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) and other sports bodies. The Department has asked the CCPR to provide any information about how sports clubs are adapting to the new licensing regime and in particular, to feed in any evidence about the impact of the fees into the Independent Fees Review Panel.

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* temporary event notices and *(b)* premises licences have been requested to enable (i) international and (ii) other indoor sporting events to take place since November 2005. [73333]

Mr. Woodward: This information is not held centrally.

Lotteries

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what legislation governs the provision of online lotteries operating in Northern Ireland; what representations he has received on online lotteries; and if he will make a statement. [74452]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The law governing the promotion of lotteries in Northern Ireland (other than the national lottery) is contained in the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and associated subordinate legislation. I have received no representations on on-line lotteries.

Obesity

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department is taking to combat obesity through sport. [74138]

Mr. Caborn: We are committed to reducing obesity, as set out in our public service agreement target to halt, by 2010, the year-on-year increase in obesity among children under 11 in the broader context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole.

Given the complexity of this public health challenge, my Department shares the target with the Department of Health and the Department for Education and Skills, to make sure that action is co-ordinated across our relevant sectors.

In terms of sport, we are making good progress on the National School Sport Strategy. We are on course for 75 per cent. of five to 16-year-olds getting at least two hours of high quality physical education and school sport by the end of this year. There was an 11 per cent. rise in the number of children in school sport partnerships doing two hours of quality physical education and school sport between 2003-04 and 2004-05.

However, we recognise that more needs to be done. That is why, for school sport, our plan is to make—from September 2006—overweight and obese children one of the target groups all school sport partnerships focus action on. We will also test out in a number of school sport partnerships what are most effective ways of supporting this target group of young people.

Olympic Games

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her latest estimate is of the costs of hosting the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics in London. [75183]

Tessa Jowell: The Candidature File set out the key costs of staging the Games. Since then, it has become clear that in certain areas, such as security, there are cost pressures.

Wherever we can, we are seeking to mitigate those pressures by cost reductions and maximising value. That work is continuing.

Tourism

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent civil service staff have been working in her Department on the tourism portfolio in each year since 1995, broken down by grade. [74115]

Mr. Woodward: There are currently 30 civil service staff working on the tourism portfolio broken down as follows:

	Number
SCS	1
A(U)	1
A	7
B	11
C	8
D	2

The information for the previous 10 years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the grant-in-aid from her Department to the tourism industry was in each year since 1995, broken down by sector. [74116]

Mr. Woodward: My Department continues to invest substantially in the promotion and support of tourism, reflecting the sector's economic and cultural importance.

Up to 2002-03, the marketing and promotion of Britain overseas was the responsibility of the British

Tourist Authority. The support of tourism in England was the responsibility of the English Tourist Board up to 1998-99, and the English Tourism Council up to 2002-03. Grant-in-aid to these bodies was as follows:

	British Tourist Authority	English Tourist Board	£ million English Tourism Council
1995-96	34.5	10.0	—
1996-97	35.0	10.0	—
1997-98	35.0	9.9	—
1998-99	35.0	9.7	—
1999-2000	36.0	—	11.8
2000-01	37.0	—	11.0
2001-02	35.5	—	9.6
2002-03	35.5	—	11.6

Further grant-in-aid was allocated to the Authority and the Council, as follows, to assist the tourism sector in recovering from the effects of the foot and mouth outbreak, and the bomb attacks of 11 September.

	British Tourist Authority	£ million English Tourism Council
2001-02	14.2	3.8
2002-03	19.0	1.0

VisitBritain has, since 2003-04, been responsible for both the marketing of Britain overseas, and of England to the British (advised in the latter role by the England Marketing Advisory Board). Grant-in-aid to VisitBritain was, and is agreed, as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	47.9
2004-05	48.4
2005-06	49.05
2006-07	50.05
2007-08	50.05

Grant-in-aid to VisitBritain has been increased by £1 million for each of the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 to fund the further development and implementation of the EnglandNet e-marketing project.

Further grant-in-aid has been paid by my Department to the regional development agencies since 2003-04 in respect of their strategic regional tourism support functions, and to the Greater London Authority to develop London's gateway role to the rest of Britain, as follows:

	Regional development agencies	£ million Greater London Authority
2001-02	—	1.9
2002-03	—	1.9
2003-04	3.6	1.9
2004-05	3.6	1.9
2005-06	3.6	1.9

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Capita Group

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much business his Department has placed with *(a)* Capita Group plc and *(b)* its subsidiaries in each of the last five years; what the total value is of outstanding contracts placed with Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries by his Department; for which current tenders issued by his Department (i) Capita Group plc and (ii) its subsidiaries have been invited to bid; and whether (A) Capita Group plc and (B) its subsidiaries have seconded staff (1) temporarily and (2) on a longer-term basis to (X) his Department and (Y) any of its agencies. [61065]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Details of expenditure under contracts placed with Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries are only readily available for the period beginning 1 April 2003. These are:

	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
Capita Group plc	197,473	54,755	86,178
Capita Insurance Ser. Group Ltd.	4,637,399	78,482,087	56,460,981
Capita Insurance Services	131,234	1,220,000	33,133,557
Capita Business Services Ltd.	768,327	719,553	6,638
Capita Health Solutions	23,631	15,825	201,158
Capita Symonds	—	—	4,848
BMI Health Services	15,270	5,520	1,282

In addition UKTI has committed the following expenditure over the same period.

	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
BMI Health Services	1,260	—	—
Capita Business Services Ltd.	1,743	611	1,744
RSA	—	—	50

The vast majority of expenditure with Capita Group subsidiaries relates to contracts for handling coal health claims. The remaining value of contracts for these services is approximately £57 million.

The DTI does not disclose the identities of suppliers invited to bid for procurement exercises as this would prejudice the integrity of the bidding process.

The DTI has no current secondment arrangements with Capita or any of its subsidiaries.

Letter from Graham Horne, dated 6 June 2006:

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2005/3943) asking about our commercial involvement with Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries.

We have an arrangement for medical referrals with BMI Health Services Ltd, who we understand were acquired by Capita Group in 2005 and became part of Capita Health

Solutions Ltd. We spent £10,800 in 2003-4, £9,650 in 2004/5 and £464 in 2005/6 with BMI/Capita Health Solutions.

We have also made payments to Capita Learning and Development for training services, amounting to £2,300 in 2004/5 and £3,800 in 2005/6.

We have no current contracts for which Capita Group companies have been invited to bid, nor have we placed any seconded or contracted staff from Capita into The Insolvency Service.

Letter from Ron Marchant, dated 6 June 2006:

I am responding to this parliamentary question, tabled on 22 March 2006. The Patent Office does not have any outstanding contracts placed with Capita and not placed any business with them in the last five years.

Letter from Jeff Llewellyn, dated 6 June 2006:

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has asked me to reply on behalf of the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) to your question regarding how much business has been placed with (a) Capita Group plc and (b) its subsidiaries in each of the last five years.

In response to your question (Y), neither the Capita Group, nor any of its subsidiaries have seconded staff either temporarily or on a longer term basis to the National Weights & Measures Laboratory.

Letter from Claire Clancy, dated 6 June 2006:

I am responding to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on behalf of Companies House, which is an Executive Agency of the DTI.

Companies House have no staff seconded from Capita Group plc or any of its subsidiary companies. We do, however, use one of the subsidiary companies, Capita Health Solutions, on a regular basis for pre-employment enquiries and staff referrals on health issues.

Departmental Initiatives

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the departmental initiatives for each year since 2000 which required bids for funding from *(a)* voluntary organisations and *(b)* local authorities together with the total resource allocated to each initiative in each year; how many successful bids there were in each year; what proportion this figure represents of the total bids received; and what assessment he has made of the costs of (i) preparing bids for each initiative and (ii) assessing those bids. [66012]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not readily available and can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Disability Access

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether any building in his Department falls short of disability access regulations. [73026]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All of the Department's buildings are compliant with disability access.

Equal Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps are undertaken within his Department to ensure that women are obtaining equal pay to men doing work of equal value. [65845]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI completed an equal pay review in 2003 for staff for whom they have delegated pay responsibility and put in place an action plan to address any concerns. This was published at http://www.dti.gov.uk/about_dti._documents.html.

A key action that has been taken is the introduction in 2003-05 of a revised pay system for these staff. This provides transparent pay progression to a target rate within a set period of time subject to performance.

Cabinet Office is responsible for the pay arrangements for the senior civil service (SCS) and undertook a separate equal pay review in 2002. It has been re-examined each year since as part of the Government's evidence to the Senior Salaries Review Body.

Free Air Miles

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many free air miles have been earned by senior civil servants in his Department in each of the last three years; and how they were used. [72906]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DTI does not keep records of air miles earned by senior civil servants. To provide this information would entail disproportionate cost. All DTI staff are instructed that any air miles earned from expenditure of public money should be used for official business or forgone.

Fuel Efficiency

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps have been taken to make his Department's headquarters building in Victoria Street more fuel efficient in the last two years. [67452]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DTI are working toward achieving the energy efficiency targets expressed in the framework for sustainable development, Part E-Energy. The targets set are to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings on the estate by 15 per cent. in terms of KWH usage and that used per square metre by 2010-11.

The main strategy is to gain efficiencies as a result of the reduction of the physical size of the estate and the number of buildings. As a result the DTI London HQ estate has been reduced by approximately 30 per cent. with significant associated reductions in the Department's overall energy usage.

The Department has also implemented a number of energy efficiency initiatives since the target was published. In 1 Victoria Street this included a number of energy efficiency projects to improve lighting and environmental controls as well as occupant awareness. The Department has also undertaken a study into the use of localised micro-generation of energy on the estate. Energy efficiency is taken into account in any estate project undertaken and has included the introduction of energy minimising technology within the recent IT systems refresh.

Oxford 2 Cambridge Arc Plans

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to link the Oxford 2 Cambridge Arc plans to *(a)* the Milton Keynes South Midlands growth area and *(b)* the West Midlands regional economy. [72986]

Margaret Hodge: The Oxford 2 Cambridge Arc initiative is funded and overseen jointly by the South East England Development Agency, the East Midlands Development Agency, and the East of England Development Agency. The Arc's geography links Oxford to Cambridge to include the Milton Keynes South Midlands growth area but does not include the West Midlands. Further development of the Arc is the responsibility of the regional development agencies.

The development of the MKSM growth area has taken full account of cross-regional linkages. The West Midlands can flourish irrespective of the MKSM growth area and indeed can benefit from infrastructure improvements.

Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension. [73028]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) can pay additional contributions to top up their pension either through the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme (CSAVCS), a money purchase arrangement, or by buying added years of service in the PCSPS. As an alternative to membership of the PCSPS recruits from 1 October 2002 have been able to join a stakeholder arrangement, the partnership pension account.

The number and percentage of staff in the department who are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension as at 30 April are shown in the following table. The figures include staff in DTI Executive Agencies.

	Number	*Percentage*
CSAVCS	2,480	33.82
Added years	866	11.80
Partnership	280	3.81

Portland PR

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what meetings officials in his Department have had with representatives of the public relations company Portland PR; what contracts Portland PR has with his Department and agencies for which he has responsibility; and what the nature of the contract is in each case. [70047]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department does not maintain a central list of such meetings. Civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and business delivery. All such meetings are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code and Guidance for civil servants on contacts with lobbyists and people outside Government.

The Department has no contracts with Portland PR.

I have asked the Chief Executives of the Executive Agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member.

Letter from Dr. Jeff Llewellyn, dated 6 June 2006:

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has asked me to reply on behalf of the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) to your question regarding what meetings officials in his Department have had with representatives of the public relations company Portland PR; what contracts Portland PR has with his Department and agencies for which he has responsibility; and what the nature of the contract is in each case.

NWML has had no dealings with Portland PR to date.

Letter from Desmond Flynn, dated 6 June 2006:

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has asked me to reply to your question (2005/4520) requesting what meetings officials in his Department have had with representatives of the public relations company Portland PR; what contracts Portland PR has with his Department and agencies for which he has responsibility; and what the nature of the contract is in each case.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department of Trade and Industry does not use external PR agencies to carry out any PR activity. The Service has not had any contact and has not made any approaches to set up any contracts to work with Portland PR.

Letter from Claire Clancy, dated 6 June 2006:

I am responding to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on behalf of Companies House, which is an Executive Agency of the DTI.

Companies House has no contracts with Portland PR, and I am not aware of any meetings having taken place between Companies House staff and this company.

Private Office Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been paid in *(a)* salary, *(b)* travelling expenses, *(c)* subsistence allowance and *(d)* removal expenses to special advisers in his private office in each of the last five years. [69004]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In respect of *(a)* salary, since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each payband. For information relating to the last financial year I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 158-61WS.

Information on special advisers for this financial year is currently being collected and will be published in the normal way when it is ready.

There is no breakdown available between *(b)* travelling expenses and *(c)* subsistence allowance but the combined figures are:

	£
2001-02	4,000
2002-03	16,000
2003-04	23,000
2004-05	3,000
2005-06	24,000

Information is not available on the cost of removal expenses *(d)*.

All official travel by special advisers is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the ministerial code and the civil service management code.

Staff Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff surveys have been conducted in his Department in each of the last three years. [72904]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI has carried out four staff surveys in the past three years (2003-04—2005-06).

World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have to attend matches at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany. [73632]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Neither my right hon. Friend or other Ministers have any plans to attend matches at the FIFA World Cup in Germany.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Acts (Departmental Responsibility)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the *(a)* Acts and *(b)* parts of Acts which received Royal Assent between 1976 and 2006 and for which his Department has policy responsibility and which remain in force. [69140]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is as follows.

Acts for which DFES has sole policy responsibility:

Activity Centres (Young Persons' Safety) Act 1995 (c 15).
Adoption (Intercountry Aspects) Act 1999 (c 18).
Adoption Act 1976 (c 36).
Adoption and Children Act 2002 (c 38).
Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 (c 35).
Children Act 1989 (c 41).
Children Act 2004 (c 31).
Education (Fees and Awards) Act 1983 (c40).
Education (No 2) Act 1986 (c 61).
Education (Schools) Act 1992 (c 38).
Education (Schools) Act 1997 (c 59).
Education Act 1980 (c 20).
Education Act 1986 (c40).
Education Act 1994 (c 30).
Education Act 1996 (c 56).
Education Act 1997 (c 44).
Education Act 2002 (c 32).
Education Act 2005 (c 18).
Education Reform Act 1988 (c 40).
Further and Higher Education Act 1992 (c 13).
Further Education Act 1985 (c47).
Higher Education Act 2004 (c 8).
Industrial Training Act 1982 (c 10).
Learning and Skills Act 2000 (c 21).
Protection of Children Act 1999 (c 14).
School Inspections Act 1996 (c 57).
School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (c 31).
Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 (c 10).
Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 (c 30).
Industrial Training Act 1982 (c 10).
Learning and Skills Act 2000 (c 21).
Protection of Children Act 1999 (c 14).
School Inspections Act 1996 (c 57).
School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (c 31).
Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 (c 10).
Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 (c 30).

Acts for which DFES has partial policy responsibility:

Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (c 38)?Part 3.
Care Standards Act 2000 (c 14)?DFES has some policy responsibility in relation to children.
Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004 (c 15)?DFES has some policy responsibility in relation to children.
Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995 (c 12)?DFES has some policy responsibility in relation to children.
Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 (c 16)?DFES has some policy responsibility in relation to children.
Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (c 37)?Part 1 as far as relates to parenting orders.
Data Protection Act 1998 (c 29)?Schedule 11.
Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c 50)?Part 4.

Alcohol (Young Adults)

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to help educators encourage responsible alcohol consumption in young adults. [74118]

Beverley Hughes: Educating pupils about the effects of alcohol and how to reduce alcohol related harm is an important priority for all schools. The Department therefore expects all schools to reflect this within their drug education programmes and this is set out in 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools 2004'.

Drug education which includes alcohol and tobacco is compulsory at key stages 1 to 4 as part of the National Curriculum in Science but is most commonly delivered through Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). Through the PSHE certificate for teachers we are training teachers to deliver better PSHE including alcohol education. DfES has also issued guidance to schools on drugs which emphasizes

the importance of addressing alcohol as part of a comprehensive programme.

We also commissioned DrugScope to produce guidance for drugs and alcohol education in FE colleges, which can be found on their website.

Children's Commissioner for England

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* the start-up costs are and *(b)* first year's budget is for the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England. [75192]

Beverley Hughes: We are not able to quantify the start-up costs for the Office of the Children's Commissioner as much of the costs—such as the administrative support for the Children Act 2004, the recruitment costs for the Commissioner himself and initial support for his office—fall under the general administration of the Department for Education and Skills. The first year's (2005-06) budget for the Children's Commissioner was £3 million. The Children's Commissioner's Annual Report and accounts for 2005-06 must both be laid before Parliament, these will give more detail on the Commissioner's expenditure.

Contraceptive Pill

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance he has given to schools since 1997 regarding the potential liability of school governors in the event of *(a)* a fatality, *(b)* stroke and *(c)* other adverse reaction to a pupil aged under 16 years as a direct consequence of taking the emergency hormonal contraceptive pill (i) where the drug has been supplied on school premises with the sanction of the governors, (ii) where the drug has been supplied on school premises without the sanction of the governors and (iii) where the drug has been supplied off school premises but as a result of a referral by a school nurse on school premises without the sanction of the governors. [72133]

Beverley Hughes: No specific guidance has been issued to schools on this issue. The liability for the actions of health professionals working on school sites rests with the primary care trust (PCT), or NHS trust which employs them. School governors are responsible for ensuring that the school has consulted parents on the nature and scope of any health services available in the school; and ensuring that a protocol exists with the PCT/trust that makes clear which services will be delivered by PCT/trust staff working on the school site.

In terms of the individual scenarios described in the question:

(i) where the drug has been supplied on school premises with the sanction of the governors, the nurse will be personally accountable for their practice, but the employer (PCT/trust) may also be held vicariously responsible for the nurse's actions.

(ii) where the drug has been supplied on school premises without the sanction of the governors, the nurse will be personally accountable for their practice, but will still have vicarious liability protection with their employer (PCT/trust) if acting with their consent.

(iii) where the drug has been supplied off school premises but as a result of a referral by a school nurse on school premises, without the sanction of the governors, the nurse will be personally accountable for their practice, but will still have vicarious liability protection with their employer (PCT/trust) if acting with their consent.

Emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) is a 'prescription-only' medicine, prescribed by GPs, qualified nurse independent prescribers and nurses and pharmacists working under a patient group direction (PGD). A PGD is where a doctor has delegated authority and the supply will therefore always be under medical supervision. The safety profile of EHC for under-16s is considered to be similar to that for older women. Fatalities and strokes are not associated with use of EHC.

Correspondence

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when the Minister of State for Schools and 14 to 19 learners will reply to the letters dated 17 January 2006 and 22 March 2006 from the hon. Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (Derek Conway). [67446]

Phil Hope: The hon. Member received responses to both letters in April.

Free School Meals

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were enrolled at each maintained school in the city of Newcastle upon Tyne in January *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; and how many and what percentage of pupils in each school were (i) eligible for and (ii) receiving free school meals. [75247]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Higher Education

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the rate of participation in higher education by 18-year-olds was in each region in England in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [75291]

Bill Rammell: The current measure of higher education initial participation is the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR), which is used to measure progress against the Government's target of increasing participation towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18 to 30 by 2010. This covers English-domiciled 17 to 30-year-old first time entrants to HE courses, at UK HEIs and English FECs, who remain on their course for at least six months. The figure is expressed as a proportion of the 17 to 30-year-old population of England. The HEIPR cannot be disaggregated by smaller areas. The provisional 2004/05 figure for England is 42 per cent., and the 2005/06 figure will be available in March 2007.

The latest available figures on participation by region were published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in January in "Young Participation in England", which is available from their website at: http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_03/. HEFCE has calculated a Young Participation Rate (YPR (A)), which is the proportion of young people in a given area who go on to enter full-time higher education at age 18 or 19. This measure covers the period 1997-2000. This proportion is disaggregated by Government office region, and the figures for England are shown in the following table.

Young participation rate (YPR (A))

Percentage

	Year cohort aged 18 in:			
	1997/98	*1998/99*	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*
England	29.2	28.8	29.2	29.9
of which:				
North East	24.2	23.4	24.0	24.0
North West	27.4	27.5	27.6	28.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	25.6	24.6	25.2	25.6
East Midlands	27.7	27.2	27.5	27.9
West Midlands	27.3	27.1	27.7	28.1
East of England	29.2	28.6	28.6	30.1
London	33.1	34.2	35.0	36.4
South East	33.2	32.2	32.7	33.3
South West	30.7	29.1	29.1	30.0

Source:
HEFCE "Young Participation in Higher Education".

Independent Children's Homes

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many independent children's homes are registered. [69335]

Mr. Dhanda: I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection that as at 21 March 2006 there were 1,388 independent children's homes registered with the Commission. These include 1,257 homes run by private providers and 131 homes run by voluntary providers.

Independent Schools

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to individual schools if the draft regulations for registration and monitoring of independent schools are implemented; [75444]

(2) what discussions he has had with Ofsted on the draft regulations for registration and monitoring of independent schools; [75445]

(3) what discussions he has had with *(a)* individual independent schools, *(b)* the Headmasters Conference and *(c)* other bodies representing the independent schooling sector on the draft regulations for registration and monitoring of independent schools. [75447]

Jim Knight: Regulations relating to the registration and monitoring of independent schools were made in 2003. No new regulations have been, or are being, drafted.

Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many cases of fabricated or induced illness in children were notified to the Department in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2003 in each local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [74988]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Non-Civil Service Staff

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many non-civil servant staff are working in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies; and what the pay levels are in each case. [68630]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Overseas Students

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many overseas students there were in each higher education institution in 2005-06; and what proportion of the student body this represented in each case. [75254]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table.

Overseas students at English Higher Education Institutions 2004/05

		EU domiciles		*Of which: Overseas domiciles*		*Domiciles (EU & non-EU)*	
	Total enrolments	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
University of Buckingham	690	45	7	475	69	520	76
London Business School	1,625	265	16	775	48	1,040	64
London School of Economics and Political Science	8,815	1,495	17	3,965	45	5,455	62
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	970	125	13	440	45	565	58

Overseas students at English Higher Education Institutions 2004/05

		EU domiciles		*Of which: Overseas domiciles*		*Domiciles (EU & non-EU)*	
	Total enrolments	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
School of Oriental and African Studies	4,300	605	14	1,355	31	1,960	46
Royal College of Music	610	135	22	135	22	270	44
Royal Academy of Music	735	115	16	205	28	320	44
Institute of Cancer Research	155	30	18	30	21	60	39
Cranfield University	4,600	950	21	815	18	1,765	38
Royal College of Art	865	200	23	130	15	330	38
University of London (Institutes and activities)	445	60	14	95	22	155	35
Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine	12,185	1,410	12	2,835	23	4,250	35
Courtauld Institute of Art	400	50	13	85	22	140	34
University of the Arts, London	12,720	1,475	12	2,775	22	4,245	33
Trinity College of Music	795	165	21	90	12	260	33
University of Essex	10,830	1,025	9	2,280	21	3,305	31
University of Luton	11,815	1,135	10	2,415	20	3,550	30
University College London	19,590	1,835	9	3,805	19	5,640	29
University of Bradford	12,660	675	5	2,820	22	3,490	28
University of Surrey	15,925	1,490	9	2,900	18	4,390	28
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	7,655	690	9	1,335	17	2,025	26
University of Warwick	29,795	1,995	7	5,535	19	7,530	25
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	1,005	160	16	90	9	250	25
Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies	3,530	170	5	700	20	870	25
Queen Mary and Westfield College	11,005	575	5	2,130	19	2,705	25
Royal Northern College of Music	555	45	8	90	16	135	24
London Metropolitan University	29,400	2,030	7	5,055	17	7,085	24
Middlesex University	24,885	1,205	5	4,790	19	6,000	24
University of Oxford	22,640	1,630	7	3,775	17	5,405	24
City University	23,925	1,805	8	3,635	15	5,440	23
University of Cambridge	25,595	1,735	7	3,955	15	5,690	22
Kent Institute of Art and Design	2,225	220	10	265	12	490	22
Aston University	8,475	400	5	1,440	17	1,840	22
University of Bath	14,565	965	7	2,170	15	3,130	22
University of Westminster	26,775	1,865	7	3,790	14	5,650	21
Brunel University	15,450	1,175	8	1,995	13	3,170	21
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	18,510	880	5	2,750	15	3,630	20
Loughborough University	16,270	565	3	2,585	16	3,145	19
University of East London	16,360	950	6	2,185	13	3,140	19
University of Greenwich	22,275	970	4	3,175	14	4,140	19
University of Leicester	16,180	645	4	2,355	15	3,000	19
University of York	12,625	695	6	1,635	13	2,330	18
King's College London	21,965	1,565	7	2,485	11	4,050	18
University of Birmingham	30,520	1,220	4	4,330	14	5,550	18
University of Portsmouth	20,810	1,320	6	2,450	12	3,770	18
University of Nottingham	32,620	1,025	3	4,860	15	5,885	18
Goldsmiths College	7,270	560	8	750	10	1,310	18
University of Kent	17,060	1,190	7	1,870	11	3,060	18
School of Pharmacy	1,400	60	4	190	14	250	18
University of Sunderland	18,635	740	4	2,570	14	3,310	18
Oxford Brookes University	18,570	945	5	2,340	13	3,280	18
University of Manchester	39,985	1,650	4	5,400	14	7,055	18
University of Sheffield	26,055	865	3	3,600	14	4,465	17
University of Sussex	12,205	950	8	1,110	9	2,055	17

Overseas students at English Higher Education Institutions 2004/05

		EU domiciles		Of which: Overseas domiciles		Domiciles (EU & non-EU)	
	Total enrolments	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
University of Hertfordshire	23,030	540	2	3,335	14	3,875	17
Royal Veterinary College	1,440	85	6	155	11	240	17
Institute of Education	6,770	345	5	795	12	1,140	17
University of Bristol	23,360	1,070	5	2,740	12	3,810	16
University of Durham	16,980	625	4	2,045	12	2,670	16
University of Southampton	23,500	1,075	5	2,610	11	3,685	16
London South Bank University	21,155	980	5	2,320	11	3,305	16
University of Reading	14,355	720	5	1,510	11	2,230	16
University of Leeds	36,205	1,130	3	4,400	12	5,530	15
Coventry University	19,455	1,060	5	1,900	10	2,960	15
University of Hull	21,765	740	3	2,560	12	3,300	15
University of Exeter	14,570	645	4	1,540	11	2,185	15
Wimbledon School of Art	655	45	7	50	7	95	15
University of Lancaster	17,340	815	5	1,695	10	2,510	14
Central School of Speech and Drama	970	65	7	75	8	140	14
Royal Agricultural College	805	20	3	95	12	115	14
University of Wolverhampton	23,560	845	4	2,425	10	3,275	14
Staffordshire University	14,995	825	6	1,255	8	2,080	14
Rose Bruford College	865	55	6	65	8	120	14
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	25,535	730	3	2,790	11	3,520	14
Kingston University	20,525	1,125	5	1,680	8	2,805	14
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	1,105	55	5	95	8	150	14
University of Brighton	20,015	1,405	7	1,255	6	2,660	13
Thames Valley University	20,015	1,000	5	1,625	8	2,625	13
Liverpool Hope University	7,670	285	4	720	9	1,000	13
University of East Anglia	14,325	550	4	1,315	9	1,865	13
University of Liverpool	21,210	670	3	2,075	10	2,750	13
University of Salford	20,100	690	3	1,910	10	2,605	13
Writtle College	1,170	50	4	95	8	145	12
Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College	9,305	255	3	900	10	1,155	12
Leeds Metropolitan University	28,035	730	3	2,630	9	3,360	12
Liverpool John Moores University	22,955	875	4	1,800	8	2,670	12
Cumbria Institute of the Arts	1,045	105	10	15	1	120	11
Darlington College of Arts	595	45	7	25	4	70	11
Surrey Institute of Art and Design, University College	2,755	135	5	175	6	310	11
University of Keele	11,840	300	3	1,000	8	1,300	11
Bournemouth University	15,300	475	3	1,175	8	1,650	11
Southampton Solent University	11,250	390	3	790	7	1,180	10
Arts Institute at Bournemouth	1,490	65	4	90	6	150	10
University of Bolton	7,475	150	2	605	8	755	10
Roehampton University	7,955	325	4	445	6	770	10
Sheffield Hallam University	28,085	505	2	2,140	8	2,650	9
Anglia Polytechnic University	26,850	1,235	5	1,235	5	2,475	9
St. Mary's College	3,500	290	8	10	0	300	9
University of Central Lancashire	26,725	605	2	1,675	6	2,285	9
University College Falmouth	1,960	55	3	100	5	155	8
University of Lincoln	13,045	585	4	445	3	1,030	8
University of Central England in Birmingham	23,070	450	2	1,260	5	1,710	7
University of the West of England, Bristol	27,225	800	3	1,215	4	2,020	7
University of Derby	13,975	515	4	510	4	1,025	7
University College Northampton	10,445	150	1	595	6	745	7

Overseas students at English Higher Education Institutions 2004/05

				Of which:			
		EU domiciles		Overseas domiciles		Domiciles (EU & non-EU)	
	Total enrolments	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Manchester Metropolitan University	32,215	825	3	1,470	5	2,290	7
University of Huddersfield	17,935	450	2	810	5	1,260	7
De Montfort University	22,785	415	2	1,090	5	1,500	7
Norwich School of Art and Design	820	25	3	30	3	55	7
St. George's Hospital Medical School	3,510	85	2	145	4	230	7
University of Plymouth	28,980	705	2	1,145	4	1,850	6
Nottingham Trent University	26,540	555	2	1,080	4	1,635	6
University of Teesside	20,430	590	3	615	3	1,210	6
University of Gloucestershire	8,620	125	1	360	4	485	6
Birkbeck College	14,905	300	2	500	3	800	5
Harper Adams University College	1,745	60	3	35	2	95	5
University College Chichester	5,160	145	3	125	2	265	5
College of St. Mark and St. John	4,630	45	1	185	4	230	5
Bath Spa University	6,275	100	2	160	3	260	4
Canterbury Christ Church University	14,630	250	2	355	2	605	4
University of Chester	12,510	210	2	250	2	460	4
York St. John College	5,720	25	0	180	3	205	4
Royal College of Nursing	880	5	1	25	3	30	4
Newman College of Higher Education	2,385	75	3	10	0	85	3
University College Worcester	7,595	130	2	125	2	255	3
University of Winchester	4,940	35	1	95	2	135	3
Trinity and All Saints College	2,500	30	1	35	1	65	3
St. Martin's College	12,355	205	2	90	1	295	2
Edge Hill College of HE	14,620	90	1	50	0	140	1
Homerton College	2,765	5	0	20	1	25	1
Bishop Grosseteste College	1,500	0	0	0	0	5	0
Open University	173,015	5	0	5	0	5	0
Total English HE institutions	1,895,825	79,525	4	188,770	10	268,300	14

Notes:
1. Figures are on a HESA standard registration population basis and are rounded to the nearest 5, <3 denoted 0.
2. Figures do not include incoming and visiting exchange students. In 2004/05 there were 19,925 non-UK domiciled incoming and visiting exchange students at English HE institutions.

Performance Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many staff in her Department are paid on a performance-related basis. [50516]

Mr. Dhanda: All staff in my Department are paid on a performance-related basis.

School Closures

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what criteria are used to determine primary school closures. [74698]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 5 June 2006]*: Changes to local school organisation, including school closures, are decided under local decision making arrangements. Individual proposals are determined by the local authority if they published the proposals and there are no objections. In all other cases the proposals are decided by the local School Organisation Committee (SOC) or the Schools Adjudicator, if the SOC cannot reach a unanimous decision.

SOCs and schools adjudicators must have regard to 'Decision Makers' Guidance' issued by the Secretary of State when deciding proposals. The guidance sets out a range of factors that must be considered for the different types of proposals but also stresses that all cases must be considered on their individual merits. For school closures the factors include: the impact on standards and diversity, the impact on the supply of school places, the cost effectiveness of the proposals, the impact on the community, the views of interested parties and the nature of the journey to any alternative provision.

The guidance also sets out a presumption against the closure of rural schools. The 'Decision Makers' Guidance' is available on the Department's School Organisation website at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/school.org

Social Exclusion (Schools)

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what in-service training is provided for teachers to help them tackle social exclusion within schools; and if she will make a statement. [65936]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 27 April 2006]:* In order to achieve Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) trainee teachers need to demonstrate they have met the standards for QTS. These standards ensure that all new teachers have the subject knowledge, the teaching and learning expertise they need and are well prepared for the wider professional demands of being a teacher.

Further to this, it is for schools to the set their own improvement priorities, which may include social exclusion and inclusive teaching. They also decide what professional development is required in order to achieve their priorities, taking into account local circumstances and the needs of their teachers.

Support is available to schools through a variety of programmes. In particular the National Strategies' consultants focus on helping schools facing the greatest challenges. This year the National Strategies will be providing training for teachers in the use of catch-up lessons for pupils who have fallen behind, which will help to tackle the problem of children from disadvantaged backgrounds under-achieving. Excellence in Cities is a programme targeted in areas of highest deprivation giving schools access to additional resources through programmes such as Learning Mentors, Learning Support Units and expertise for CPD to meet the teaching and learning needs of teachers in dealing with the barriers faced by disadvantaged young people.

Subject Skills Shortages

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills further to his oral answer on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1613-5, on subject skills shortages, what the teacher specialisms are; and if he will make a statement. [74990]

Jim Knight: A teacher's specialisms are subjects which they are equipped to teach, which may reflect their degree, the subjects taken at Initial Teacher Training, and subsequent re-training.

Sure Start Unit

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what reason his Department has not released the delivery unit report on the sure start unit completed in November 2005. [73465]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 6 June 2006]:* The report of the Prime Minister's delivery unit's (PMDU) review of the Government's 10 Year Childcare Strategy, was, like all PMDU reports, an internal report made to Ministers and not intended for wider publication. Following a request to see the report under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Department declined to release the document, in line with section 35 of that Act which provides that:

"information is exempt if it relates to the formulation of Government policy".

However, the PMDU review was used to inform our preparation of "choice for parents, the best start for children: making it happen, an action plan for the ten year strategy: sure start children's centres, extended schools and childcare", published on 4 April 2006 and available at:

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk.

Young Mothers

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of girls who gave birth under the age of 16 years in each year since 1990 went on to obtain educational qualifications. [75015]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not routinely collected. However, that engagement in education and training is a protective factor against poor outcomes for teenage mothers and their children. That is why increasing the proportion of teenage mothers in education, employment or training (EET) is one of the key aims of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. Evidence shows that there were higher rates of participation in EET among under-16s in the Sure Start Plus pilot areas, where young parents were provided with a holistic package of support from a dedicated Personal Adviser. Lessons from the Sure Start Pilots were included in the Children's Centre practice guidance issued in 2005.

CABINET OFFICE

Bonuses

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of her staff in each of the last three years; and at what total cost. [73048]

Mr. McFadden: The table shows non-pensionable bonuses awarded to members of staff in Cabinet Office in each of the last three years. The table includes the number of bonuses issued and the total costs per year.

	Total number of bonuses	*Total cost of bonuses (£)*	*Bonuses as percentage of annual pay bill*
2003-04	1969	1,876,000	2.5
2004-05	1390	1,719,000	2.3
2005-06	1526	2,011,000	2.6

Debt Collectors

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Duchy uses the services of private debt collectors. [71060]

Hilary Armstrong: The Duchy of Lancaster very rarely uses the services of private debt collectors, the last occasion being in 2004.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff in her Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75111]

Mr. McFadden: Under the Department's performance management procedures, unacceptable performance may be addressed at any time of the year. Central records on the number of staff whose performance has been assessed as unsatisfactory are not available for periods before 1 June 2005. Since that date, fourteen staff have been handled under the Department's formal disciplinary procedures for poor performance. This represents less than 1 per cent. of the total number of staff.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* pay grades and *(b)* pay bargaining units there are in the civil service; and how many grades and bargaining units there were in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2001. [75230]

Mr. McFadden: Departments have delegated authority to determine their own pay and grading arrangements below the senior civil service that are tailored to meet their business needs. Under the delegated arrangements, comprehensive information on grading structures in individual departments is not collected centrally. Similarly, it is for each department to determine what bargaining arrangements are appropriate for their own organisation and in their executive agencies. Nevertheless, Cabinet Office records indicate that there are about 80 bargaining units currently operating across the civil service and there were about 100 in 2002. Cabinet Office has no records for 1997 and 2001.

Pay for senior civil servants is not delegated to departments and is not subject to collective bargaining. There were nine SCS pay bands in 1997 and four in 2001; this remains the current position.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was in each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by the Cabinet Office with outside suppliers over the last five years. [71784]

Mr. McFadden: Financial information on the five largest information technology (IT) contracts agreed by the department with outside suppliers over the last five years cannot be made available in the form requested without incurring disproportionate cost.

However the Department's largest five IT contractors by expenditure, and the total expenditure recorded against each of them over the past five financial years, are shown in the table.

Contractor name	*Total recorded expenditure 's (£)*
Computacenter	83,969,515
Hewlett-Packard	55,535,729
Atos	40,701,106
Cable and Wireless	26,554,274
Electronic Data Systems	23,952,188

It should be noted that the above figures contain some data from the 2005-06 financial year which is currently subject to audit. Audited figures will not be available until the resource accounts are published prior to summer recess.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Chevening

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions hospitality has been offered at Chevening to members of *(a)* foreign and *(b)* Commonwealth governments in each year since 2000. [74411]

Margaret Beckett: Official hospitality has been provided to members of foreign governments on the following occasions since 2000:

	Hospitality
30 November 2000	Dinner in honour of President Chirac
17/18 December 2001	Lunch and dinner for UK/Ukraine Conference
22/23 May 2002	Lunch and dinner for UK/Germany Economic Talks
1 February 2003	Dinner for French Foreign Minister
19 January 2004	Dinner for French and German Foreign Ministers

No official hospitality has been offered to members of Commonwealth governments.

In addition Chevening was used to host a number of meetings of senior officials as part of the G8 process in 2005.

EU Defence Policy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of staff in EU institutions and agencies are working on EU defence policy; and at what cost in the most recent year for which figures are available. [73847]

Mr. Hoon: There are four EU institutions and agencies responsible for European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP):

The Directorate General External (DGE) VIII of the Council Secretariat. This is responsible for the defence aspects of external relations and has 19 staff, excluding secretarial/support staff;

DGE IX of the Council Secretariat. This covers civilian crisis management and co-ordination and has 32 staff, excluding secretarial/support staff;

The EU Military Staff. This is the source of military expertise and provides early warning, situation assessment and strategic planning for crisis management outside the EU. This has approximately 185 staff, but this should rise to 197 once all vacancies have been filled; and

The European Defence Agency: responsible for co-ordinating EU military capability development and defence research and technology. This has approximately 85-90 staff.

Figures for costs of these staff would be very difficult to determine, as some of the staff are seconded by member states, which pay for them. In general terms, however, the overall total budget for 2006 of the EU Council is €527,344,953 of which the costs of these staff represent a small proportion. Further details on the European Council budgets from 2003 can be found on the following website: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/www/index-en.htm.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total budget was for EU defence policy in each of the last 10 years; and how much is budgeted for each of the next seven years. [73930]

Mr. Hoon: The budget for EU defence policy, also known as European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), covers civilian activities and is drawn from the Common Foreign Security Policy (CFSP) budget. Military ESDP operations are not funded from this budget, but are instead paid for on an ad-hoc basis by contributions directly from EU member states. Budgeting for civilian ESDP missions began in 2002 with the EU follow-on mission (EUPM) to the United Nations International Police Task Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Budget allocations for this and subsequent missions were decided as follows:

	€ million
2002	
Police Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina (EUPM)	34
2003	
EUPM	[1]9.2
Police Mission in Macedonia (EUPOL Proxima—later EUPAT)	15.006
2004	
EUPOL Proxima (later EUPAT)	22.505
Rule of Law Mission in Georgia (EUJUST THEMIS)	2.05
2005	
EUPM	17.41
EUPAT	1.5
Police Mission in Kinshasa, DRC (EUPOL Kinshasa)	4.5
Rule of Law Mission in Iraq (EUJUST LEX)	10
Security Sector Reform Mission in DRC (EUSEC RD Congo)	1.6
Aceh Monitoring Mission	9
Police Mission in Palestine (EUPOL COPPS)	6.1
Border Assistance Mission in Rafah (EUBAM Rafah)	7.6
2006 (allocated to date)	
EUPM	12
EUPOL Kinshasa	3.5
Planning team for a mission in Kosovo	3.005
EUSEC RD Congo	4.75
Aceh Monitoring Mission	1.133

[1] For 2004

During recent negotiations on the Inter-Institutional Agreement, the overall CFSP budget for the period 2007-13 was agreed at €1,980 million, although it has not yet been decided how this figure will be divided up each year. There is no set figure for an ESDP budget within this, because funding is allocated at short notice in response to crises.

Further details on CFSP and ESDP spending can be found on the Council of the EU's website at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list those Private Members' Bills in respect of which her Department adopted a policy of neutrality in each Session since 2001-02; and if she will make a statement. [72115]

Margaret Beckett: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not adopted a policy of neutrality on any Private Members' Bills on which it has led since the 2001-02 Session.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 6 June 2006

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what account he took of the increase of opium production in 2004-05 in his assessment of the likely success of the alternative livelihoods programmes in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. [74142]

Hilary Benn: During my visit to Helmand on 5 June 2006, I announced a new Helmand Agricultural and Rural Development Programme (HARDP), which will run from 2006 to 2009 with a budget of £30 million. The purpose of HARDP is to increase the economic opportunities of the rural poor in Helmand, including those that make a living from growing and harvesting poppy, through integrated support to improve their livelihood options.

In designing this programme, DFID used extensive UK-funded field studies on the effect of poppy production on households in Helmand. The evidence shows that a variety of forces drive poppy farmers' decisions, including both poverty and the lack of risk of law enforcement. Providing alternative livelihoods opportunities in itself will not reduce poppy cultivation in Helmand. This requires an integrated approach including assistance, law enforcement, better governance and better security. The UK is helping the Government of Afghanistan to deliver such an approach in Helmand. It will take several years to reduce cultivation substantially.

Arms Trade Treaty

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to increase his Department's efforts, resources and capacity to deliver an Arms Trade Treaty. [74442]

Mr. Thomas: Ensuring better regulation of the arms trade is essential for conflict prevention and development. As a result, DFID has worked very closely with the FCO and MOD to promote our commitment to an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). When the first committee of the UN General Assembly meets this year, the UK will aim to secure a UN resolution which will establish a formal UN-based ATT process. Significant progress has already been made, notably the endorsement of an ATT by the EU Council and Commonwealth Heads of Government and other influential countries such as Brazil.

DFID has contributed to a range of FCO-led initiatives, including the May 2005 meeting of experts at Lancaster House in London and a Geneva meeting of representatives to the Conference on Disarmament in March 2006. DFID and Whitehall partners have also developed a joint strategy to encourage other countries and regional bodies to actively promote the ATT. This focuses on building wider support for a first committee resolution, and includes awareness raising events. DFID will use ministerial visits and dialogue with partner countries, regional and international organisations to generate support for a resolution.

In parallel DFID is working closely with the FCO and MOD to strengthen controls over the transfer of small arms and light weapons within the existing UN Programme of Action (UN PoA). Small arms and light weapons (SALW) pose a particular challenge for development because they are widely available in developing countries and are the weapon of choice in the majority of conflicts worldwide. We are working internationally with a wide range of partners in advance of the UN PoA Review Conference in June to build support for global guidelines for national controls governing transfers of SALW.

Child Labour

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to support further the International Labour Organisation declaration to end child labour; and if he will prepare a specific millennium development goal to achieve this objective. [73783]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is a leading supporter of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. We have ratified all eight core conventions which it incorporates, included those on the elimination of child labour. DFID is a major funder of ILO's technical cooperation programmes including the 'International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour'. We welcome the encouraging evidence in the ILO's latest global report which indicates a significant fall in the number of child labourers worldwide, particularly those in the worst forms of child labour.

We remain committed to the outcome statement of the United Nations World summit review of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). It acknowledged the importance of decent work and particularly the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in achieving the MDGs. We do not believe this requires the creation of a new MDG.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the TUC on ways to help eradicate child labour. [73784]

Mr. Thomas: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for International Development meets regularly with the Trade Union Congress (TUC) and representatives of trade unions. However they have not recently discussed the eradication of child labour.

DFID is a strong supporter of the elimination of child labour. Trade unions are important partners in this work. They are, for example, actively involved in the International Labour Organisation's programme for the elimination of child labour in Andhra Pradesh, India, which is funded by DFID. They are also active members of the DFID funded Ethical Trading

Initiative. This is an organisation in which trade unions work with business and NGOs to ensure the working conditions in companies supplying the UK meet or exceed international labour standards, including eliminating child labour from the work force.

Cuban Medical Delegation

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment the Department's officials in Pakistan made of the contribution of the Cuban medical delegation after the October 2005 earthquake in deciding on the UK's contribution; and if he will make a statement. [73516]

Mr. Thomas: The Cuban Field hospital and medical staff filled a critical gap and was highly appreciated. DFID did not conduct a specific assessment of this contribution, but took it and contributions from all other donors into account when deciding on DFID's own contribution. In total, DFID committed more than £54 million to the relief effort, and has pledged a further £70 million to longer term reconstruction.

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Cuban Government on sharing information drawn from the experience of the Cuban medical delegation in disaster relief. [73517]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development has had no discussions with the Cuban Government on the experience of the Cuban medical delegation in disaster relief.

Cuban/Venezuelan Eyesight Care Programme

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the extension to Africa and the poorest people of North America of the Cuban/Venezuelan 'Operation Miracle' eyesight care programme. [73518]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not been involved with the 'Operation Miracle' Eyesight care programme in Latin America and the Caribbean, and has therefore not assessed its extension to Africa. We do not have any programmes in North America and have therefore made no assessment of its extension to the poorest people of North America.

However, DFID supports a number of programmes which address preventable causes of serious eye disease and blindness. For example, DFID provided £5.6 million through the World Bank for the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC) between 2001-02 and 2006-07. DFID also contributed £12.5 million to the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2005 towards its Global Elimination of Blinding Trachoma Programme. We also support civil society organisations such as Vision 2020 through our contribution to the WHO, and acknowledge the role of NGOs in the provision of preventive, treatment and support services for people with visual impairment.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is giving to non-governmental organisations abroad who work to prevent and support victims of human trafficking. [74996]

Mr. Thomas: The main channel for DFID funding for the prevention and support of victims of human trafficking is the International Labour Organisation (ILO). DFID support includes a commitment of over £8 million to the ILO's programme in the Greater Mekong Region, covering Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and China. The programme supports NGOs and other civil society groups to inform and educate communities about trafficking and to stimulate additional livelihood opportunities. DFID has also provided £1.6 million to a linked project managed by Save the Children. In Burma, DFID has provided £235,000 to support the work of World Vision to raise awareness among community members and community organisations about the risks of trafficking. In Nepal, DFID is providing £258,000 to a Just World Partners' programme to prevent trafficking of young people for prostitution.

Kenya

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the situation in Kenya in relation to international aid and continuing allegations of corruption. [66956]

Hilary Benn: DFID has made a thorough assessment of corruption in Kenya and its implications for our assistance. I had frank and direct discussion with President Kibaki about this when I visited Kenya in January. Since then, considerable action, including the removal of three senior Ministers, has taken place in response to public pressure following the release of the Githongo dossier and the release of the Goldenberg Report. This is an encouraging start but Kenyans are calling for more to demonstrate full political accountability. When I met President Kibaki again recently, I stressed the importance of continued progress in the investigations.

The UK does not provide direct budget support to Kenya precisely because of our concerns about corruption, and all DFID's projects have rigorous safeguards to ensure that our assistance is not being misdirected.

For example, all our projects work through special, earmarked and fully audited accounts, independent financial management agents or are provided directly to non-government organisations or other direct service delivery. All projects over £1 million are subject to annual reviews and audits, and expenditure is closely tracked. Accountable grants to non-governmental organisations are paid retrospectively only once invoices have been checked and the spending is accounted for. Occasional cases of fraud do still occur, but are investigated immediately and swift and decisive action taken.

Despite recent announcements that the Dutch Government has frozen any new commitments to Kenya, I do not foresee the corruption allegations making a significant impact on international assistance in the short term. Most of the development agencies,

including DFID, believe that just because poor people live in a country where corruption is a major problem, it does not mean that they do not deserve our assistance. In Kenya our assistance is improving many lives. Our support will mean textbooks for each of the 18,500 primary schools in Kenya and 12,000 new classrooms. It will also deliver 11 million insecticide treated bednets, saving 167,000 children's lives. We have provided £23.7 million to drought affected regions of Kenya since December 2005.

Maldives

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1927W to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell), on aid expenditure, for what reasons the amounts of aid paid to the Maldives vary from 2000-01 to 2004-05. [74555]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has no regular bilateral assistance programme to the Maldives because it is relatively wealthy and our limited finances are better used in poorer countries where needs are greater. However since 2001 support for small developmental programmes has been provided through the Small Grants Scheme (SGS) which, though financed by DFID until 2005, is managed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The SGS has focused almost exclusively on training awards. These targeted public officials in the health and education sectors and on governance, with a focus on:

- Improving quality of basic education
- Supporting child protection initiatives
- Gender sensitisation issues
- HIV/AIDS awareness
- Targeted assistance to initiatives supporting reform, good governance and democratisation

The allocation to Maldives has been some £200,000 per year. Disbursements however vary according to the pace of programme implementation, the duration of the contracts, and the type of training or study financed.

In 2005, following the Asian tsunami, DFID provided £1.7 million to the Maldives for emergency humanitarian assistance. These funds were channelled through the United Nations and the Red Cross.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what conditionality is applied to his Department's aid to the Maldives in respect of human rights. [74437]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not provide regular bilateral assistance to the Maldives because of their relative wealth. Our limited resources are better used in poorer countries where needs are greater.

Immediately following the Asian tsunami in 2004 DFID provided some £1.7 million in emergency assistance, channelled largely through the United Nation Development Programme, the United Nations Environmental Programme, the World Health Organisation and the Red Cross. Given the urgent humanitarian nature of this support no conditions were imposed.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the EU donation to the Maldives for financing projects for *(a)* the reconstruction and development of the tourist industry and *(b)* environmental protection and disaster prevention in areas affected by the tsunami. [74844]

Mr. Thomas: DFID provided £1.7 million in emergency assistance to the Maldives immediately after the tsunami. Our support was channelled largely through the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environmental Programme and the World Health Organisation and the Red Cross. However we do not maintain a regular programme to the islands and have not provided any subsequent assistance. The Maldives are relatively wealthy and our limited resources are better used in poorer countries where needs are greater. DFID has not therefore undertaken an assessment of the effectiveness and impact of individual European Commission programmes.

However, DFID does monitor overall recovery in the Maldives, drawing on reports produced by the International Monetary Fund and other development agencies. It is encouraging to note that the fishing and tourist industries, the mainstay of the country's economy, have recovered very strongly following the tsunami. Economic growth is expected to be between 12 per cent. and 13 per cent. in 2006, restoring the pre-tsunami growth trend.

Government and donors are well aware of the difficult environmental challenges facing the Maldives, including the problem of differential settlement of the substructure of the islands following the tsunami. This issue adds to the complexity and expense of the reconstruction task, but is being taken into account when designing recovery programmes.

UN Peacebuilding Commission

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the UN Peacebuilding Commission. [74832]

Mr. Thomas: As the UN Peacebuilding Commission is due to have its first meeting at the end of June, we have not yet been able to assess its effectiveness. However, as a member of the Organisational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, the UK will be monitoring its effectiveness closely.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Attacks on NHS Premises/Staff

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many attacks on *(a)* NHS staff, *(b)* patients and *(c)* visitors have occurred (i) at GP practices and (ii) in the Province in each of the last five years. [74579]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the requested format from GP practices, who are independent contractors to the health and personal social services and are not required to provide this information to Health and Social Services Boards. To provide the

information from GP practices would require a survey of all GP practices in Northern Ireland and would be at a disproportionate cost.

The information in respect of NHS staff, patients and visitors in the Province is not held centrally by the Department before 2004 and will take some time to collate from the health and personal social services. I will write to the hon. Member with the information as soon as it is available and place a copy in the Library.

Boundary Commission

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) when the revised recommendations of the Northern Ireland Boundary Commission will be published; [74347]

(2) when a final decision will be taken on the new boundaries for Northern Ireland Westminster parliamentary constituencies. [74346]

Mr. Hanson: The Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland announced their revised recommendations on 18 May 2006.

They must consider all representations on the revised recommendations received within one month of their publication. Further to this, they will submit their final recommendations to the Secretary of State who must then lay these (with or without modifications) before Parliament for approval.

The Commission must submit their final report to the Secretary of State by June 2007.

Firearms

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many licensed firearms there were in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 1995 and *(b)* 2005. [74211]

Paul Goggins: It has not been possible to provide information for the same date in each of the two years specified in the question but the Chief Constable informs me that there were 134,027 firearms held on certificate at 31 December 1995 and 144,554 firearms held on certificate at 12 May 2005. The 12 May figure represents a reduction of 6,934 since the Firearms (NI) Order came into force in January 2005.

Foreign Prisoners

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will break down the number of foreign national prisoners detained in Northern Ireland by country of origin. [75221]

Paul Goggins: The number of prisoners detained in Northern Ireland Prison Service custody on 1 June who had declared themselves to be foreign nationals (excluding Irish citizens), was 28, with the following breakdown:

	Number
Lithuania	5
China	4
Poland	4
Nigeria	2
Portugal	2
South Africa	2
Italy	2
Canada	1
France	1
Belgium	1
Algeria	1
Latvia	1
Egypt	1
East Timor	1

Former Prisons

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has for the former site of *(a)* HMP Maze and *(b)* HMP Crumlin Road, Belfast; and what planning permissions have been sought. [74718]

Mr. Hanson: The Masterplan for the Maze/Long Kesh site was published on 30 May 2006. This shows the vision for development on the site. No planning permissions have as yet been sought. A copy of the Masterplan has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The development of the Crumlin Road Gaol and Girdwood sites will be taken forward on an integrated basis through a master planning approach. This will be subject to full public consultation. Listed building consent and planning approval was granted in March 2004 for the demolition of non-listed buildings and other works at the Gaol. Planning permission for the installation of CCTV cameras at Girdwood was granted in February 2006. Planning applications were submitted in March 2006 for repair and restoration works to the Gaol.

Incorrect Criminal Records

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many residents of Northern Ireland are known to have been incorrectly attributed with criminal records. [74344]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to provide the information requested as this information is not collected.

Joyriding

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many convictions for joyriding there have been in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; how many of these convictions were of repeat offenders; and how many resulted in custodial sentences in each case [74980]

(2) what average length of prison sentences was given to those convicted of joyriding in Northern Ireland in the last period for which figures are available. [74981]

Mr. Hanson: The Criminal Justice (No. 2)(Northern Ireland) Order 2004 provided for the creation of two new offences within section 172 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, to tackle 'joyriding'. These offences are aggravated vehicle-taking (section 172A) and aggravated vehicle-taking causing death or grievous bodily injury (section 172B). Aggravated vehicle-taking is defined as 'a vehicle being taken without consent, which is then driven dangerously or causes an accident which results in injury, damage to property or damage to the vehicle'.

Statistics relating to these new offences are not yet available; however, the number of convictions for 'taking a motor vehicle without owner consent' (section 172 of Road Traffic (NI) Order 1981) and the number subsequently sentenced to immediate custody are provided below. Due to limitations within current data systems it is not possible to readily determine the number who are repeat offenders.

Data are collated on a principal offence rule, thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: Number of convictions for 'taking a motor vehicle without owner's consent' and the number sentenced to immediate custody 1999-2003

	Number of convictions	*Number sentenced to immediate custody*
1999	294	94
2000	328	58
2001	348	50
2002	300	43
2003	351	64

The average length of prison sentence in 2003 for 'taking a motor vehicle without owner consent' (section 172 of Road Traffic (NI) Order 1981) was three and a half months.

Learning Disabilities

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to improve services for those with a learning disability in the 19 plus age range. [74655]

Paul Goggins: The inter-departmental 'Transitions Report', was produced by the Department of Education, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Department of Employment and Learning in March 2006, setting out over 20 actions and targets to improve the transition process. Key actions include proposals to provide appropriate age-related placements in adult day care centres and the enhancement of further education and training provision.

Ministerial Travel

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was of departmental Ministers' travel to and from Northern Ireland on official business in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [74689]

Mr. Hain: All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the 'Ministerial Code' and 'Travel by Ministers', copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

The following table provides the total Ministers and Secretary of State air fare expenditure for the financial years 2003-04 to 2005-06.

	Airfares (£)
2003-04	623,770
2004-05	574,172
2005-06	562,401

Moy Park Group

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support has been provided to the Moy Park Group for each of its Northern Ireland plants by (i) the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, (ii) the Department for Employment and Learning and (iii) Invest Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [73511]

Maria Eagle: Over the past five years financial support of £10,973,752 has been given to Moy Park Group through Invest NL. The plants benefiting from the assistance are located in Craigavon, Dungannon, Moira and Lisnaskea. Within the timescale for the response a separate analysis of grant that each plant has drawn down is not possible. Support has been offered through a variety of direct grant programmes: selective financial assistance, Compete research and development, networking, business improvement in addition to marketing assistance.

The Department for Employment and Learning supports employers who are expanding their workforce or creating new jobs by providing job brokering services and suitable training programmes where appropriate. The Department has a very close working relationship with the Moy Park Group, which has a high turnover of staff, and services the majority of its vacancies. One company within the Moy Park Group, Feme Foods, employed one employee under the new deal employment options for which the company received a total of £1,950.

National Stadium

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimated cost is of the new road layout for a national stadium site at the former HMP Maze site in Lisburn. [74719]

Mr. Hanson: The Masterplan published on 30 May recommends that if development goes ahead at the Maze/LongKesh site surrounding infrastructure should be upgraded. A detailed assessment of transport requirements including road infrastructure will be commissioned shortly. This work will show the cost of any improved road networks

Paediatric Cardiology

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children are awaiting an initial paediatric cardiology assessment in the Province. [74628]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not held centrally and will take some time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member with the relevant information as soon as it becomes available and place a copy in the Library.

Planning Appeals

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications from each district council in the Province submitted to the Planning Appeals Commission have been *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful in each of the last three years. [74324]

Mr. Hanson: The Planning Appeals Commission is a tribunal non-departmental public body, and I understand that the chief commissioner has written to the hon. Member in the following terms:

"I have been asked to provide you with information requested in the above Parliamentary Question and I have attached a table showing the number of planning appeals allowed or dismissed, by district council, during the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2006.

I would be happy to provide any further information you require arising out of this response or to meet with you to discuss the matter if that would be more suitable".

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
District council	*Allowed*	*Dismissed*	*Allowed*	*Dismissed*	*Allowed*	*Dismissed*
Antrim	7	18	15	23	27	36
Ards	17	12	22	19	19	13
Armagh	1	0	1	6	8	6
Ballymena	2	8	10	15	17	28
Ballymoney	4	1	8	2	5	11
Banbridge	2	4	10	13	7	9
Belfast	19	8	20	19	32	27
Carrickfergus	1	1	3	6	5	2
Castlereagh	5	12	6	9	4	3
Coleraine	16	13	27	12	24	28
Cookstown	3	2	1	1	—	3
Craigavon	4	1	3	10	8	9
Derry	12	5	13	15	17	16
Down	39	12	22	14	6	15
Dungannon	1	5	3	3	0	12
Fermanagh	11	16	6	7	12	15
Larne	3	8	—	8	1	2
Limavady	3	4	5	3	7	12
Lisburn	16	19	19	24	12	15
Magherafelt	15	18	7	20	1	12
Moyle	—	2	5	3	6	3
Newry and Mourne	6	11	10	14	14	20
Newtownabbey	1	3	5	7	4	3
North Down	11	4	10	11	14	5
Omagh	1	4	1	8	5	2
Strabane	2	7	4	3	4	12

Plastic Bullets (Alternatives)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost has been of *(a)* testing, *(b)* acquiring and *(c)* training police personnel in Northern Ireland in the use of alternatives to plastic bullets in each of the last three years. [74421]

Paul Goggins: In response to Patten Recommendations 69 and 70 the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland set up a NIO-led UK Steering Group to lead the research programme into alternative policing approaches towards the management of conflict. The development of the Attenuating Energy Projectile (AEP), as an operational replacement for the L21A1 baton round from 21 June 2005, formed only part of the Group's ongoing activities.

I am advised that the cost breakdown in terms of testing, acquiring and training police personnel in the use of AEP cannot be provided without disproportionate cost. However, the total cost of replacing the L21A1 with the AEP for operational use was estimated to be £291,000. This figure is the only top-line cost available for the project and PSNI cannot readily extrapolate testing, acquiring and training figures for the following reasons: testing was conducted externally as well as internally; acquisition costs would involve various aspects of the procurement process; and training costs were incurred across many PSNI departments.

Police

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* written communications there have been with the European Commission in respect of Council Directive 2000/78/EC concerning provision for 50:50 recruitment to the Police Service of Northern Ireland; [32684]

(2) whom he has consulted in respect of the derogation from Council Directive 2000/78/EC to provide for 50:50 recruitment to the Police Service of Northern Ireland. [32685]

Paul Goggins: EU Council Directive 2000/78/EC establishes a general framework for combating discrimination in employment and occupation, on the grounds of disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief. Article 15.1 of this directive provides a specific derogation that allows for the policy of 50:50 recruitment to the Police Service of Northern Ireland, as legislated for in the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000.

I am advised that the European Commission is duty-bound to review and provide a report on the directive routinely every five years. This procedure involves input from member state Governments on the implementation of the directive in their own country.

The first five-yearly report on the directive for the United Kingdom was completed in December 2005. As part of the United Kingdom's submission to the European Commission's report, the Northern Ireland Office provided specific input in relation to the working of article 15.1. This process involved discussion and written communication with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the European Union and the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels.

I am advised that this report is not a means of pursuing any revisions to the current legislation, therefore no consultation was required.

The 50:50 recruitment provisions are reviewed every three years, and can only be renewed by a majority vote in both Houses. This is next due in March 2007. The Government remain committed to the use of these temporary provisions as means of achieving 30 per cent. Catholic composition among Regular PSNI Officers by 2010-11. The provisions shall only be renewed, however, following extensive review and consultation with interested parties. It is our intention to commence the review and consultation process shortly.

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many recruits are in training for the Police Service of Northern Ireland; and how many undertook training in each of the last five years. [15280]

Paul Goggins: I am advised that the total number of student officers in training as at 31 May 2006 is 291.

I am also advised that the number of recruits who undertook training in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Number appointed
2002	475
2003	448
2004	598
2005	449
2006 (Up to and including 7 May 2006)	188

Portland PR

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what meetings officials in his Department have had with representatives of the public relations company Portland PR; what contracts Portland PR has with his Department and agencies for which he has responsibility; and what the nature of the contract is in each case. [70054]

Mr. Hain: The Department does not maintain a central list of such meetings. Civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and business delivery. All such meetings are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code and Guidance for civil servants on contacts with lobbyists and people outside Government.

We contacted the various branches and Agencies of the NIO who all confirm that they have had no meetings with representatives of the Public Relations company Portland PR. Portland PR also have no contracts with the Department or its agencies.

Proceeds of Crime Act

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was recovered in Northern Ireland under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each year since 2003. [48273]

Paul Goggins: The amount of assets recovered in Northern Ireland under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each year since 2003 by the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Assets Recovery Agency is detailed in the following tables.

Assets Recovery Agency

£ million

Year[1]	*Assets frozen*[2]	*Final orders*[3]	*Receipts*[4]
2003-04	3.1	0	0
2004-05	3.7	1.4	0.7
April to December 2005	2.3	0.2	0.5

[1] Figures in relation to the Assets Recovery Agency cover a 12-month period from April to March unless otherwise stated.
[2] Assets that have been frozen through a Mareva or Interim Receiving Order.
[3] Recovery orders and settlements in civil recovery cases.
[4] Payments received against orders, settlements and payments made on account.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

	Cash seizures	£ Confiscation orders
2003	67,805	1,227,359.15
2004	278,972.55	303,462.70
2005	666,956.49	1,006,176.62

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

	Cash seizures	£ Confiscation orders
2003	50,961.36	0
2004	15,800	0
2005	11,101	0

Public Bodies

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the former party affiliation is of the serving chair of each public body in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [74255]

Mr. Hanson: Those appointed to public bodies in Northern Ireland, including chairpersons, are not required to declare if they are affiliated to a political party. However, they are asked to declare if they have undertaken any significant political activity in the five years prior to the date of their application.

A list of chairpersons currently serving on public bodies in Northern Ireland, who, at the time of their application, declared that they had undertaken political activity in the preceding five years, is set out in Table 1.

Appointments are made solely on merit, political activity is recorded for monitoring purposes only and plays no part in the selection process.

An overview of the political activity of both applicants and appointees to bodies sponsored by Northern Ireland's eleven government departments can be found in the Public Appointments Annual Report, and similar details in respect of NIO sponsored bodies is included in the NIO Departmental Report. Copies of the latest versions of both these reports are available from the Library of the House and can be found on the internet at: www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/public-appointments and www.nio.gov.uk/niodepartmentalreport2006.pdf, respectively.

Table 1: Current chairs of public bodies who declared political activity at the time of their application

Name	Public body	Party for which political activity was declared
David Aiken	Omagh Further Education College	DUP
Fionnuala Cook	Southern Health and Social Services Board	Alliance
Thomas Creighton	Northern Health and Social Services Council	UUP
Isaac Hanna	Newry and Kilkeel Further Education College	UUP
Colm Kavanagh	Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education	Alliance
Right hon. Michael Martin MP[1]	Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland	Labour Party
Tom McGrath	Northern Ireland Tourist Board	UUP
Monica McWilliams	Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission	Northern Ireland Women's Coalition
Roger Poole	Parades Commission for Northern Ireland	Labour Party
Jim Rodgers	Belfast Education and Library Board	UUP

[1]Chair of the Boundary Commission must be the Speaker of the House of Commons

Saville Inquiry

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what rules governed the ability of legal representatives appointed to the Saville Inquiry to take on other legally-aided work following their appointment. [74207]

Mr. Hanson: No restrictions were placed on the legal representatives acting for Interested Parties to the Bloody Sunday Inquiry to take on other separately funded work. The time devoted to the Inquiry varied among individuals and legal representatives were free to accept other instructions that their workload allowed.

Sentencing

Sir Patrick Cormack: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 19 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 728W, on sentencing (averages), what the average sentence passed for those convicted of offences under *(a)* section 170 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 and *(b)* section 5(3) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in Northern Ireland was over the last five years. [74770]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 provides the average sentence lengths for those convicted and given immediate custody under section 170 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 and section 5(3) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Figures cover the calendar years 1999 to 2003; data beyond 2003 are not yet available.

Table 1: Average sentence lengths in months 1999-2003

	Section 170 Customs and Excise Management Act 1979	Section 5(3) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
	Average sentence length (months)	Average sentence length (months)
1999	28	24
2000	8	26

Table 1: Average sentence lengths in months 1999-2003

	Section 170 Customs and Excise Management Act 1979	Section 5(3) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
	Average sentence length (months)	Average sentence length (months)
2001	8	26
2002	0	22
2003	30	29

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to review current guidelines for sentencing handed down to young adults who carry out rapes in the Province. [74244]

Mr. Hanson: The Government do not issue guidelines on sentencing for any offence in Northern Ireland. Sentencing is entirely a matter for the independent Courts based on case law and precedent. The role of the Government is to provide the legislative framework within which the Courts operate.

To that end the Government are planning a public consultation which will review the criminal law in relation to sexual offences. This consultation will, among other things, propose several new sexual offences and a new definition of the offence of rape. It will also include proposals on the definition of consent and the capacity to consent.

Sex Crimes

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of *(a)* rape and *(b)* sexual assault in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years; and how many rapes and sexual assaults were reported to the police in this period. [73309]

Mr. Hanson: I am aware of and share concerns about the very low number of rapes reported to the police that result in prosecutions. I shall be including this issue as part of the forthcoming consultation on sexual offences legislation which I expect to initiate shortly.

Table 1 provides the number of convictions for rape, attempted rape, indecent assault and all other sexual offences and covers the calendar years 1994 to 2003. Data for 2004 will be available by August 2006. Data are collated on the principal offence rule, thus only the most serious offence for which an offender is charged is included.

Table 2 provides the number of rape, attempted rape, indecent assault and other sexual offences recorded by the police for the period 1994 to 2005-06. These figures are published in "A Commentary on Northern Ireland Crime Statistics 2004" (available at www.nio.gov.uk) and the PSNI statistical report "Recorded Crime and Clearances 2005/06" (available on www.psni.police.uk).

It should be noted that statistics in Table 1 are offender-based while figures in Table 2 are offence-based.

Table 1: Convictions for rape, attempted rape and other sexual assaults 1994-2003

	Rape	Attempted rape[1]	Indecent assault[2]	Other sexual offences	Total
1994	11	4	98	35	148
1995	19	5	103	55	182
1996	13	2	108	61	184
1997	17	4	87	22	130
1998	17	1	71	39	128
1999	5	3	61	21	90
2000	7	3	88	32	130
2001	12	5	80	15	112
2002	8	2	55	19	84
2003	8	2	66	32	108

[1] Includes aiding and abetting rape and assault with intent to rape.
[2] Includes indecent assault on female, indecent assault on male, indecent assault on female child and indecent assault on male child.
Source:
Statistics and Research Branch, Northern Ireland Office.

Table 2: Offences of rape, attempted rape and other sexual assaults recorded by the police 1994 to 2005-06

	Rape	Attempted rape	Indecent assault	Other sexual offences[1]	Total
1994	168	40	698	427	1,333
1995	229	30	932	488	1,679
1996	264	28	991	462	1,745
1997	268	26	793	357	1,444
1998-99	284	40	878	403	1,605
1999-2000	279	32	714	308	1,333
2000-01	209	23	663	281	1,176
2001-02	252	40	677	462	1,431
2002-03	317	40	633	479	1,469
2003-04	354	41	834	551	1,780
2004-05	347	33	746	560	1,686
2005-06	356	35	808	512	1,711

[1] From 1998-99 onwards, 'Other sexual offences' includes indecent exposure.
Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many convicted rapists in Northern Ireland have committed the same offence after being released. [74674]

Mr. Hanson: Statistics from the adult (17 years and older) reconviction dataset indicate that none of the sexual offenders contained in the 2000 and 2001 custody discharge cohorts who were convicted of rape as their principal offence were subsequently reconvicted of the same offence. Reconviction data are not yet available in respect of those convicted after 2001.

It should be noted that the adult reconviction dataset only counts the first discharge from prison for an individual in that year and is based on the principal offence rule, thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Stormont

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civilian security staff are deployed at the Northern Ireland Assembly buildings when it is *(a)* sitting and *(b)* suspended. [74694]

Mr. Hanson: 71 and 46 respectively.

Tennis

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress the Sports Council for Northern Ireland has made in meeting the requests of young tennis players who wish to play under the auspicies of United Kingdom tennis authorities rather than the Irish equivalent. [74209]

Maria Eagle: The Sports Council for Northern Ireland (SCNI) has been in regular contact, over the past 12 months, with Tennis Ireland and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), the governing bodies of tennis on the island of Ireland and of Great Britain respectively, regarding the requests of young tennis players who wish to play under the auspices of Great Britain tennis authorities rather than the Irish equivalent.

As a result of these contacts, Tennis Ireland has agreed to meet with relevant players' representatives to discuss a range of concerns including the sport's current affiliation arrangements. The LTA has also confirmed that any British player who lives in Northern Ireland has the right to play for GB subject to satisfying the qualification rules of the International Tennis Federation relating to nationality, holding of a passport, residency and previous representation.

CCTV Coverage (Londonderry)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 899W, on CCTV coverage (Londonderry), when CCTV coverage at the Irish Street/Top of the Hill interface will be provided. [67134]

Mr. Hanson: The funding of CCTV cameras located at interface areas is an operational matter for PSNI.

UVF Prisoners

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Ulster Volunteer Force prisoners were released early as a result of the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998; how many of those ex-prisoners have *(a)* subsequently reoffended and *(b)* had their licences revoked; and if he will make a statement. [73998]

Paul Goggins: 67 prisoners with perceived UVF affiliations were released 'early' as a result of the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998. Of these, three have subsequently reoffended and had their licences revoked as a result. A fourth UVF prisoner had his licence revoked because the Secretary of State believed that he had broken the conditions of his licence and had become a danger to the public as a consequence.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners who have declared themselves to be members of the Ulster Volunteer Force are held as *(a)* convicted and *(b)* remand prisoners in Northern Ireland. [73999]

Paul Goggins: There are no prisoners in Northern Ireland, either sentenced or remand, who have declared themselves to be members of the Ulster Volunteer Force. However, nine prisoners are currently held in separated conditions at Maghaberry prison, five of whom are sentenced and four on remand, who are perceived to have UVF affiliations.

Violent and Sexual Offenders

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to introduce a pilot electronic monitoring scheme for curfews put in place in Northern Ireland for those considered to be high risk violent or sexual offenders. [74208]

Mr. Hanson: The use of electronic monitoring is under consideration in the current review of the sentencing framework in Northern Ireland. No decisions have yet been made.

I will make an announcement in due course.

Weapons

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many violent incidences involving the use of a knife occurred in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years, broken down by seriousness of injury. [74680]

Mr. Hanson: The following table provides information on knife crime statistics over the past 2 years. The incidents are sorted by the recorded crime categories used by the police. While it is known that a knife was used in all incidents recorded below, it is not possible to indicate how the knife was used.

Clearly the categories of murder and attempted murder refer to the most serious incidents. While the overall incidence of use of a knife in crime rose last year, the numbers of murders and attempted murders reduced.

I am hopeful that the knife crime campaign launched this week will impact on these figures and that we will see a reduction in knife related crimes this year.

Crime type	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Class 1. Offences against the Person	394	430
Murder	10	8
Attempted murder	32	27
Assaults	214	320
Class 2. Sexual offences	4	13
Class 3. Burglary	26	19

Crime type	2004-05	2005-06
Class 4. Robbery	265	359
Class 5. Theft	19	22
Class 6. Fraud and forgery	0	0
Class 7. Criminal damage	161	121
Class 8. Offences against the state	131	165
Possessing offensive weapon	131	165
Class 9. Other notifiable offences	0	1
Total crime	1,000	1,130

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has for amnesties for handing in *(a)* bladed and *(b)* blunt weapons in Northern Ireland. [74679]

Mr. Hanson: The campaign to tackle knife crime in Northern Ireland, including the introduction of a three week amnesty was launched on Wednesday 24 May. This received significant attention from all the main media outlets in Northern Ireland. A list of the amenity sites where bins for collection of knives are situated was provided to the media and the police have established a helpline to provide information to anyone who wishes to surrender a knife. While the amnesty will run for a period of three weeks initially, this can be extended if it is successful, and it can be re-introduced.

I would urge anyone who does not have a legitimate reason for having a knife, to take this opportunity to surrender it.

I have no plans to hold an amnesty for blunt weapons but am open to consideration.

WALES

A5

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the likely effects on road traffic between England and Ireland of the proposed closure of the A5 between Ty Nant and Dinmael; and what discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Ministers on this matter. [74504]

Mr. Hain: I have made no such assessment. Andrew Davies, the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks has explained that measures are being urgently considered to minimize the impact of the closure, including the possibility of re-opening the old A5 to restricted traffic.

Bonuses

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of his staff in each of the last three years; and at what total cost. [73054]

Mr. Hain: This information is not held centrally and obtaining it could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Eid-Ul-Adha

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff from his Department attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event in London in 2005; and what the total cost was to his Department of their attendance. [73050]

Mr. Hain: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will write to the hon. Member with details of the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event. Copies of her letter will be placed in the Library.

Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension. [73053]

Mr. Hain: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) can pay additional contributions to top up their pension either through the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme (CSAVCS), a money purchase arrangement, or by buying added years of service in the PCSPS. As an alternative to membership of the PCSPS recruits from 1 October 2002 have been able to join a stakeholder arrangement, the partnership pension account.

The number and percentage of staff in the department who are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension as at 31 May are shown in the following table.

	Number	Percentage
CSAVCS	1	1.7
Added years	10	16.7
Partnership	4	6.7

Promotion Boards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what promotion boards have been held in his Department in each of the last five years. [72895]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not hold promotion boards.

Staff are recruited to the Wales Office in line with the policy set out at paragraph 5.6 of the departmental annual report 2006 Cm 6835 (also available on our website at www.walesoffice.gov.uk).

Sickness Absence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [73049]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not collect this information in this way, and obtaining this information could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

Staff Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff surveys have been conducted in his Department in each of the last three years. [72897]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office is a small Department and its staff are entitled to take part in staff surveys conducted by the DCA.

Further to the DCA staff survey, the Wales Office conducted its own staff survey for the first time earlier this year.

Vehicle Sharing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what incentives his Department offers to encourage staff to share vehicles when travelling to work. [73052]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has no incentive schemes to encourage staff to share vehicles to travel to work.

Around three-quarters of staff do not use their own vehicles to travel to work, travelling instead by alternative methods, including public transport and bicycle.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Bankruptcies

Mr. Spring: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people have been declared bankrupt in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [69814]

Ms Harman: A bankruptcy order is made on the petition of the debtor or one of his creditors when the court is satisfied that there is no prospect of the debt being paid. The following table shows the number of bankruptcy orders made at either Bury St. Edmunds or Ipswich county courts since 1998, the earliest year for which statistics are available. Bury St. Edmunds and Ipswich are the only two county courts in Suffolk which deal with insolvency matters.

Bankruptcy petitions should be presented in the court that deals with the area where the debtor has lived or traded for the longest period in the previous six months. However, the insolvency jurisdictions of particular county courts are not directly comparable with standard geographies such as counties or parliamentary constituencies. For these reasons, figures shown in the table will not be an exact measure of bankruptcies in Suffolk.

Number of bankruptcy orders made at Bury St. Edmunds or Ipswich county courts, 1998-2005

	Number of bankruptcy orders made in Bury St. Edmunds county court	Number of bankruptcy orders made in Ipswich county court	Total for Bury St. Edmunds and Ipswich county courts
1998	87	191	278
1999	80	212	292
2000	81	191	272
2001	92	179	271
2002	128	186	314
2003	122	274	396
2004	142	289	431
2005	217	337	554

Source:
Insolvency Service

Coroner Reform Programme

Mr. Walter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what progress has been made regarding the time scale for the coroner reform programme; and when she expects the Family Charter to be available. [74284]

Ms Harman: A draft Bill on reform of the coroner system will be published very shortly. A draft of the Charter for Bereaved People (as it is now known) will be published alongside the draft Bill, and will be similarly subject to scrutiny and consultation. A Bill will be introduced when parliamentary time allows.

Equal Pay

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men are employed in the Department; what the average pay was for (i) women and (ii) men in the Department in (1) 1997 and (2) 2006; what women's average pay is as a percentage of men's average pay; and how many (A) women and (B) men the Department employed in each of the last five years, broken down by grade. [67790]

Bridget Prentice: In March 2006 there were *(a)* 9,121 women and (b) 4,908 men employed in the DCA, excluding the magistrates courts service (MCS). Following the implementation of the 2005 pay award the average full-time equivalent salary for (i) women was £19,142 and for (ii) men was £21,276. Furthermore in March 2006 there were *(a)* 8,974 women and *(b)* 3,621 men employed by the MCS in England and Wales. The MCS became part of the DCA in April 2005 and are employed on a wide variety of terms and conditions. The average full-time equivalent salary for (i) women was £20,202 and for (ii) men was £23,689 in the MCS.

On this basis, in March 2006, the average female full-time equivalent salary represents 89 per cent. of the average male salary for staff on DCA terms and

conditions and 85 per cent. of the average male salary for staff in the magistrates courts service. These figures are for all grades below SCS. Comparative figures from 1997 could only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

The details for (1) Women and (2) men employed by the DCA (excluding the MCS) in each of the last five years broken down by grade is contained in the table shown at Appendix A. Only full-time equivalent details are available for 2001 and 2002.

The equivalent information from the magistrates courts service which became part of the DCA in April 2005 is not maintained in a format which enables this data to be easily extracted and the information requested can therefore only be provided at a disproportionate cost for years prior to 2005. The information for 2005 is contained in the table at Appendix B and is broken down according to £5000 pay bands as there is no comparable grading system.

Appendix A: DCA, (former court service, PGO and Wales Office) 1 April 2005

	Headcount								
	Full-time staff			Part-time staff			Full-time equivalent		
Responsibility level	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
SCS level	99.0	52.0	151.0	11.0	8.0	19.0	103.6	55.7	158.9
Grade 6	105.0	61.0	166.0	8.0	11.0	19.0	107.3	66.2	173.5
Grade 7	283.0	224.0	507.0	6.0	39.0	45.0	286.6	253.1	539.7
SEO	325.0	290.0	615.0	7.0	48.0	55.0	330.1	331.6	661.7
HEO	683.0	877.0	1,560.0	16.0	130.0	146.0	693.9	967.6	1,661.5
EO	853.0	1,426.0	2,279.0	16.0	411.0	427.0	862.8	1,701.2	2,564.0
AO	1,554.0	2,742.0	4,296.0	82.0	1,063.0	1,145.0	1,605.0	3,375.0	4,980.0
AA	532.0	674.0	1,206.0	230.0	645.0	875.0	653.2	1,070.0	1,723.2
Total	4,434.0	6,346.0	10,780.0	376.0	2,355.0	2,731.0	4,642.5	7,020.4	12,462.5

DCA, (former court service, PGO and Wales Office) 1 April 2004

	Headcount								
	Full-time staff			Part-time staff			Full-time equivalent		
Responsibility level	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
SCS level	89.0	31.0	120.0	1.0	9.0	10.0	89.4	34.3	123.7
Grade 6	78.0	49.0	127.0	3.0	8.0	11.0	80.5	54.5	135.0
Grade 7	260.0	175.0	435.0	6.0	37.0	43.0	263.8	200.8	464.6
SEO	295.0	263.0	558.0	2.0	35.0	37.0	296.4	287.4	583.8
HEO	638.0	855.0	1,493.0	12.0	124.0	136.0	645.9	940.4	1,586.3
EO	817.0	1,337.0	2,154.0	10.0	366.0	376.0	824.4	1,581.0	2,405.0
AO	1,552.0	2,611.0	4,163.0	48.0	990.0	1,038.0	1,581.5	3,237.9	4,818.4
AA	605.0	782.0	1,387.0	140.0	505.0	645.0	700.4	1,114.0	1,814.4
Total	4,334.0	6,103.0	10,437.0	222.0	2,074.0	2,296.0	4,482.3	7,450.3	11,931.2

LCD[1], Court service and PGO—1 April 2003

	Headcount								
	Full-time staff			Part-time staff			Full-time equivalent		
Responsibility level	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
SCS level	83.0	21.0	104.0	1.0	4.0	5.0	83.4	23.6	107.0
Grade 6	65.0	41.0	106.0	2.0	7.0	9.0	66.4	46.0	112.4
Grade 7	224.0	156.0	380.0	3.0	32.0	35.0	224.1	176.9	401.0
SEO	279.0	238.0	517.0	2.0	36.0	38.0	280.4	261.3	541.7
HEO	632.0	769.0	1,401.0	10.0	115.0	125.0	638.5	847.7	1,486.2
EO	826.0	1,364.0	2,190.0	9.0	320.0	329.0	832.7	3,256.7	4,089.4
AO	1,521.0	2,583.0	4,104.0	51.0	976.0	1,027.0	1,552.0	3,190.2	4,742.2
AA	639.0	877.0	1,516.0	135.0	509.0	644.0	731.0	1,212.5	1,943.5
Total	4,269.0	6,049.0	10,318.0	213.0	1,999.0	2,212.0	4,408.5	9,014.9	13,423.4

LCD[1], Court service and PGO—1 April 2002[2]

	Headcount								
	Full-time staff			Part-time staff			Full-time equivalent		
Responsibility level	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
SCS level	—	—	—	—	—	—	74.61	22.62	97.23
Grade 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	47.00	32.67	79.67
Grade 7	—	—	—	—	—	—	140.68	120.59	261.27
SEO	—	—	—	—	—	—	238.39	211.00	449.39

LCD[2], Court service and PGO—1 April 2002[1]

	Headcount								
	Full-time staff			Part-time staff			Full-time equivalent		
Responsibility level	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
HEO	—	—	—	—	—	—	463.84	650.44	1,114.28
EO level	—	—	—	—	—	—	964.94	1,686.15	2,651.09
AD	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,596.49	3,181.57	4,778.06
AA	—	—	—	—	—	—	685.09	1,206.75	1,891.84
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,211	7,112	11,323

LCD[2], court service and PGO—1 April 2001[1]

	Headcount								
	Full-time staff			Part-time staff			Full-time equivalent		
Responsibility level	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
SCS level	—	—	—	—	—	—	62.41	20.56	82.97
Grade 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	56.75	24.35	81.10
Grade 7	—	—	—	—	—	—	137.15	108.81	245.96
SEO	—	—	—	—	—	—	222.00	180.33	402.33
HEO	—	—	—	—	—	—	438.05	588.01	1,026.06
EG	—	—	—	—	—	—	980.66	1,623.93	2,604.59
AO	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,540.93	3,093.90	4,634.83
AA	—	—	—	—	—	—	172.13	207.90	380.03
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,610.08	5,847.79	9,457.87

[1] Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD) prior to 2003
[2] 2001 and 2002 figures do not provide a breakdown between full and part-time employees.

Appendix B: Magistrates courts service staff by Gender 2005

	Full-time			Part-time			
Data	Female	Male	Full-time total	Female	Male	Part-time total	Grand total
Sum of Up to:							
£10,000	5	3	8	2	0	2	10
£10,001-£15,000	2,106	784	2,890	1,501	527	2,028	4,918
£15,001-£20,000	1,740	801	2,541	654	71	725	3,266
£20,001-£25,000	867	292	1,159	212	11	223	1,382
£25,001-£30,000	356	149	505	63	3	66	571
£30,001-£35,000	374	194	568	113	10	123	691
£35,001-£40,000	418	306	724	170	10	180	904
£40,001-£45,000	141	159	300	44	3	47	347
£45,001-£50,000	62	92	154	21	3	24	178
£50,001-£55,000	48	61	109	3	2	5	114
£55,001-£60,000	23	39	62	4	0	4	66
£60,001-£65,000	23	35	58	0	0	0	58
£65,001-£70,000	7	17	24	1	0	1	25
£70,001-£75,000	7	15	22	0	0	0	22
£75,001 and above	9	34	43	0	0	0	43
	6,186	2,981	9,167	2,788	640	3,428	12,595

HEALTH

Abortions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions she has had with representatives of the medical profession about the interpretation by them of section one of the Abortion Act 1967; and if she will make a statement. [73269]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 947W.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the Government's progress in reducing the number of abortions in England. [73270]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 250W.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will amend the abortion notification form to provide for the inclusion of the method of abortion known as partial birth abortion; and if she will make a statement. [73271]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 29 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1056W.

Adverse Drug Reactions

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 736-7W on adverse drug reactions, when she expects the redesign of the drug safety monitoring database to be completed. [72449]

Andy Burnham: Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the commission on human medicines through the spontaneous reporting scheme, the yellow card scheme.

The MHRA is currently implementing a major upgrade of the drug safety monitoring database and data reporting systems. The MHRA's redesigned drug safety monitoring database was deployed on 31 May 2006.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the number of people hospitalised each year due to adverse reactions to (i) prescribed and (ii) unprescribed drugs; and if she will make a statement. [73588]

Andy Burnham: The most recent estimate of the burden of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) in the United Kingdom (UK) comes from a study published in the *British Medical Journal* in July 2004. The study conducted in two large hospitals in Merseyside, suggested that ADRs account for one in 16 hospital admissions. This is a similar estimate to a number of studies worldwide, including figures from the United States. The study did not differentiate between prescribed and unprescribed medicines; however, the majority of ADRs were associated with prescribed medicines.

This study highlights the importance of effective systems for monitoring and responding to issues relating to the safety of medicines, a process called pharmacovigilance. This study, which was funded by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), underlines the MHRA's commitment to improving the evidence base for pharmacovigilance in the UK. As part of this commitment to improving pharmacovigilance, the MHRA is working to strengthen and widen access to the yellow card scheme for reporting suspected ADRs. Access has recently been widened to allow patients to report under a pilot reporting scheme.

Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations she has received about the Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill [Lords]; and if she will make a statement; [70368]

(2) if she will make it her policy to remain neutral on the Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill [Lords]; and if she will make a statement; [70369]

(3) if she will list the *(a)* individuals, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* organisations she has consulted whilst developing her current policy towards the Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill [Lords]; if she will place in the Library responses received by her Department; and if she will make a statement; [72036]

(4) what *(a)* representations she has received from and *(b)* discussions her Department has had with the organisation Care Not Killing; and if she will make a statement. [72048]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill involves issues of conscience and the Government's stance is to remain neutral and to listen to the debate. It is appropriate that Parliament should lead on debates of this nature and allow all shades of opinion to be heard. As with all legislation, the Government's position has been agreed with the legislative programme committee.

The Department has received around 1,380 letters, emails and postcards about the Bill from the public and organisations since the beginning of March 2006 expressing a range of views and opinions. The petition that the Care Not Killing alliance submitted to the Prime Minister has been passed to the Department and officials have been provided with a list of the alliance's member organisations.

Boron

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps she proposes to take to ensure that boron is included on the list of ingredients permitted for use under the provisions of the Food Supplements Directive; and if she will make a statement; [75164]

(2) when she next expects the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health to discuss the inclusion of boron on the list of ingredients permitted for use under the provisions of the Food Supplements Directive; who will represent the United Kingdom at that meeting; and what her objectives are for the outcome of those discussions. [75191]

Caroline Flint: Representations have already been made to the European Commission and the German authorities regarding the addition of the mineral boron to the positive lists of the annexes to the Food Supplements Directive 2002/46/EC.

The European Commission has not set a date for the next meeting of the standing committee on the food chain and animal health to discuss the inclusion of boron on the list of ingredients permitted for use under the provisions of the food supplements directive. Officials of the Food Standards Agency will represent the United Kingdom at the meeting when announced. The objective for the meeting would be to support the addition of boron to the annexes of the food supplements directive to ensure the continued availability of this mineral in food supplements.

Cheltenham General Hospital

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of building and opening the St. Paul's Maternity Unit in Cheltenham General hospital; and if she will make a statement on its future. [74257]

Caroline Flint: The St. Paul's Wing was officially opened in 1997 at a cost of £6 million.

Coeliac Disease

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what action her Department is taking to ensure that general practitioners are aware of coeliac disease and are able to diagnose it; [75175]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to increase awareness of coeliac disease. [75203]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Patients are able to access a health encyclopaedia on the NHS Direct online website (www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk) which contains detailed information on a range of health conditions, including coeliac disease. The Prodigy website (www.prodigy.nhs.uk), used by health professionals, also contains specific information on this disease.

Diagnosis of coeliac disease can be difficult for general practitioners as the symptoms are common to many other conditions. However, a blood test and gut biopsy can be used to confirm coeliac disease.

Continuing Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether individuals who are receiving NHS continuing care, and whose primary need is a health need under the current criteria, will continue to receive continuing care if they are not eligible under the new criteria. [75026]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 550W.

Dentistry

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions her Department has had with *(a)* dentists and *(b)* dental laboratories on the impact of the new dental contract on the number of custom-made dental appliances being ordered for NHS patients; and if she will make a statement. [72411]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has established an implementation review group, which includes representatives of dentists and dental laboratories, to monitor the impact of the dental reforms introduced on 1 April. The group will be able to review information on the number of courses of treatment that include the fitting of an appliance.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the operation of illegal dentistry in England. [73301]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All dentists, dental hygienists and dental therapists have to be registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) to practise dentistry in the United Kingdom.

The Dentists Act 1984 (Amendment) Order 2005 empowered the GDC to permit additional classes of dental care professionals to undertake the practice of dentistry. At its meeting on 7 December 2005, the GDC agreed that appropriately qualified clinical dental technicians (CDTs) should be registered and allowed to see edentulous patients, without prior review by a dentist, for the purpose of supplying and maintaining complete dentures. The Department welcomes this initiative since it will improve patient choice by legitimising the aspirations of CDTs, or denturists as they are also known, to fit and supply full dentures.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental laboratories there were in England *(a)* on 31 March 2006 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [73302]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information available centrally is for the United Kingdom. Between 31 March and 26 May 2006 the number of dental laboratories registered under the medical devices directive increased from 3,148 to 3,150. Proprietors of laboratories do not always tell the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulation Agency when they cease trading.

Departmental Bills (Amendments)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the occasions when an amendment has been moved by *(a)* a Labour backbencher, *(b)* an Opposition backbencher and *(c)* an Opposition front bench spokesman to a Bill sponsored by her Department that has been accepted by her Department during the current session; and if she will make a statement. [72114]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has sponsored the following Bills during the current session:

The NHS Redress Bill

The Health Bill

Information on amendments moved and accepted during the committee and report stages on these Bills is published in the *Official Report*.

Departmental Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from the Department in each of the last 5 years. [71761]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from the Department are shown in the following table.

2002-03

Powderject Technogies Ltd.

CAS Services Ltd.

Chessington Computer Centre

TOPPS England

Fujitsu Services Ltd.

Consignia CRS

CSC Computer Sciences Ltd.

AXA Assistance (UK) Ltd.

BTPLC

CW Travel UK Ltd.

2003-04

Catalyst
CAS Services Ltd.
Chessington Computer Centre
TOPPS England
Kellogg Brown & Root Ltd.
Consignia CRS
CSC Computer Sciences Ltd.
Syntegra
Alien & Overy
CW Travel UK Ltd.

2004-05

Catalyst Healthcare Leeds Ltd.
BT Syntegra
Skipton Fund Ltd.
TOPPS England
Oracle Corporation UK Ltd.
Accenture PLC
CSC Computer Sciences Ltd.
Atos Origin IT SVS UK Ltd.
Cable and Wireless Communication
Charles Russell

2005-06

Catalyst Healthcare Leeds Ltd.
BT Syntegra
BT Global Services Solutions
TOPPS England
McKesson Information Solutions
ISoft PLC
CSC Computer Sciences Ltd.
Atos Origin IT SVS UK Ltd.
Specialist Computer Centres
Trustmarque Solutions Ltd.

The information for 2001-02 is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the discontinuation of the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin on the ability of doctors to access independent information about the clinical effectiveness of various treatments; and if she will make a statement. [74863]

Andy Burnham: Doctors and other prescribers have access to a wide variety of information resources to support their prescribing. These include the British National Formularies, advice and training from the National Prescribing Centre, guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, the National Electronic Library for Health, the various on-line databases and reference resources, such as Medline, and various academic and professional journals.

Elderly Care

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was allocated to services for the elderly in the South West region in 2005-06. [72779]

Caroline Flint: Revenue allocations are made to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. Allocations are made on a fair funding formula that directs funding to those in greatest need.

A principal cause in the variation in the level of demand for health services is the age structure of the population. The very young and the elderly, whose populations are not evenly distributed throughout the country, tend to make more use of health services than the rest of the population. The funding formula is age weighted to take account of the varying elements of the health need associated with the age structure of local populations.

Once allocations have been made, it is for PCTs to commission services based on their local populations.

Council funding for adult social services is derived from a number of sources: a share of overall formula grant allocated by the Department for Communication and Local Government, specific grants distributed by the Department, revenue from council tax, income from fees and charges and local decision making.

The greater part of Government funding for adult social care is allocated to councils without conditions. Local authorities have a significant degree of flexibility to manage and direct their resources in accordance with local priorities, and the needs of the communities to which they are accountable. It is not therefore possible to identify the proportion of allocated funding that is directly attributable to services for the elderly in the South West region.

Enzyme Disorders

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services are available to those suffering from enzyme disorders. [74701]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Local health bodies are able to provide a wide range of health and social care services specifically tailored to the individual needs of those living with enzyme disorders. These services include:

prompt diagnosis;

providing information and support for sufferers, and their carers and families;

person-centred care and choice;

care planning and integrated service provision involving different agencies; and

rehabilitation and support in the community.

Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Avon Strategic Health Authority

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been of running the Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Avon strategic health authority in each year of its existence. [74258]

Caroline Flint: Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire strategic health authority has received allocations for its running costs of £4.7 million in 2003-04, £5.1 million in 2004-05, £5.3 million in 2005-06 and £5.3 million in 2006-07.

General Practitioner Surgeries (Gloucestershire)

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the funding of new GP surgeries in Gloucestershire, with particular reference to the surgery proposed in Churchdown. [74268]

Caroline Flint: The Government are committed to improving local health care facilities but the decision to modernise health care services has been devolved to the local level and improvements to such services will be based on local need.

Consequently, the modernisation of primary health care premises is determined locally by consultation between primary care trusts (PCTs) and general practitioner (GP) practices.

I understand that West Gloucestershire PCT acknowledges that the current GP premises are in urgent need of replacement. The PCT is completely behind the Churchdown scheme and has been working in partnership with the practice in developing plans for a number of years.

The GP practices need to continue to consult with the existing strategic health authority and PCT and then with the new bodies when the reorganisation takes place, in order that business continuity is maintained.

Health Service Budgets

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirement there is for *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* hospital trusts to balance their annual budget in the 2006-07 financial year; what exceptions she has allowed to this requirement; and if she will make a statement. [74263]

Andy Burnham: All national health service organisations should aim to achieve financial balance each and every year.

Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are responsible for delivering both overall financial balance for their local health communities, and ensuring that each and every body achieves financial balance. There is flexibility in how this objective is achieved. SHAs can agree a recovery plan for an organisation that phases the recovery of deficits over a number of years. However, for the NHS as a whole to balance, any overspending in one organisation must be matched by underspending elsewhere.

Health Services (Cornwall)

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of hospital patients in Cornwall have had their discharge delayed by more than two weeks in the last 12 months; [72781]

(2) how many hospital patients in Cornwall had their discharge delayed by *(a)* up to eight days, *(b)* between eight and 14 days, *(c)* between 15 and 27 days and *(d)* more than 28 days in each year since 2002. [72789]

Caroline Flint: The Department does not hold information centrally in the format requested.

Hepatitis C

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been offered ex-gratia payments where they were infected with hepatitis C by the national health service blood or blood products; and how many people have been refused payments under this scheme. [73545]

Caroline Flint: The Skipton Fund has made payments to 3,480 people who developed chronic hepatitis C infection due to national health service blood or blood products. It has refused 316 such claims. A further 492 payments were made to claimants who developed cirrhosis of the liver or primary liver cancer, while 104 claims for these complications have been deferred.

Home Help

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many home help hours have been delivered in each year since 1997. [74052]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the total number of home help hours delivered during the year is unavailable. The table shows the estimated number of contact hours during a sample week in September provided or commissioned by councils with social services responsibility in England for the years 1997 to 2005. Information on the number of privately arranged home help hours is not available centrally.

Estimated number of contact hours of home care provided in England, 1997 to 2005

Survey week in September (year)	*Contact hours for the week*
1997	2,607,500
1998	2,607,400
1999	2,684,200
2000	2,791,300
2001	2,881,700
2002	2,983,200
2003	3,174,800
2004	3,359,000
2005	3,567,500

Notes:
1. Estimates for missing data are included in the national total and the figures are rounded.
2. Households receiving home care purchased with a direct payment are excluded from these figures.

Source:
Department of Health, HH1 return.

Injectable Heroin Prescribing

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what lessons were learned from the National Treatment Agency's clinical team study visit to Switzerland in 2004; and if she will make a statement on her policy on *(a)* safe injecting rooms and *(b)* models of injectable heroin prescribing. [63651]

Caroline Flint: Safe injecting rooms for the supervised injecting of legally prescribed opiates such as pharmaceutical diamorphine, are an accepted part of clinical practice; the need for its use in individual cases is based on clinical judgement. Such injecting facilities are available in this and a number of other countries that prescribe injectable opiates for the management of opiate dependence and we fully support this. The Government do not, however, support the development of injecting rooms for the use of illegal drugs.

The Department, with the Home Office and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) commissioned guidance from an independent expert working group chaired by Professor John Strang[1] on injectable opiate prescribing. This guidance[2] can be accessed through the NTA website, www.nta.nhs.uk We have also supported the funding of the pilots of injectable diamorphine prescribing that are currently underway in England which are looking at a new model of supervised diamorphine prescribing in the United Kingdom.

Overall the lessons learned have informed the pilot injectable clinics which have now started in South London and which will soon be piloted in Brighton and Darlington.

[1] Professor John Strang MBBS, FRCPsych, MD, Professor in Addiction Research, Director of the National Addiction Centre, Institute of Psychiatry King's College London & Maudsely Hospital (South London and Maudsley NHS Trust, SLAM)

[2] "Injectable heroin (and injectable methadone): potential roles in drug treatment" NTA, DH, HO (June 2003)

Making it Better, Making it Real Consultation

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the Making it Better, Making it Real Consultation conducted in the Greater Manchester, Cheshire and High Peak Primary Care Trust areas. [74204]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally but can be obtained directly from Greater Manchester strategic health authority.

Maternity Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* stand alone maternity units have fully-staffed crash teams. [45913]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect this information.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mothers had home births in each year between 1997 and 2005, broken down by primary care trust; and what the ratio of midwives to birth was for home births in each case. [72767]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of home births in each year between 1997 and 2004, broken down by primary care trust, has been placed in the Library. The information requested on the ratio of midwives to birth for home births in each case is not collected centrally.

Medicines

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1046W, on medicines, what steps she plans to take to ensure that the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency complies with target processing times. [74854]

Andy Burnham: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is taking a number of steps to improve its performance with respect to the assessment of product licence applications and variations and its ability to meet the target processing times. These include:

- the recruitment of additional information processing and assessment staff, including pharmacists and physicians, to deal with the growing complexity of licence applications and approval procedures;
- extended working hours and bonus payments to staff for their information processing and assessment outputs;
- additional professional assessor training to enable each assessor to deal more efficiently with a wider range of scientific issues in each application; and
- improvements to the recently introduced data, document and workflow management system to improve its processing times.

The MHRA's progress in dealing with the backlog of licence variation applications is already published on its website at www.mhra.gov.uk Once this special project is complete the MHRA will ensure that the future process provides for sustainable throughput against target times for all types of licence applications.

Mental Health

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health patients have been admitted to *(a)* Whitcliffe mental health ward in Ludlow Hospital in Shrewsbury and *(b)* the mental health ward at Whitchurch in Shropshire in each month since January 2004. [72141]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients who live *(a)* within and *(b)* outside South Shropshire district council area have been admitted to Whitcliffe mental health ward in Ludlow in each month since January 2004. [72142]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discounts are available in relation to hotel accommodation used by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in her Department. [69213]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department utilises a Government contract with Expotel for the provision of a hotel room booking service and to achieve best rates.

In using this service, the Department receives a rebate of 5.4 per cent. of the room rate.

The current contract expires on 31 May 2006 and will be replaced by an Office of Government commerce framework agreement from which the Department will obtain an increased rebate of 5.84 per cent. of the room rate.

Muscular Dystrophy

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what status Muscular Dystrophy has under the national service framework for long-term conditions; and whether she plans to change that status. [75127]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Although the national service framework for long-term conditions (NSF) does not address individual long-term conditions separately as there are so many elements of service provision that are common to different conditions, muscular dystrophy is one of the neurological conditions specifically mentioned in the NSF.

National Framework for Continuing Care (Hillingdon)

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions she has had with Hillingdon social services about the National Framework for Continuing Care; and what the content of those discussions was. [75025]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national framework for national health service continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care has been developed in consultation with a wide range of representatives from health and social care, voluntary organisations and patients and carers.

Hillingdon local authority social services attended an open discussion forum hosted by North West London Strategic Health Authority in December 2005. The purpose of this forum was to discuss an early draft of the proposed assessment tool which supports the national framework policy on eligibility for NHS continuing healthcare.

National Health Service Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the operation of section 35 of the National Health Service Act 1977; and what recent representations she has received about the operation of this *(a)* section and *(b)* Act. [72028]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Select Committee on Health concluded in March 2001, following its inquiry into access to national health service dentistry, that the general dental services (GDS) remuneration system was at the heart of the problems facing NHS dentistry and that there was an urgent need to bring dentistry into the mainstream of the NHS. 'NHS Dentistry: Options for Change', published in August 2002, set out proposals to give primary care trusts direct responsibility for commissioning primary dental care services to meet the needs of their local populations and to alter the system of GDS remuneration. The Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 provided the legislative framework for implementing these proposals, replacing section 35 of the National Health Service Act 1977 with new responsibilities upon primary care trusts to commissioning dental services.

NHS Fertility Clinics

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice is provided on the use of gonadotropin products in NHS fertility clinics. [74706]

Andy Burnham: In England and Wales advice on the use of gonadotropins is provided in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's clinical guideline "Fertility: assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems".

Provision of advice to national health service clinics in Northern Ireland and Scotland is a matter for the devolved administrations.

NHS Litigation Authority

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the NHS Litigation Authority will conclude assessing the risks to the NHS from claims arising from the recent equal pay settlement for women working in Cumbrian NHS hospitals; whether the NHS Litigation Authority will make any estimates of future NHS liabilities; and if she will make a statement. [63949]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 10 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1819-1820W.

NHS Logistics Authority

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library a copy of the paper assessing the impact on the efficiency of the NHS Logistics Authority of her proposal to outsource the Authority. [75190]

Andy Burnham: The Department is still conducting detailed commercial negotiations with the preferred bidder for the outsourcing. The information requested is therefore commercially sensitive.

NHS Trusts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will collect data centrally in respect of monies spent on private sector transportation by NHS trusts. [71392]

Andy Burnham: Information is already collected on patient transport services centrally. However, data on monies spent on private sector transportation are not separately identifiable.

We do not currently anticipate requesting the national health service to collect specific information on private sector transportation by NHS trust.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts *(a)* were (i) in surplus and (ii) in debt and *(b)* had balanced books by the end of financial year (A) 2004-05 and (B) 2005-06. [73352]

Andy Burnham: The 2004-05 audited financial position and the 2005-06 unaudited month six forecast position, as submitted to the Department by national health service organisations (strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts) is available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/FreedomOfInformation/ClassesOfInformation/fs/en

Obesity (Young People)

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has commissioned into using calorie free sweeteners in soft drinks to reduce the incidence of obesity amongst children; and what assessment she has made of the merits of so doing. [71009]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not commissioned any specific research on the potential impact on childhood obesity of soft drinks containing artificial sweeteners. Research has been carried out in the United States of America, and published in the Journal of American Academy of Paediatrics, on the effects of decreasing consumption of sugar-sweetened drinks on body weight in adolescents.

The Food Standards Agency has commenced discussions with stakeholders on a strategy to address the calorie levels in certain foods to help consumers achieve energy balance; the levels of sugar in some foods, including soft drinks, is being explored as part of this strategy.

Oral Health

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the oral health of the population in *(a)* Bolton South East constituency, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England. [72610]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information available centrally shows that average number of decayed, missing or filled teeth (DMFT) among five-year-olds in the area of Bolton Primary Care Trust (PCT) is 3.23, compared to 2.42 for Greater Manchester and 1.49 in England as a whole.

We have also taken note of the fact that Rowley Regis and Tipton PCT, which has similar social profile to Bolton, but receives fluoridated water, has a DMFT of 0.98. Changes we have made in the legislative framework governing fluoridation give communities with high levels of dental decay a real option of having their water fluoridated.

Oxygen Cylinder Provision (East Sussex)

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she is taking to reduce the amount of time spent by patients in hospital in East Sussex as a result of a delay in the provision of oxygen cylinders by Allied Respiratory. [73841]

Andy Burnham: There is a six-month transition period, ending on 31 July 2006, to support the transfer of the home oxygen service to the new suppliers. We are continuing to work intensively with the national health service locally and Allied Respiratory on managing that transfer, including the requirement on suppliers to support the discharge of patients from hospital through timely delivery of oxygen equipment to patients' homes.

Premature Births

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many premature births there were in each of the last five years. [74656]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The available information about length of gestation at delivery is published annually in table 21 of the statistical bulletin "NHS Maternity Statistics: England". Copies of the bulletins, the latest of which relates to 2004-05, are available in the Library.

Private Healthcare

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact on the NHS of pensioners in occupational pension schemes opting out of private healthcare provision as a result of it being taxed as a benefit in kind. [69285]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: National health service capacity requirements are assessed by each primary care trust as part of its local delivery planning responsibilities. The information requested is not available centrally.

Private Patient Transportation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the cost to the NHS of private patient transportation in each NHS trust in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [73785]

Andy Burnham: Each national health service organisation is free, and expected, to use its resources in the way that delivers the best available value for money which will include consideration of a range of different providers.

Section 64 Grants

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many voluntary organisations have received funding through section 64 General Scheme of Grants for 2006-07; when these payments were finally agreed; and how much money was allocated in total for section 64 funding in 2006-07. [72825]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* The number of voluntary and community organisations that have been awarded a section 64 General Scheme of

Grants for 2006-07 is 426 with awards finally agreed 12 May 2006. The 2006-07 budget for section 64 is £17.2 million.

TGN 1412

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the interim report by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency on the drug TGN 1412; what steps she has taken to assess the longer term impacts of TGN 1412 on the health of trial participants; and what assessment she has made of the current health of these volunteers. [73862]

Andy Burnham: I am satisfied with both the interim and final investigation reports by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) on the TGN1412 clinical trial of 13 March 2006, which were published on 5 April and 25 May 2006 respectively. The scientific issues which arise from this trial are being addressed by the expert scientific group on phase one clinical trials, which my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy) asked to be established in April. It will provide an interim report within three months. The MHRA is following up the major findings identified in the final investigation report.

All six volunteers who experienced the serious adverse reactions following the clinical trial on 13 March were transferred to Northwick Park Hospital from the Parexel unit. They continued to improve and were discharged from critical care in early April. Five of the volunteers were sent home within a month of the incident, while one patient remains in hospital and is making a steady recovery. All six are under close supervision by hospital specialists.

Tuberculosis

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with representatives of Statens Serum Institute in the past year, with particular reference to the licensing arrangements for the Purified Protein Derivative used in skin testing for tuberculosis. [74050]

Andy Burnham: Departmental officials, together with the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, have held meetings with Statens Serum Institute to consider the viability of an application for a marketing authorisation for purified protein derivative solutions for use in testing for tuberculosis.

Unpasteurised Milk

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the labelling of cheeses made from unpasteurised milk at retail level. [73761]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has issued generic guidance to food businesses and to enforcement agencies on the new European Union food hygiene regulations, which came into effect from 1 January 2006. This guidance cross-refers to the European Commission's guidance on the relevant legislation (Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004) and also provides a website link. So far as the labelling of cheese is concerned, the Commission's guidance explains that raw milk products should be labelled made with raw milk at the point of retail sale.

The FSA is currently considering what further guidance is required for local food authorities on a number of issues in relation to milk and dairy products, including the labelling aspect.

Waiting Times

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why direct referrals to audiology services have been excluded from the 18-week waiting time target as set out in "Tackling hospital waiting: the 18 week patient pathway". [74774]

Andy Burnham: As detailed in paragraph 2.5 of the publication "Tackling hospital waiting: the 18 week patient pathway. An implementation framework" the 18-week patient pathway is focused on changing traditional hospital consultant pathways. Audiology, and adult hearing services in particular, are mainly accessed directly by primary care. Therefore, they are predominantly outside the scope of the 18-week pathway.

However, a separate action plan is currently under consideration to improve access to adult hearing services outside the 18-week programme. The intention is to develop the action plan in partnership with stakeholders.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for an initial paediatric cardiology assessment. [74702]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The average waiting time, for a child aged 0 to 17 years, from receipt of a general practitioner's written referral request to attending a paediatric cardiology out-patients clinic is seven weeks.

Winchcombe Hospital, Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what covenants exist on the grounds of Winchcombe hospital, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire; and if she will make a statement. [74164]

Caroline Flint: Cheltenham and Tewksbury primary care trust (PCT) has advised that no reference to any restrictive covenant appear in either the Octpber 1991 transfer to the East Gloucestershire National Health Service Trust or in the current November 2002 Land Certificate that vests the property in the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour (York)

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received from the City of York Council Scrutiny Board on its review of drug and alcohol related antisocial behaviour in the city. [74610]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has received one representation from the Chief Executive of York city council on behalf of York city council's Scrutiny Board. The Home Office has noted the contents of the letter and passed it to the Department of Constitutional Affairs for consideration.

Bruche Police Training Centre

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1027W, on Bruche Police Training Centre, on what dates discussions have taken place between officials from his Department and *(a)* the Centrex Estates and Facilities Management Team and *(b)* Warrington Borough Council. [73454]

Mr. McNulty: Routine and informal discussions are ongoing between Centrex and the Home Office with regard to the future of the police training facility at Bruche. The site disposal project board meets on a monthly basis and comprises Home Office officials and members of the Centrex estates and facilities management team. The last meeting was held on 9 May and the next is scheduled for 12 June.

A full planning appraisal in relation to the Bruche site was prepared for Centrex in September 2004 and consultants working for the Home Office have since re-contacted Warrington Borough Council in January 2006 in order to update that appraisal. The process of formally appointing advisers for the sale of the Bruche site is underway with appointment likely by early July. Once made, this appointment will enable a more active dialogue with the local authority.

Business in the Community Programme (Prisons)

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the business organisations twinned with each HM Prison establishment as part of the Business in the Community programme; what contributions are registered as having been made; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the programme; and if he will make a statement. [73748]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The organisations twinned with each prison are as follows:

Belmarsh—Morgan Stanley
Brixton—Ernst and Young
Feltham—British Airways
Holloway—Accenture
Pentonville—The Guardian
Wandsworth—Marsh
Wormwood Scrubs—Centrica

No contributions have been recorded. Three evaluations of the pilot have taken place, the third and final report being published in February 2006. The benefits of the partnerships have varied between establishments. Benefits gained include insight into different working cultures, personal development discussions, mentoring, exchange of managerial or leadership skills and sharing of good practice, facilities and ideas.

Crime Statistics

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many types of crime have been committed by people on probation in each of the last five years, broken down by type of crime and police authority area. [74562]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is not routinely collected in the form requested.

Data on crimes that are categorised as Serious Offences committed by offenders under the supervision of the Probation Service are available for the financial year 2004-05 in Table 5.6 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004".

This report is available at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1705.pdf.

Deportations

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he was aware that 288 foreign nationals had been released since March 2005 without being considered for deportation when *(a)* he made his offer to resign to the Prime Minister on 25 April 2006 and *(b)* he was interviewed on Newsnight on 25 April 2006. [67679]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 May 2006]:* This is a matter for my right hon. friend the former Home Secretary.

Drug Abuse

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been allocated to *(a)* Stoke-on-Trent, *(b)* Nottingham and *(c)* Birmingham in 2005-06 for drug services in the city; and what each figure represents per capita. [74111]

Mr. Coaker: Funding is allocated centrally to Drug Action Teams, who provide funding for local services that are appropriate to local needs. In 2005-06, funding streams which contributed to drug services at a local level included the Building Safer Communities Fund; the Drug Interventions Programme main grant; the Drug Strategy Partnership Support Grant; the Pooled Treatment Budget; and the Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant. Local partnerships also received funding for specific projects or programmes under the Drug Interventions Programme which were operating in the area, such as additional throughcare and aftercare provision, Restriction on Bail, the Rent Deposit Scheme, or the combined Criminal Justice Integrated Team-Prolific and Priority Offender scheme. Full details of funding for Stoke-on Trent, Nottingham and Birmingham in 2005-06 are provided in the attached document.

Population figures for Stoke-on Trent, Nottingham and Birmingham are 238,000, 275,000 and 992,000 respectively. The funding allocations for each area on a per capita basis would therefore be £11.74 for Stoke-on Trent, £23.32 for Nottingham and £18.41 for Birmingham.

Stoke on Trent drug action team

	£ Amount
Building Safer Communities	432,838.00
DIP Main Grant	402,776.00
Drug Strategy Partnership Support Grant	70,467.00
Pooled Treatment Budget	1,327,600.00
Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant	560,431.00
Total	2,794,112.00

Nottingham drug action team

	£ Amount
Building Safer Communities	695,213.00
DIP Main Grant	1,671,552.00
Drug Strategy Partnership Support Grant	71,607.00
Pooled Treatment Budget	2,820,160.00
Restriction of Bail Grant	164,476,00
Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant	990,923.00
Total	6,413,931.00

Birmingham drug action team

	£ Amount
Building Safer Communities	1,851,968.00
DIP Main Grant	4,773,495,00
Drug Strategy Partnership Support Grant	99,497.00
Pooled Treatment Budget	10,017,000,00
Rent Deposit Scheme	95,000,00
Restriction of Bail Grant	60,000.00
Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant	1,362,765.00
Total	18,259,725.00

Drug Treatment Programmes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what facilities and premises are provided by his Department in Peterborough for the provision of *(a)* treatment and testing and *(b)* rehabilitation of offenders; and if he will make a statement. [48146]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The facilities and premises in Peterborough for the provision of drug treatment, testing and the rehabilitation of offenders are as set out in the following table:

Name of provider	*Address of premises*	*Description of what is delivered at premises*
Cambridgeshire Probation Area	Gloucester House 23a London Road Peterborough Cambridgeshire PE2 8AP	Supervision and testing of offenders on drug treatment and testing orders (DTTOs), drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) of the community order and prolific and other priority offenders (PPOs) subject to a drug testing licence condition. Accredited substance misuse programme (Offender Substance Abuse Programme).
Contracted health service staff and independent providers	Gloucester House 23a London Road Peterborough Cambridgeshire PE2 8AP	Drug counselling, psychotherapy and alternative therapies e.g. acupuncture delivered to offenders on DTTOs/DRRs, PPOs and offenders released from prison on licence.
The NENE project (a joint project run by the local Criminal Justice Integrated Team and police force designed to direct offenders into appropriate forms of drug treatment)	96 Bridge Street Peterborough Cambridgeshire PE1 1DY	Drug counselling, psychotherapy and alternative therapies e.g. acupuncture. Testing of offenders subject to restriction on bail (RoB), including offenders on DTTOs/DRRs and those not on statutory orders or licences. Also, some testing of PPOs.
Contracted independent providers	Methodist Church Westgate Peterborough Cambridgeshire	Alternative therapies to offenders on DRRs/DTTOs, PPOs and offenders on licence.
NHS Community Drugs Team	62 Lincoln Road Peterborough Cambridgeshire PE1 2SN	Clinical and medical input i.e. substitute prescribing, detoxification for offenders referred by the NENE project and those who have been sentenced to DTTOs/DRRs.
Bridgegate Drugs Services (a voluntary sector treatment provider)	49-51 Broadway Peterborough Cambridgeshire PE1 1SQ	Alternative therapies, one-to-one counselling and health care/housing advice to offenders on DTTOs/DRRs and those subject to statutory licence conditions.
HMP Peterborough (a private prison run by United Kingdom Detention Service, which opened on 28 March 2005)	Saville Road Westwood Peterborough Cambridgeshire PE3 7PD	Detoxification and maintenance delivered by Prison Healthcare Group. Mandatory drug testing programme and in-house voluntary drug testing. Counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare services (CARATs).
Youth Offending Service Drug and Alcohol Resettlement Team (DART)	13-15 Cavell Court Lincoln Road Peterborough PE1 2RJ	Substance misuse assessments, treatment interventions and additional focused support for young people.

Name of provider	Address of premises	Description of what is delivered at premises
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (Young Users Team)	The Cedars 16-18 Aldermans Drive Peterborough PE3 6AR	Tier three treatment to young offenders with joint substance misuse and mental health problems.

Gloucestershire Constabulary (Headquarters)

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what he expects the role of the new headquarters of Gloucestershire Constabulary at Quedgeley to be if the proposed police mergers go ahead. [65518]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 April 2006]:* No decision has been made as yet on the future organisation of the police force areas in the South West region. In any event, the location and role of force headquarters is a matter for the chief officer and police authority concerned.

Hendon Police Training Centre

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the future of the Metropolitan Police Training Centre at Hendon. [73932]

Mr. McNulty: The police training centre at Hendon is a wholly-owned asset of the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) and, as such, determination as to its future is the responsibility of the MPA.

National Firearms Register

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the National Firearms Register to be fully operational and available for the use of all police forces. [74526]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* Live testing of the National Firearms Licensing Management System will begin in two forces on 5 June 2006. If this is successful the system will then be rolled out to all forces by March 2007.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of the National Offender Management Service on jobs in the prison and probation services in Gloucestershire. [74498]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The introduction of the National Offender Management Service will result in changes to working practice for many staff in the prison and probation services, as it includes the implementation of the new offender management model, as well as the introduction of new shared information and offender risk assessment systems. However, it is too early to tell what effect the introduction may have on jobs in the prison and probation services in Gloucestershire. For example, the change from probation boards to probation trusts and the introduction of commissioning are likely to have only a gradual impact at working level and much will be dependent on the response of the range of possible providers under the new commissioning regime.

North Wales Police

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the future of the North Wales Police fraud squad. [74564]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable of the North Wales Police. However, I understand that the force continues to operate a Financial Investigation Unit responsible for investigating fraud and other financial crime.

Operation Artbeat

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the work of Operation Artbeat. [73432]

Mr. McNulty: Under Operation Artbeat, the Metropolitan Police Service is aiming to recruit as special constables individuals with expertise in art, antiques or collectibles to help their fight to combat art crime in London. The operation is at an early stage and interest from employers and staff is currently being assessed.

Operation Reproof

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the value for money obtained for the working hours expended by Devon and Cornwall constabulary in connection with Operation Reproof; and if he will make a statement. [74791]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The hon. Member's question is about an operational police matter that is the responsibility of the chief officer concerned. Ministers have agreed that parliamentary questions on issues that are solely the responsibility of police forces can be passed to the force concerned so that they can respond to the issues raised. I will pass the question to the chief officer of Devon and Cornwall police so that she can respond to the hon. Member directly and I will ensure that a copy of her response is placed in the Library.

Parliamentary Questions

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will provide substantive answers to questions 46163 and 46160 tabled by the

hon. Member for Faversham and Mid Kent on 24 January 2006 for answer on 30 January 2006. [61805]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 28 March 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 363W by my hon. Friend the Member for Wythenshawe and Sale, East (Paul Goggins).

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the earlier answer and put the matter beyond any doubt. The hon. Member asked what penalties may be imposed on sports bodies for non-compliance with the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Companies that hire security firms whose personnel include unlicensed staff are not committing any offence, since the Act places the onus on the individual and the company that provides security services, not on the customer. Where in-house employees are required to be licensed, the employer and individual are both responsible for ensuring this occurs.

Police

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure PC Richard Keel of Shrewsbury receives the proper medical treatment for the injuries he sustained whilst on duty. [57342]

Mr. McNulty: I wrote to the hon. Member on 26 May 2006 about his concerns.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effect he expects the proposed reorganisation of police forces in England and Wales to have on conviction rates. [68613]

Mr. McNulty: The police are just one, albeit very important, part of the criminal justice system. We fully expect the reform of the police service to enhance all aspects of policing, including crime prevention, detection and conviction rates. For example, reform should contribute towards improving the quality of major or specialist investigations undertaken by the police, which will help towards securing successful convictions.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on progress with his proposals to merge the Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland police authorities. [66942]

Mr. McNulty: On 3 March, the then Home Secretary (Charles Clarke) announced his intention to make the necessary changes to allow Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland police areas to merge. The statutory consultation period ends on 2 July.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the merger of constabularies will affect Level 1 and Level 2 crime investigation. [67082]

Mr. McNulty: The development of strategic forces will ensure that they have the necessary capacity, capability and resilience to provide the required standard of level 2 policing whilst preserving and strengthening level 1 policing.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations he expects to be closed if constabularies are merged. [67095]

Mr. McNulty: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief constable, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

The Government are committed to every area in England and Wales benefiting from dedicated, visible, accessible and responsive neighbourhood policing teams by 2008. The new strategic forces will protect neighbourhood policing by reducing diversion of neighbourhood policing resource to deal with major incidents and serious crimes.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the public he estimates to be in favour of the merger of constabularies. [67100]

Mr. McNulty: No estimate has been made of the percentage of the public in favour of the amalgamation of police force areas. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has given notice of his intention to make the changes necessary to allow certain police force areas to merge and will consider any objections raised by the relevant police authorities and local authorities.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has commissioned on the *(a)* cost and *(b)* effectiveness of federations of police forces; and if he will make a statement. [47792]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 February 2006]:* The Home Office commissioned work to assess the cost of proposals for restructuring submitted by forces and authorities, including those for federation, where sufficient cost data was provided.

Further details on these assessments are available at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/police-reform/Force-restructuring

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the representations he has received *(a)* in support of and *(b)* against the proposed merger of Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland police forces. [72458]

Mr. McNulty: In accordance with the provisions of sections 32 and 33 of the Police Act 1996, on 3 March 2006 the former Home Secretary (Charles Clarke) gave notice to police authorities, police forces and local authorities in the North East areas that he proposed to make an order amalgamating the Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police areas with effect from 1 April 2007. This initiated a four months consultation period concluding on 2 July 2006. To date we have received one letter from Blyth Valley borough council in support of merger and none objecting to merger.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations his Department received from Suffolk *(a)* for and *(b)* against the proposed merger of police forces in the East of England. [72535]

Mr. McNulty: The then Home Secretary (Charles Clarke) announced his intention to make the necessary changes to allow Suffolk Constabulary to merge with Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Constabularies on 11 April 2006. The statutory consultation period ends on 11 August 2006. To date, we have not received any representations from Suffolk Police Authority, the Chief Constable of Suffolk Constabulary or local authorities in the Suffolk Police Authority area.

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will make a statement on the policy of HM Prison Service on the transfer of *(a)* senior operational managers and *(b)* staff who are subject to investigation processes to other establishments and units; [74006]

(2) how many senior operational managers in HM Prison Service have been transferred to other establishments and units whilst under investigation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [74007]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All senior operational managers are mobile staff and under the terms of their employment are liable to be transferred to any Civil Service post, in the UK or abroad.

It is not Prison Service policy to routinely transfer members of staff who are subject to investigation, though in some cases it is not appropriate for a member of staff to remain at their usual place of work while an investigation into serious misconduct takes place. In such cases, a decision is first made as to whether detached duty to another location is appropriate before considering the suspension of a member of staff.

If the member of staff under investigation is a mobile grade they can be transferred to any Civil Service post on a period of detached duty. If the member of staff under investigation is non-mobile they can be placed on detached duty to a post within reasonable daily travelling distance of their home.

As to the number of senior operational managers transferred in these circumstances, comprehensive information is not collated centrally in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff at HMP Brixton are under disciplinary investigation. [74008]

Mr. Sutcliffe: 11 staff at Brixton are under disciplinary investigation at present.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of non-operational grade staff employed at each HM Prison establishment in the London area receive the RHS allowance; and if he will make a statement. [74017]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is assumed the hon. Member is referring to Required Hours Addition (RHA). The information requested is shown in the following table:

Proportion of non-operational grade staff employed at each prison in the London area receiving the Required Hours Addition (RHA)

Prison	*Number of non-operational managers E to G*	*Non-operational managers (E to G) in receipt of RHA*
Belmarsh	7	1
Brixton	7	—
Feltham	5	3
Holloway	15	2
Latchmere House	1	1
Pentonville	5	1
Wandsworth	16	6
Wormwood Scrubs	7	2

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the circumstances in which the director of operations in HM Prison Service is required to approve managed moves at senior operational level. [74018]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service holds weekly succession planning committee meetings chaired by the Deputy Director General where the movements of senior operational managers are approved. The Director of Operations is a member of this committee.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the grade is of the Prison Service staff adviser to the Minister with responsibility for prisons. [74020]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The role of the Prison Service staff adviser to the Minister with responsibility for prisons does not have a specific grade associated with it. The post is filled by the most suitable candidate available at the time, and is not restricted to those with a certain grade.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the results of the most recent staff survey carried out in the Prison Service. [74024]

Mr. Sutcliffe: 71 per cent. of staff who responded to the 2005 Prison Service staff survey were satisfied with their job and 66 per cent. were proud to work for the Prison Service. Respondents were also positive about a range of aspects associated with working in prisons, line management, relationships with other staff and with prisoners, and training/development. They were least satisfied with the senior management teams, communication and facilities. The results have been discussed by the Prison Service Management Board and disseminated internally. Local plans are being drawn up to take follow-up action.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the chief executive of the Equal Opportunities Commission concerning the effectiveness of HM Prison Service in deterring and preventing sexual harassment within the workplace. [74034]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There has not been recent discussion between my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Equal Opportunities Commission chief executive on this matter.

Prisoners (Gender Realignment)

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost of prisoners undergoing gender re-alignment procedures in each prison establishment for each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [74028]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is not collected centrally on the number of prisoners in London prisons undergoing gender reassignment. No estimate has been made on the cost of these procedures in prisons nationally.

It is the aim of this Government that prisoners should have access to health care that is broadly comparable to that enjoyed by the rest of the community. Gender dysphoria is a recognised medical condition. Therefore, if medical treatment for it is recommended by a national health service gender dysphoria specialist for a person in prison custody, such treatment, up to and including gender reassignment surgery, should be allowed to proceed. We are currently preparing guidelines on the management, treatment and care of prisoners with gender dysphoria.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what national guidance is available concerning gender re-alignment treatment within HM prison service; and if he will make a statement; [74029]

(2) how many prisoners detained within London prison establishments are undergoing gender re-alignment procedures. [74027]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is not collected centrally on the numbers of prisoners in London prisons undergoing gender reassignment.

It is the aim of this Government that prisoners should have access to health care that is broadly comparable to that enjoyed by the rest of the community. Gender dysphoria is a recognised medical condition. Therefore, if medical treatment for it is recommended by a national health service gender dysphoria specialist for a person in prison custody, such treatment, up to and including gender reassignment surgery, should be allowed to proceed.

We are currently preparing guidelines on the management, treatment and care of prisoners with gender dysphoria.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what national guidance is available concerning the use of strip search procedures for those prisoners undergoing gender re-alignment treatment within HM prison service establishments; and if he will make a statement. [74030]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The prison service national security framework document contains policy and guidelines concerning strip-searches, now termed full searches, of prisoners. This includes specific policy and guidelines for full searches of prisoners who are undergoing gender reassignment.

Prisoners' Compensation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1050W, on prisoners' compensation, how many people were compensated under each category; for which crime each had been convicted; how many were compensated under the Human Rights Act 1998; and if he will publish the data for the years prior to 2004 with an explanation of why it is unreliable. [73272]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table details the number of prisoners compensated under each category recorded during the last two financial years. Before 2004-05 litigation statistics were not collated centrally and therefore reliable figures are not available. It would be inappropriate to publish inaccurate figures. To determine the crimes committed by each claimant or whether they were compensated under the Human Rights Act, would involve disproportionate costs.

Prisoners in England and Wales compensated by category during the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06

Number

	2004-05		2005-06	
Type of prisoner claim	*Claims settled*	*Awards made by courts*	*Claims settled*	*Awards made by courts*
Abuse/Harassment	1	0	2	0
Assault by Prisoner	12	0	3	0
Assault by Staff	12	0	3	0

Prisoners in England and Wales compensated by category during the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Number

Type of prisoner claim	*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
	Claims settled	*Awards made by courts*	*Claims settled*	*Awards made by courts*
Slip, Trip and Fall	29	1	26	1
Sport Injury	0	0	2	0
Miscellaneous Injury	31	2	30	0
Medical Negligence	7	1	10	0
Property	23	3	47	7
Unlawful Detention	31	0	41	0
Other	6	0	12	1
Total	152	7	176	9

Prisons

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the open prisons in England which have been in operation since 1997; what the *(a)* prisoner capacity and *(b)* prisoner numbers were for each in each year of operation; and if he will make a statement. [73473]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 May 2006]*: Information on the prisoner capacity and prisoner numbers in each Open Prison and Open Young Offender Institution in England since 1997 is contained in the following tables from the Prison Service IT System.

Open Prisons and Young Offender Institutions in England[1] since 1997

	1997[2]		*1998[2]*		*1999[2]*	
	CNA[3]	*Total occupation*	*CNA[3]*	*Total occupation*	*CNA[3]*	*Total occupation*
Open prisons Male						
Ford	486	485	462	440	482	345
Spring Hill	210	209	256	250	256	247
Hatfield[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hewell Grange	203	202	203	191	203	166
Hollesley Bay	241	221	181	174	189	113
Kirkham	702	699	702	684	702	449
Leyhill	410	419	410	393	410	375
Moorland Open[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morton Hall	192	189	208	205	208	199
North Sea Camp	213	209	213	208	197	199
Standford Hill	384	375	384	371	384	360
Sudbury	511	504	511	493	511	499
Wealston Open	300	299	300	296	300	286
Open prisons Female						
Askham Grange	130	131	330	126	130	113
Drake Hall	234	253	234	258	249	197
East Sutton Park	88	92	88	93	88	95
Open Young Offender Institutions Male						
Colchester	32	37	—	—	—	—
Hatfield[4]	180	179	180	152	180	113
Hollesley Bay	—	—	—	—	60	23
Moorland Open[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn Cross	256	219	256	184	256	184
Open Young Offender Institutions Female						
Drake Hall	47	28	47	17	46	12
East Sutton Park	6	3	—	—	6	1

	2000[1]		2001[1]		2002[1]	
	CNA[2]	Total occupation	CNA[2]	Total occupation	CNA[2]	Total occupation
Open prisons Male						
Ford	501	375	501	339	533	529
Spring Hill	256	247	256	235	256	250
Hatfield[4]	60	—	60	57	60	59
Hewell Grange	191	182	187	170	187	187
Hollesley Bay	125	117	125	102	203	181
Kirkham	606	499	577	452	561	528
Leyhill	410	380	410	383	424	425
Moorland Open[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morton Hall	208	198	—	—	—	—
North Sea Camp	208	207	208	177	307	245
Standford Hill	384	281	384	328	384	373
Sudbury	511	502	511	498	511	507
Wealston Open	300	283	300	284	300	294
Open prisons Female						
Askham Grange	132	113	132	128	141	135
Drake Hall	249	147	—	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	88	65	88	84	88	90
Open Young Offender Institutions Male						
Colchester	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hatfield[4]	120	115	120	116	120	111
Hollesley Bay	60	40	60	52	45	36
Moorland Open[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn Cross	256	181	256	166	256	166
Open Young Offender Institutions Female						
Drake Hall	46	15	—	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	6	5	6	5	6	5

	2003[1]		2004[1]		2005[1]	
	CNA[2]	Total occupation	CNA[2]	Total occupation	CNA[2]	Total occupation
Open prisons Male						
Ford	541	524	541	515	541	518
Spring Hill	336	321	336	295	314	301
Hatfield[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hewell Grange	175	172	175	164	176	170
Hollesley Bay	289	259	290	252	290	274
Kirkham	551	523	588	530	588	549
Leyhill	512	500	512	496	508	484
Moorland Open[4]	140	136	200	183	200	177
Morton Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Sea Camp	307	292	307	284	306	290
Standford Hill	464	447	464	445	464	450
Sudbury	551	516	551	550	563	525
Wealston Open	331	362	330	297	330	270
Open prisons Female						
Askham Grange	141	122	151	130	129	87
Drake Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	88	96	88	91	88	94

	2003[1]		2004[1]		2005[1]	
	CNA[2]	Total occupation	CNA[2]	Total occupation	CNA[2]	Total occupation
Open Young Offender Institutions Male						
Colchester	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hatfield[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hollesley Bay	40	22	40	16	40	19
Moorland Open[4]	120	113	60	59	60	61
Thorn Cross	256	140	256	199	256	176
Open Young Offender institutions Female						
Drake Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	6	3	6	4	6	2

[1] The table does not include Welsh prisons.
[2] Certified Normal Accommodation, the total number of uncrowded places in the prison.
[3] As at June.
[4] Moorland Open was formerly Hatfield.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which prisons fingerprint prisoners on entry; and if he will make a statement. [74011]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Policy on the taking of fingerprints is set out in the National Security Framework. Every prisoner convicted of a criminal offence, except those committed for the non-payment of a fine, should be fingerprinted upon first reception. Persons held under the Immigration Act 1971 must have their fingerprints taken if required for confirming their identity.

Fingerprinting will be undertaken normally at core local prisons which are: Altcourse, Bedford, Belmarsh, Birmingham, Blakenhurst, Bristol, Brixton, Brockhill, Bronzefield, Bullingdon, Cardiff, Chelmsford, Doncaster, Dorchester, Durham, Eastwood Park, Elmley, Exeter, Forrest Bank, Gloucester, Holloway, Holme House, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Lewes, Lincoln, Liverpool, Low Newton, Manchester, New Hall, Norwich, Nottingham, Pare, Pentonville, Peterborough, Preston, Shrewsbury, Styal, Swansea, Wandsworth, Winchester, Woodhill, Wormwood Scrubs.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the current state of industrial relations at HM Prison Wandsworth; and if he will make a statement. [74019]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Responsibility for the management of industrial relations is the concern of the director general of the Prison Service and the Wandsworth prisoner Governor. I have not made any assessment of the current state of industrial relations at Wandsworth. However, I am advised that there have been a number of industrial relations issues which have or are being addressed through the internal industrial relations disputes mechanism.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the grading of the role of deputy governor at HM Prison Buckley Hall. [74021]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The current grading of the post of Deputy Governor at Buckley Hall prison is operational manager payband E. A manager with a higher grade and payband currently occupies the post but when it next becomes vacant it is expected that the post will be filled at payband E.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the compatibility of the new work profile at HM Prison Wandsworth with that in the service level agreement defined under the performance testing exercise of 2004. [74035]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The governing governor commissioned the current reprofiling exercise at Wandsworth. The terms of reference for the project included maximising time out of cell and purposeful activity, the introduction of evening domestic visits and improved first night arrangements. All of which are in line with the prison's service level agreement.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the implementation of the new work profile at HM Prison Wandsworth; what assessment of staff opinion has been conducted; and what his response is to the consultation. [74036]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A joint Prison Officers' Association (POA)/management working group has produced the new profiles. The process involved wide ranging discussion with all grades of staff involved with the changes. Following acceptance of the profiles by the governor and the verbal endorsement of them by the local POA committee chair, a workplace ballot of POA members has taken place. This ballot has resulted in the profiles being rejected. The governor is taking the matter forward using the Joint Industrial Relations Procedural Agreement process.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many escapes there were from

Leyhill Open Prison in each quarter from 1990 to 1998; what original offences were committed by each person who escaped; and if he will make a statement. [75043]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data on absconds is not available before 1997. Details of the original offences committed by absconders from Leyhill open prison is only available for 1998 in the period asked for. The details are provided in the following table.

Original offences committed by absconders from Leyhill prison in 1998

1998	*Original offence*	*Number*
January-March	Robbery	2
	Grievous bodily harm	1
April-June	Burglary	3
	Robbery	1
	Murder	1
	Taking and driving away	1
	Handling stolen goods	1
July-September	Grievous bodily harm	2
	Theft	1
	Arson	1
	Rape	1
	Handling stolen goods	1
	Sec40	1
October-December	Burglary	2
	Murder	2
	Robbery	1
	Grievous bodily harm	1
	Handling stolen goods	1
Total		24

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to improve the *(a)* management of and *(b)* operational effectiveness of Leyhill Open Prison in relation to the number of prisoner absconds; and if he will make a statement. [73428]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Governor and his team have reduced absconds significantly to 66 in 2005-06 compared with 102 in 2004-05.

Leyhill has improved allocation checks of incoming prisoners, risk assessments are continuously carried out and any indication of an increase in risk of abscond is managed vigorously resulting in the return of prisoners to closed conditions if necessary. The local Police Liaison Officer is now a full time post to ensure that police intelligence is appropriately used.

Drug misuse is a significant contributing factor to the number of absconds and the supply of drugs into the prison has been reduced resulting in a 75 per cent. reduction in positive drug tests over the past 6 months. CCTV cameras have been installed and some fire doors alarmed. Intelligence is managed proactively and PIN phones identify prisoners with an increased risk of absconding.

Probation Service

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the ratio of offenders to probation officers has been in each of the last five years, broken down by probation service area. [74739]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested on the ratio of offenders to probation officers from 2000 to 2004, broken down by probation service area, is provided in the following tables.

Average court order caseload per officer, at 31 December 2000

Probation area[1]	*Court order caseload per officer*[2]
Avon	17.6
Bedfordshire	14.2
Berkshire	17.8
Cambridgeshire	13.3
Cheshire	18.3
Cornwall	14.2
Cumbria	19.8
Derbyshire	23
Devon	19.2
Dorset	20.3
Durham	21.5
Essex	19.4
Gloucestershire	16.8
Hampshire	20.3
Hereford and Worcester	14.7
Hertfordshire	18.5
Humberside	17.3
Kent	15.7
Lancashire	17.1
Leicestershire	15.8
Lincolnshire	15.1
Greater Manchester	27.2
Merseyside	17.6
Norfolk	14.4
Northamptonshire	13.5
Northumbria	16.1
Nottinghamshire	19.5
Oxford and Buckingham	15.2
Shropshire	12.5
Somerset	14.8
Staffordshire	15.8
Suffolk	12.8
Surrey	18
East Sussex	13.5
West Sussex	13.7
Teesside	30.5
Warwickshire	17.2
West Midlands	18.9
Wiltshire	17.3
North Yorkshire	16.5
South Yorkshire	17.2
West Yorkshire	15.7
Inner London	15.8
NE London	20.4
SE London	11
SW London	11.4
Middlesex	16.3
Dyfed	24.8
Gwent	17.7
North Wales	20.1
Powys	19

Average court order caseload per officer, at 31 December 2000

Probation area[1]	*Court order caseload per officer*[2]
South Glamorgan	15.7
Mid Glamorgan	21
West Glamorgan	14.1

[1] A number of probation areas merged in April 2001. Avon merged with Somerset to become Avon and Somerset; Berkshire and Ox and Bucks became Thames Valley; Cornwall and Devon areas became Devon and Cornwall; Hereford and Worcester and Shropshire became West Mercia; East and West Sussex became Sussex; Dyfed and Powys became Dyfed-Powys; Mid, West and South Glamorgans became South Wales; and Inner, SE, NE, SW London areas and Middlesex became London.
[2] Court orders only are included in offender caseload, not those supervised on licence following release from prison.

Average court order caseload per officer, at 31 December[1, 2]

Probation area	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Avon and Somerset	15.8	7.6	6.3	6.8
Bedfordshire	17.8	12.6	13.6	17.3
Cambridgeshire	17.8	9.6	8.5	9.7
Cheshire	15.9	8.3	7.4	8.4
Cumbria	21.3	14.4	12.6	13.2
Derbyshire	20.6	12.8	10.9	11.2
Devon and Cornwall	19.1	11.0	8.9	8.3
Dorset	24.1	9.5	7.1	7.3
Durham	25.1	9.2	8.2	7.5
Essex	23.6	10.8	9.5	10.4
Gloucestershire	15.5	12.3	10.1	10.1
Greater Manchester	23.7	11.7	10.4	11.5
Hampshire	21.2	13.6	11.1	11.9
Hertfordshire	21.4	14.4	12.4	14.3
Humberside	14.3	9.3	8.0	7.0
Kent	21.9	10.5	8.8	9.2
Lancashire	16.4	10.8	9.2	9.3
Leicestershire	15.9	9.5	8.5	6.8
Lincolnshire	16.2	8.8	9.2	9.6
Merseyside	20.1	12.5	12.2	12.4
Norfolk	15.6	11.6	9.3	9.2
Northamptonshire	21.4	9.8	9.4	9.6
Northumbria	18	9.7	9.1	8.5
North Yorkshire	14.7	10.6	10.0	9.5
Nottinghamshire	20.9	11.9	11.5	10.3
South Yorkshire	19.1	10.3	9.1	8.6
Staffordshire	17.1	11.1	10.4	9.9
Suffolk	13.6	7.5	7.2	7.4
Surrey	19.7	8.0	7.4	6.8
Sussex	16.2	12.7	11.6	10.7
Teesside	44.8	11.6	10.8	10.8
Thames Valley	19	11.2	9.6	9.0
Warwickshire	16.2	12.5	11.1	11.5
West Mercia	16.3	10.1	8.7	8.4
West Midlands	22.8	17.3	15.7	15.0
West Yorkshire	15.5	10.4	9.4	9.9
Wiltshire	21.7	17.8	16.2	12.0
Dyfed-Powys	18.2	12.8	11.2	10.5
Gwent	18.9	14.6	12.0	12.6
North Wales	22.2	11.3	9.6	9.5
South Wales	16.8	14.1	12.8	11.4
London	17.6	12.9	11.0	13.0

[1] The methodology for producing average caseload per officer figures was revised for 2002 data onwards. The court order figures in 2000 and 2001 include Community Rehabilitation Orders, Community Punishment and Rehabilitation Orders, Suspended Sentence Orders and Money Payment Supervision Orders. 2002 onwards additionally includes Community Punishment Orders and Drug Treatment and Testing Orders. The officer figures for 2000 and 2001 include whole-time equivalent of maingrade probation officers and senior practitioners, excluding temporary and trainee, on fieldwork duties. 2002 onwards additionally includes senior probation officers on fieldwork duties, and all probation services' officers. The effect of the revised method is to produce much lower average caseload figures, due to the expanded number of staffing grades included in the calculation.
[2] Court orders only are included in offender caseload, not those supervised on licence following release from prison.

Rape

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many successful prosecutions for rape there have been in *(a)* Dudley, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England in the last 12 months. [73973]

Mr. Coaker: Court statistics for 2005 will be available in Autumn 2006. Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of convictions for rape in 2004 in *(a)* Dudley is 0, in *(b)* West Midlands is 58, and in *(c)* England is 707.

Rehabilitation of Offenders

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have gained employment having completed a *(a)* custodial sentence and *(b)* community service sentence in the last five years. [74740]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

(a) Information on the numbers of prisoners leaving custody and entering employment, training or education is only available for the last four years, and is given in the table.

Outcomes for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 include those who attended FRESHSTART appointments at Jobcentre Plus, whereby prisoners who do not have a job or training place to go to on release are linked into employment, training and benefits advice and support immediately after release. Employment, training and education (ETE) outcomes for prisoners released before April 2005 can be separated only at disproportionate cost.

(b) Information on the numbers of offenders under the supervision of the National Probation Service (NFS) entering employment was not centrally collected prior to April 2005. In 2005-06 8,978 offenders under the supervision of the NPS gained employment or vocational training lasting four weeks or more. Only aggregate figures are available.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Discharges	86,353	87,449	85,685	85,180
ETE outcomes (including FRESHSTART)	21,327	33,946	41,146	42,878
Employment Outcomes	—	—	—	21,833

UK Veto (EU)

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is his Department's policy that the UK should retain a veto in EU police and judicial matters. [69831]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 11 May 2006]:* On 10 May 2006, the European Commission published a Communication entitled "A Citizens' Agenda: Delivering Results for Europe". The Commission indicated that it would present an initiative on the basis of Article 42 of the Treaty on European Union to change decision making arrangements in police and judicial matters.

Under the current EU treaty framework, co-operation on police and judicial matters is agreed by unanimity. That could only change to qualified majority voting if all Member States, including the UK, agree.

At present there is no formal proposal. Police and judicial co-operation include sensitive areas of national responsibility and we would have to consider very carefully the potential risks and benefits and the overall impact of such a move.

Vandalism (Cemeteries)

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of vandalism were recorded in cemeteries in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* the Tees Valley in each year since 1997. [73664]

Mr. McNulty: From the information collected centrally on recorded crime it is not possible to identify incidents of vandalism in cemeteries.

YOI Feltham

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on his policy on juvenile restraint training at HM YOI Feltham. [74032]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The prison service has developed new restraint techniques for use on juveniles that are currently being piloted at Feltham and Cookham Wood young offender institutions. All staff involved in the pilot have been trained in the new techniques. The techniques have been well received by staff and managers at both establishments and all involved are fully supportive of the pilot.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what extent adjudication procedures at HM YOI Feltham are carried out by staff who have not gained accreditation as prison governors; and if he will make a statement. [74033]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are 19 managers at Feltham who have been trained and are qualified to conduct adjudications. Of these, three are non-operational managers.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 7 June 2006

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine TB

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has collated on illegal culling of badgers. [74327]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The Department has not collated any research on the illegal culling of badgers. However, as part of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial, any evidence of suspected unlawful activity against badgers was reported to the police. Further information is available on the Defra website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/culling/p5prog.htm#suspect.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what price difference there is between the Dutch Lelystad tuberculin and the Weybridge VLAs tuberculin. [74329]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* It is not possible to make a meaningful comparison of the costs of materials supplied to Government by Government Agencies and those supplied by commercial operators.

In relation to tuberculin supplies, strict quality and licensing conditions must be adhered to and contracts must follow procurement guidelines, which ensure amongst other things, value for money.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many bovine tuberculosis tests on average are administered to a cow in the course of its lifetime; and what proportion of cows he estimates are never tested in their lifetime. [74435]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The frequency of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) herd testing is determined by EU legislation but this does not establish the frequency of tests on individual cattle. In Great Britain, cattle herds are tested every one, two, three or four years depending on how widespread bTB is in their respective regions; these frequencies are reviewed on an annual basis. The percentage of herds and parishes being tested annually has increased over the last few years; currently, about 25 per cent. of herds are tested annually and another 14 per cent. are tested every two years. In 2005, approximately 43,500 herd tests were carried out on 4.85 million cattle.

An analysis of bTB testing coverage in the GB cattle population has been carried out by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and published in the Proceedings of the Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine 2006[1]. The findings from this preliminary work showed that 71 per cent. to 85 per cent. of the cattle included in the study appeared not to have been bTB tested during their lifetimes. However, it should be noted that the study included cattle which had lived through the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak when bTB testing was severely disrupted.

Many of the animals not being tested do not present a disease control risk. For example, some animals in low risk herds are slaughtered prior to a herd test becoming due. However, we accept that a small percentage of animals missing a bTB test may present a disease risk. Defra is supporting further work in this area.

Recent policy changes should have a positive effect on the percentage of animals being tested during their lifetimes, such as the introduction of zero tolerance for overdue herd tests and pre-movement testing for animals moving out of high risk herds.

In addition to live skin testing of cattle, the bTB surveillance programme is supplemented by statutory inspection of cattle carcases at slaughterhouses by the Meat Hygiene Service.

[1] An analysis of Single Intradermal Comparative Cervical Test (SICCT) coverage in the GB cattle population by A P Mitchell, L E Green, R Clifton-Hadley, J Mawdsley, R Sayers and G F Medley. Proceedings of the Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine 2006 pp 70-86.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish the results of the tests using the Lelystad tuberculin on cattle. [74537]

Mr. Bradshaw: The use of Lelystad tuberculin is being closely monitored by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency. They are providing regular reports to my officials and I will announce any significant findings.

Teacher Training

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Training and Development Agency on ensuring that all teachers have the required skills to provide high quality field courses. [73811]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Both the existing and proposed standards for teachers have been the subject of considerable discussion between the Department and the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA). Both sets of standards require teachers to demonstrate their skills with reference to out of school contexts.

The Department has co-funded a research project with the Countryside Agency and the Field Studies Council into the extent and nature of training in education outside the classroom (including field studies) in initial teacher training provision. We consulted TDA as part of our preparations for the project.

TRANSPORT

Civil Service Secondments

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the arrangements are for paying officials from the Department who are on secondment in the private sector. [73483]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The standard arrangements are for officials to be paid from a centrally held secondment budget, with the Department invoicing the external organisation for recovery of costs.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials from his Department and its predecessor have been seconded to the Confederation for Passenger Transport since 2001. [73484]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* There has been one secondment to the Confederation of Passenger Transport since the Department for Transport was formed in May 2002.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average length of secondment for civil service staff from his Department was in the last 5 years. [73486]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The average length of secondment in the last 5 years has been just over 26 months.

EasyJet

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what investigations his Department has made into the air worthiness of the EasyJet aircraft scheduled to fly from Belfast International to London at 9.25 pm on Saturday 27 May. [75510]

Gillian Merron: The Civil Aviation Authority is responsible for the day-to-day safety oversight of UK-registered aircraft.

The Authority has received no report of any problem with the airworthiness of the relevant aircraft under its Mandatory Occurrence Reporting scheme and has therefore not launched any investigation.

Road Traffic Regulations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the operation of section *(a)* 54 and *(b)* 62 of the Road Traffic (Offenders) Act 1988; what recent representations he has received about the operation of this Act; if he will place in the Library copies of such representations; and if he has any plans to (i) amend and (ii) repeal this Act. [69145]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

I have received no recent representations about this Act, which there are no plans to repeal.

The Government do not however propose to introduce a Graduated Fixed Penalty and Deposit Scheme. This would amend Part III of the Act, in which the sections referred to are located and which deals with the fixed penalty system for motoring offences. The proposals are contained in the Road Safety Bill, currently before Parliament.

The new Scheme would allow for a graduated system of fixed penalties for traffic and roadworthiness offences, so that the level of penalty would vary according to the level of offence severity and number of offences committed. There would also be new arrangements for enforcement examiners of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency to issue fixed penalty notices.

There would also be a provision for the taking of deposits, similar to arrangements in many other EU countries. This would require drivers without satisfactory proof of an address in the UK to make an immediate payment at the roadside at the time the offence is committed. The deposit would be returned if the driver was subsequently found innocent by the Courts.

DEFENCE

Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to sign the production contract for the Hawk Mk128. [74764]

Mr. Ingram: Development of the Hawk 128 aircraft is progressing under a design and development contract. Negotiations are continuing with BAES on a production contract.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what defensive measures military helicopters carry in operational areas. [70239]

Mr. Ingram: Military helicopters are equipped with a variety of defensive measures, appropriate to the level of threat presented by each operation. These may include missile approach warning systems in combination with directional or non-directional infra red counter measure jammers and/or mixtures of dispensable counter measures. It would not be appropriate to identify the specific measures employed currently in operational areas as this could prejudice the security of the UK's armed forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been since 2003 of *(a)* purchasing and *(b)* refurbishing Puma helicopters from South Africa. [75079]

Mr. Ingram: Since 2003 spending on the Puma helicopters from South Africa has been as follows:

(a) Purchase costs: £0

(b) Refurbishing costs: £14.67 million

Armed Forces (Foreign Citizens)

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision is made for citizens of overseas countries serving in HM armed forces to renew in the UK their visas or leave to remain rather than being required to return to their country of origin to do so; and if he will make a statement. [72548]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

This question has been passed to me as the Minister responsible for Immigration. Foreign and Commonwealth citizens serving in Her Majesty's forces do not require leave to enter or leave to remain in the United Kingdom. Upon enlistment in Her Majesty's forces, foreign and Commonwealth nationals become exempt from immigration control by virtue of section 8(4) of the Immigration Act 1971. This exemption from immigration control applies throughout their service and only ceases upon their discharge from Her Majesty's forces.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget for the Atomic Weapons Establishment was in each of the last 20 years. [74425]

Des Browne: The following table represents annual expenditure at the Atomic Weapons Establishment during the period of contractorisation (that is, from 1 April 1993 onwards). Costs prior to 1993 were not collected on the same basis and the detail of these, which would be necessary in order to analyse the financial data and establish verifiable comparisons, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Atomic Weapons Establishment annual expenditure (as at 31 March 2006, 2005-06 prices)

	£ million
1993-94	299
1994-95	383
1995-96	387
1996-97	340
1997-98	367
1998-99	336
1999-2000	331
2000-01	311
2001-02	291
2002-03	278
2003-04	300
2004-05	363
2005-06 (Provisional)	493

Body Armour

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who the manufacturer is of body armour used by UK forces in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [74969]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence has contracts with the following companies for the supply of body armour components used by the UK forces in Iraq and Afghanistan: NP Aerospace Limited, Seyntex NV, Aegis Engineering Limited and CQC Limited.

Defence Sector Employment

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many defence sector jobs there were in Dunfermline and West Fife in each year since 1997. [73478]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* The information is not held in the format requested. Information on Civilian staff is only held for Scotland as a whole and is given in Table 1. Data on military staff are broken down by local authority area, hence data are held for Fife but not specifically for Dunfermline and West Fife. The data available are provided in Table 2. Data for those employed in Defence-related industries are provided by the employers themselves.

Table 1: Civilian staff in Scotland by year

	Number of staff
1997	10,130
1998	9,980
1999	9,690
2000	9,650
2001	9,650
2002	8,830
2003	7,300
2004	7,310
2005	6,970
2006	6,930

Notes:
Includes manually paid staff between 1999 and 2001. Data on manually paid staff before 1999 are not available, so estimates have been used. Civilian data are compiled from the various civilian personnel record systems in the MoD, principally those held by the Pay and Personnel Agency (PPA) and the Trading Funds. Differences in the way the personnel in different areas are managed and graded means that not all the data are fully consistent.

Table 2: Military staff posted in Fife by year

	Number of staff
1997	1,460
1998	1,610
1999	1,800
2000	1,730
2001	1,470
2002	1,380
2004	2,470
2005	2,030
2006	2,140

Notes:
Figures are for UK Regular Forces, both Trained and Untrained, located in the UK. They therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. Naval Service personnel on sea service are included against the local authority containing the home port of their ship. Naval Service personnel serving in flights at sea are included against the local authority containing the base airfield of their flight. The detailed figures have been compiled from unit statistics related to unit postcodes. For some units postcode information is either unavailable or inappropriate. Location statistics are not available for FTRS, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and Mobilised Reservists. These figures are taken from TSP 10: UK Regular Forces Distribution across the UK which shows the distribution of Service Personnel by Government Office Region/country, county and local authority area. The publication was suspended in October 2002 when a number of concerns were identified in both the source data and the programs used to produce the publication. It was reinstated in July 2004. Due to a different methodology figures before 2002 should not be compared to those after 2004.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made on the assessment of the core load required to sustain

the *(a)* high-end design, *(b)* systems engineering and *(c)* combat systems integration skills for surface ship design and build. [71487]

Mr. Ingram: Good progress is being made on assessing the core workload required to sustain the key maritime industrial capabilities defined in the defence industrial strategy. This work is complex and is taking time to get right. Industry has been and will continue to be involved as this work develops.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made with negotiations to achieve a programme level partnering agreement with a single industrial entity for the full lifecycle of the submarine flotilla. [71488]

Mr. Ingram: Following publication of the Defence Industrial Strategy White Paper, officials have been engaged in detailed discussions with industry on the scope of a possible Programme Level Partnering Agreement. Good progress has been made on clarifying MOD and industry positions. At this stage, no decisions have been made.

Galileo Project

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the capacity of the technology used for the Galileo project to be adapted for military use. [74093]

Mr. Ingram: The MOD remains committed to the American global positioning system (GPS) to meet all of its military precision navigation and timing needs and as the NATO standard. Therefore we have no defence requirement against which to assess any potential national military utility of Galileo. While Galileo's open service, like that of GPS, can be accessed by all and therefore could be used by military forces, Galileo remains a civil system under civil control as was confirmed in the December 2004 EU Transport Council Conclusions.

Iraq/Afghanistan

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the Answer of 19 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2342W, on Iraq/Afghanistan, if he will keep the families of the dead soldiers informed of proceedings; [53078]

(2) when arrests will take place; which Iraqi police divisions will carry out the arrests; and whether British troops will be involved; [53079]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with the central criminal court of Iraq on the incident at Al Majarr Al Kabir on 24 June 2003; who the members are of the central criminal court of Iraq investigating the incident; and which UK personnel will co-ordinate arrests. [53080]

Mr. Ingram: My right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary is keeping the families of the six Royal Military policemen killed at Al Majarr Al Kabir informed of the progress of the criminal case which rests with the Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCCI). The conduct of this case remains under the jurisdiction of the Iraqi authorities. It would be inappropriate to provide further details while the judicial process is in progress. We will continue to provide whatever assistance the CCCI needs.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the threat to British troops in the Helmand province from Taliban forces operating in Quetta, Pakistan. [74853]

Mr. Ingram: I am withholding our detailed assessment of the threat from the Taliban forces as its disclosure could compromise the security of UK and coalition forces operating in Southern Afghanistan.

However, I can say that we do not judge the Taliban as a credible threat to the stability of Afghanistan while international security forces are providing support there. The Pakistan authorities have made extensive efforts to improve the rule of law in border areas and we will continue to work with them to combat the Taliban and other anti-government groups that oppose Afghanistan's peaceful reconstruction.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his oral answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1183, on Iraq, what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of composite fibreglass in protecting the occupants of Land Rovers used by the British military for patrol purposes in Iraq. [74274]

Des Browne *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The overall protection level afforded by the Land Rover Snatch vehicles was assessed in March 2005 as part of a number of ongoing assessments to ensure the suitability of a range of equipment used on current operations. The results of these assessments are being withheld on the basis that disclosure of such information could prejudice the safety of the armed forces.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether British forces in Iraq have encountered the use against them of the RPG29 shoulder-fired weapon. [75257]

Mr. Ingram: No.

Military Headquarter (Collocation)

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress with his plans for collocation of military headquarters. [75077]

Mr. Ingram: All three services are currently merging or collocating their individual administrative and operational headquarters. This is part of the wider drive within MOD to streamline back-office functions so as to maximise investment in our front-line forces. The Royal Navy stood-up its new integrated headquarters on 1 April 2006. The programme was delivered on time and to budget. The Royal Air Force's collocation of the

Strike and Personnel and Training Commands is progressing well: it is expected that the collocation of the main elements will stand-up at RAF High Wycombe on time, in October 2006. The Army's merger of Headquarters Land Command and Headquarters Adjutant General Command to create an integrated HQ at a single site by March 2009 is at an earlier stage of development.

Rifles Regiment (Durham)

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the Durham outstation of the Rifles Regiment. [75280]

Mr. Ingram: The Battalion Headquarters for 5 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (Bn HQ 5 RRF) will remain in Durham for the foreseeable future. There are no plans for the Light Infantry (LI) (RIFLES) presence in Durham to change.

Search and Rescue

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with representatives from the *(a)* sea fishing industry, *(b)* mountain rescue service and *(c)* recreational sea and coastal users organisations in respect of the proposal to operate UK search and rescue services under one private finance initiative contract. [75009]

Mr. Ingram: The mountain rescue service has been kept informed through the Operators Group of the UK Search and Rescue Strategic Committee whose membership includes the Mountain Rescue Council of England and Wales and the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland. Specific discussions have not taken place with the wider public. The Operators Group, including the sea fishing industry and recreational and coastal users organisations, are now able, however, to access information on the progress of the future service through the Maritime and Coastguard Agency website. The Ministry of Defence and the Department for Transport are committed to delivering a future helicopter search and rescue service around the UK which is at least as effective as the current one.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when decisions on *(a)* specific aircraft, *(b)* basing, *(c)* contract duration and *(d)* other residual matters will be taken in respect of the decision to operate UK search and rescue services through one private finance initiative contract. [75010]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency have moved forward to the next stage of the future provision of helicopter search and rescue around the UK through a joint competition under the private finance initiative. The specific aircraft, future basing, contract duration and other residual matters will be fully assessed during this next stage. The final decisions on these issues will be taken in the light of the competition and confirmed through the main investment decision which will take place when matters are sufficiently mature.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how capability to maintain *(a)* real-life training experience for military personnel, *(b)* counter-terrorism measures and *(c)* transference of skills to combat search and rescue (SAR) for military crews will be maintained under the proposed single SAR private finance initiative contract for UK provision. [75011]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence and the Department for Transport have moved forward to the next stage of the future provision of helicopter search and rescue around the UK through a joint competition under the private finance initiative. Military aircrew continue to form part of the strategy for delivery of this future service. Real-life training experience will be provided for military aircrew both through the training they will undergo to fulfil this role and their operational experience. This in turn will continue to meet our policy of transferring skills to the deployable military forces. Counter-terrorism capabilities will also continue and will be provided by equally capable military units in the future.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with other emergency services in respect of proposals to run the search and rescue service under a single private finance initiative contract. [75012]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence and the Department for Transport are committed to delivering a future search and rescue service around the UK which is at least as effective as the current one. Other emergency service providers have been kept informed through the UK Search and Rescue Strategic Committee and its operators' group.

Shoeburyness Site

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the *(a)* detonations and *(b)* explosions that took place at the Shoeburyness site in the last five years were as a result of (i) equipment and (ii) munitions being tested; and what percentage were as a result of munitions being disposed of at the end of their life. [74128]

Mr. Ingram: This information is not held in the format requested. Under the terms of the Long Term Partnering Agreement (LTPA) with MOD, QinetiQ are tasked with the disposal of 3,000 tonnes NEQ of life expired munitions each year. Of this, only three per cent. is disposed of by open detonation.

Theatre Missile Defence

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to decide on the need for theatre missile defences; and what expenditure on research and technology appraisal of such defences has been incurred. [75255]

Des Browne: NATO Heads of State and Government agreed at the Istanbul Summit in June 2004 to the principle of NATO Theatre Missile Defence (TMD) and the Alliance has since embarked on a programme

to acquire a TMD capability to protect deployed forces by 2010. The United Kingdom supports this NATO programme.

UK national expenditure on research into ballistic missile defence is now focussed on longer range threats, and expenditure since 2004 has totalled some £8.1 million. For detailed information on expenditure prior to 2004, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer which my right hon. Friend, the then Secretary of State, gave to the hon. Member for Hereford (Mr. Keetch) on 19 January 2004, *Official Report*, column 918W.

Type 45 Destroyers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 3 May 2006 to Question reference 67921, on Type 45 destroyers, what factors will determine when the appropriate time will be for the giving of formal approval for ships seven and eight. [70759]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 17 May 2006]*: A number of factors will determine when formal approval for ships seven and eight will be sought. These will include reaching agreement on the optimal commercial arrangements for the Type 45 programme and reaching agreement with industry on pricing that enables the Department to demonstrate the value for money and affordability of the ships.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2002). [74657]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 5 June 2006]*: As part of our commitment to UNSCR 1325 the MOD, FCO, and DFID have published a UK national action plan to ensure implementation of the resolution, and encourage others to do likewise. I shall place a copy of the action plan in the Library of the House. The principal requirement on the MOD is to ensure that the provisions of SCR 1325 are reflected in the operational planning, doctrine and training programmes. UK forces already undergo training prior to operational deployments that takes account of gender issues. We will be auditing our training to assess how this compares with the requirements of UNSCR 1325.

TREASURY

Conception Rate

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many conceptions of *(a)* under 18s and *(b)* under 16s there were in each (i) primary care trust area and (ii) local authority area in the North East in each year since 2001; what the conception rate was in each case; and what percentage of conceptions in under 18s ended in abortion in each case. [75208]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 June 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many conceptions in *(a)* under 18s *(b)* under 16s there were in each (i) primary care trust area and (ii) local authority area in the North East in each year since 2001; what the conception rate was in each case; and what percentage of conceptions in under 18s ended in abortion in each case. (75208)

Teenage conception figures by Primary Care Trust (PCT) are not available because there is a risk of disclosure of information about individuals due to differences in boundaries between PCTs and local authorities.

Available figures are estimates of the number of pregnancies that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or termination.

Conception numbers, rates and percentage leading to abortion for girls aged under 18 by local authorities in the North East from 2001 to 2004 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are given in the attached table. Figures for 2004 are provisional.

Conception statistics for girls aged under 16 for each year since 2001 are available only for unitary authorities, metropolitan counties and counties. Figures are not available for county districts as there is a risk of disclosure of information about individuals due to small number of cases each year.

Conceptions to girls aged under 18: number, rate and percentage leading to abortion by area of usual residence, 2001-2004[1]

	2001			2002		
	Number	*Rate*	*Percentage leading to abortion*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Percentage leading to abortion*
	2,393	48	37	2,554	51	39
Darlington UA	94	51	41	94	48	45
Hartlepool UA	120	62	38	110	56	36
Middlesbrough UA	180	54	34	198	60	45
Redcar and Cleveland UA	162	55	33	143	48	44
Stockton-on-Tees UA	150	37	32	172	43	38
Durham County	399	45	33	469	52	35
Chester-le-Street	41	42	37	45	47	49
Derwentside	61	41	26	85	56	15
Durham	49	33	47	60	40	38
Easington	113	62	27	104	58	36

Conceptions to girls aged under 18: number, rate and percentage leading to abortion by area of usual residence, 2001-2004[1]

	2001			2002		
	Number	*Rate*	*Percentage leading to abortion*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Percentage leading to abortion*
Sedgefield	76	47	37	94	56	41
Teesdale	7	18	43	12	28	58
Wear Valley	52	44	27	69	56	30
Northumberland	216	37	50	240	41	39
Alnwick	20	37	55	24	44	33
Berwick-upon-Tweed	21	48	43	10	23	40
Blyth Valley	71	44	44	81	50	40
Castle Morpeth	20	20	60	27	27	48
Tynedale	31	27	65	27	23	48
Wansbeck	53	48	45	71	64	34
Tyne and Wear	1,092	52	38	1,128	54	39
Gateshead	152	42	30	158	44	37
Newcastle upon Tyne	267	58	44	283	60	37
North Tyneside	190	53	35	198	55	44
South Tyneside	168	54	44	169	52	38
Sunderland	295	51	36	320	55	38

	2003			2004[1]		
	Number	*Rate*	*Percentage leading to abortion*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Percentage leading to abortion*
	2,613	52	41	2,511	51	40
Darlington UA	94	49	49	93	48	42
Hartlepool UA	134	69	44	126	64	42
Middlesbrough UA	190	58	35	191	62	38
Redcar and Cleveland UA	143	48	36	173	58	34
Stockton-on-Tees UA	197	51	43	185	49	39
Durham County	458	50	37	444	48	39
Chester-le-Street	21	22	.	41	43	.
Derwentside	82	52	28	77	47	42
Durham	58	40	38	68	47	34
Easington	104	56	39	108	60	44
Sedgefield	110	64	43	76	44	29
Teesdale	14	32	—	11	25	—
Wear Valley	69	56	33	63	51	33
Northumberland	221	38	39	214	37	45
Alnwick	16	28	—	22	38	—
Berwick-upon-Tweed	12	26	—	11	24	—
Blyth Valley	75	49	40	83	54	42
Castle Morpeth	28	29	64	17	19	59
Tynedale	19	16	.	20	18	75
Wansbeck	71	63	35	61	56	43
Tyne and Wear	1,176	56	44	1,085	52	41
Gateshead	175	49	45	159	45	47
Newcastle upon Tyne	268	55	42	282	57	37
North Tyneside	189	52	46	187	51	40

	2003			2004[1]		
	Number	Rate	Percentage leading to abortion	Number	Rate	Percentage leading to abortion
South Tyneside	180	55	51	165	52	45
Sunderland	364	63	41	292	51	40

[1] Conceptions for 2004 are provisional.

Notes:
1. Following ONS guidance on disclosure of abortion statistics, figures for 2003 and 2004 on percentage of conceptions leading to abortions have been suppressed where the count is less than 10 cases. Occasionally it has been necessary to apply a secondary suppression to avoid the possibility of disclosure by differencing.
2. Rates are per 1000 female population aged 15-17.

Conceptions to girls aged under 16: number and rate by area of usual residence, 2001-04[1]

	2001		2002		2003		2004[1]	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
	480	9	460	9	498	10	481	10
Darlington UA	12	6	14	7	16	8	19	10
Hartlepool UA	29	15	16	8	23	12	21	11
Middlesbrough UA	25	8	36	11	47	15	36	12
Redcar and Cleveland UA	32	11	28	9	28	10	54	18
Stockton-on-Tees UA	26	7	42	11	51	13	39	10
Gateshead MCD	32	9	19	5	33	9	26	7
Newcastle upon Tyne MCD	52	11	57	12	46	10	41	9
North Tyneside MCD	33	9	34	9	39	11	32	9
South Tyneside MCD	43	13	28	9	34	11	29	10
Sunderland MCD	66	11	56	10	62	11	51	9
Durham County	77	8	89	10	84	9	93	10
Northumberland	33	6	41	7	35	6	40	7

[1] Conceptions for 2004 are provisional.

Note:
Rates are per 1000 female population aged 13-15.

Departmental Annual Reports

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75089]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

Staff not achieving an acceptable performance mark

	Number	Percentage
2005-06	0	0
2004-05	0	0
2003-04	[1]—	[1]—

[1] As there have been less than five cases in 2003-04 this information is suppressed on grounds of confidentiality.

HM Treasury no longer has an unsatisfactory mark category for annual performance. Any member of staff whose performance is at an unsatisfactory level is dealt with under competency or probationary procedures at the time rather than waiting until the end of the appraisal year.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what threshold level of inheritance tax would be required so as to produce the same tax revenue as in 1998, adjusted for inflation. [55226]

Dawn Primarolo: The level of inheritance tax remains unchanged since 1998, indeed since 1988.

Manufacturing Job Losses

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs have been lost in manufacturing in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland since the second quarter of 1997. [74808]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 June 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about job losses in manufacturing in the UK and Scotland since the second quarter of 1997 (74808)

While statistics of jobs lost or created are not available explicitly, statistics from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes in the number of jobs from year to year.

Comparative statistics for UK and Scotland for manufacturing are only available in terms of employee jobs, i.e. excluding the self-employed, and on a non seasonally adjusted basis. These are shown in the following table, using figures for June each year so that the comparison is not affected by seasonal influences.

Employee jobs and change in jobs in manufacturing in UK and Scotland between June 1997 and June 2005

	Thousands, not seasonally adjusted	
June	United Kingdom	Scotland
1997	4,176	342
2005	3,131	234
Change since 1997	-1,045	-108

As these results are mainly based on sample surveys, they are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to answer questions *(a)* 24586, *(b)* 46531, *(c)* 62787, *(d)* 62788, *(e)* 63040, *(f)* 63044 and *(g)* 63323, on tax credits, tabled by the hon. Member for Yeovil. [74824]

Dawn Primarolo: I answered question 63044 on 5 June 2006 and question 24586 as long ago as 10 January 2006. The other questions to which the hon. Gentleman refers are among 84 of the 535 questions he has tabled to the Chancellor in the present session which it has not yet been possible to answer.

75 of these unanswered questions were received yesterday and today alone. Determining precisely what information the hon. Member is seeking, whether it differs from or simply duplicates information which has already been provided to him (often on more than one occasion) and ascertaining whether the data concerned are in the process of being assembled in answer to earlier similar questions is a time-consuming task which is seldom capable of being accomplished quickly.

Tax Credits

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of the working tax credit child care element on child care costs; and if he will make a statement. [75178]

Dawn Primarolo: Child care costs are affected by a number of factors, such as the availability of child care provision, local wage levels, or land or rental prices where child care is offered. The child care element of the working tax credit has had a significant impact on the affordability of child care for low to moderate-income families, reducing the proportion of child care costs that they pay. Through the child care element of the working tax credit, working parents receive financial assistance with up to 80 per cent. of the costs of registered and approved child care, up to a maximum of £300 per week (£175 for one child). In April 2006 374,000 families were benefiting from the child care element, and they were receiving an average of £50 per week towards their child care costs.

The Government remain committed to its vision to ensure that all families are able to afford flexible, high quality child care services that are appropriate to their needs.

Vehicle Excise Duty Rates

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people his Department estimated would decide against buying a band G car on the basis of the new vehicle excise duty rate in its costings for the Finance Bill; at what cost; and with what expected effect on carbon emissions; [75180]

(2) how many people his Department estimated would decide in favour of buying a band A car based on the vehicle excise duty exemption in its costings for the Finance Bill; at what cost; and with what expected effect on carbon emissions. [75181]

John Healey: The Chancellor considers all relevant economic, social and environmental factors in deciding taxation policy.

The reforms to vehicle excise duty to strengthen environmental incentives announced in the Budget are expected to cost the Exchequer £10 million over six years. Graduated vehicle excise duty is designed to give a clear signal to motorists to consider environmental impacts when making their vehicle purchasing choice and to the motor industry about the direction of policy on vehicle emissions.

WALES

English Hospitals

8. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent meetings he has had regarding the treatment of Welsh patients in hospitals in England. [74945]

Nick Ainger: I have regular discussions with the Assembly Minister for Health and Social Services on a range of matters, including the provision of services for Welsh patients in hospitals in England.

Respect Agenda

10. **Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on progress with the respect agenda in Wales. [74947]

Mr. Hain: Through the respect action plan, the Government are building on the progress we have already made against antisocial behaviour and are now setting out to tackle its root cause.

Police

11. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent meetings he has had on police force restructuring in Wales. [74948]

Mr. Hain: I continue to discuss the proposals with key stakeholders. I remain convinced that a single police force is the most effective way of delivering a safe and secure Wales.

Regional Airports

12. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on the future of regional airports in Wales. [74949]

Nick Ainger: Air services have a vital role to play in the development of an integrated and sustainable transport system for Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government are keen to exploit this potential to improve accessibility, open up new markets and encourage inward investment.

Pensions

13. **John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effect of pensions policy on the people of Wales. [74950]

Mr. Hain: Regular ones.

The Pensions White Paper shows that under our Government's policies, Welsh pensioners can be ensured of proper pension provision in an ageing society.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will estimate the pension liability of his Department over the next 30 years. [75232]

Mr. Hain: Staff serving in the Wales Office are either on loan from the National Assembly for Wales or employed by the Department for Constitutional Affairs. Pension liabilities are managed by their employing bodies rather than by the Wales Office. Information on pension liabilities is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Dentistry

14. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he last met the Health Minister of the Welsh Assembly to discuss NHS dentistry in Wales. [74951]

Nick Ainger: I regularly meet the Assembly Minister for Health and Social Services to discuss dental services in Wales.

Agriculture

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with Ministers of the Welsh Assembly Government on agriculture in Wales. [74946]

Nick Ainger: I have regular bilateral meetings with Carwyn Jones, Welsh Assembly Minister with responsibility for agriculture. The last of these was on 10 May, and our next planned meeting will be on 17 July.

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his Department's press office. [74360]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has a small number of staff. For privacy reasons the numbers are confidential, in line with guidance issued by the Cabinet Office, which states that Departments are not required to provide information on ethnicity, which is given voluntarily, where it is less than five.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75087]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has a small number of staff. For privacy reasons these numbers are confidential, in line with guidance issued by the Cabinet Office, which states that Departments are not required to provide this information where it is less than five.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by his Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature of the charges brought against them were. [73967]

Mr. Hain: None.

Public Transport (Incentives)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what incentives are available to encourage members of his staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75086]

Mr. Hain: The majority of Wales Office staff (around 75 per cent.) already use public transport to travel to or from work. Staff are able to access interest-free loans for the purchase of rail season tickets or bicycles.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Cabinet Reshuffle

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when each department of the House was notified by each Government Department of *(a)* the contact details of the private office of and *(b)* the responsibilities of each Minister following the recent Cabinet reshuffle. [73879]

Nick Harvey: The Department of the Official Report received some information by fax direct from No. 10 Downing street the day following the recent Cabinet reshuffle. Departments of the House monitored details on the No. 10 Downing street website, departmental websites and press reports during the period after the reshuffle to establish the facts on those aspects of the reshuffle which directly affected their business.

Clothes/Uniform Allowance

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission which officers of the House qualify for an *(a)* clothes and *(b)* uniform allowance; what the allowance is in each case; and if he will make a statement. [73851]

Nick Harvey: There is no specific clothing or uniform allowance for Clerks at the Table or Serjeants at Arms. The costs of their uniforms are met from the Administration Estimate. They are responsible for cleaning costs. The Secretary and the Assistant Secretary to the Speaker also have the costs of their official clothing met from the Administration Estimate. The Assistant Secretary to the Speaker also receives a uniform allowance of £654 per annum to cover cleaning and maintenance costs.

Energy Usage

Mr. Davey: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what proportion of energy usage on the House of Commons estate was provided by renewable energy in the last year for which figures are available. [75599]

Nick Harvey: At present, the purchase contract for the supply of electricity to the Parliamentary Estate stipulates that 10 per cent. of the electricity must come from a renewable source. Working from this figure, the proportion of total energy usage on the House of Commons estate provided by renewable energy was 4.9 per cent. During 2005-06.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by the House with outside suppliers over the last five years. [71766]

Nick Harvey: The information is not readily available in the form requested. The House has entered into a variety of IT-related contracts in recent years, some of which have been for hardware and software and others for project development or delivery. In few cases have the estimated and outturn costs related solely to a particular contract. Many of the contracts are in relation to continuing work.

The following table lists the five largest external suppliers by value for ICT-related goods and services in 2005-06.

Supplier	*Service*	*Expenditure (£000)*
Morse Group[1]	Systems development and support services	1,783
Insight Management and Systems Consultants Ltd.[2]	Systems development and support services	1,224
Colt	Telephony	748
Eurica	Telephony	693
Microsoft	Software	453

[1] In support of the Parliamentary Information Management System (PIMS) and the Web Development Project.
[2] In support of the new House Administration Information System (HAIS).

Apart from the contract with Insight Management and Systems Consultants Ltd., all these contracts are shared between the two Houses. The figures provided represent the Commons share of the costs incurred. These figures relate only to costs incurred under the Administration Estimate, for which the Commission is ultimately responsible, and not for costs borne on the Members' Estimate, such as IT services for Members.

Official Report

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the average daily cost is of providing a hard copy version of the *Official Report*. [74543]

Nick Harvey: Neither the daily costs nor the per copy costs of producing the *Official Report* are held in the form requested, as the printing and publishing contract structure allows for payments in relation to printing consolidated classes of papers supplied complete. Internal staff, and other costs, are not associated with them or apportioned to individual documents. The following figures have been derived from printing contract data. The total printing expenditure per sitting day on the daily part of the *Official Report* for financial year 2005-06 is estimated at approximately £11,300, which equates to about £9.10 per copy taken by the House.

Postage Costs

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1315W, what estimate the Commission has made of the level of wastage of prepaid envelopes. [74325]

Nick Harvey: Wasted prepaid envelopes are sent to the Postmaster who ensures the House is credited with a full postage refund for each envelope. In 2005-06 the House was refunded £1,553.84 for wasted prepaid envelopes. No estimate has been made of the value of unused prepaid envelopes which are not recovered.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate he has made of the potential savings which would result from stamping hon. Members mail using a franking machine as opposed to using prepaid envelopes. [74391]

Nick Harvey: The small postage saving gained by using franked mail as opposed to prepaid envelopes would be negated by additional costs to provide upgraded franking equipment and staff to weigh and frank each item of mail.

Publications

Mr. Gray: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what assessment the Commission has made of the merits of using *(a)* recycled and *(b)* environmentally-friendly paper in House of Commons publications. [74145]

Nick Harvey: The archival requirement of the paper used for House of Commons publications precludes the use of recycled consumer waste material in its production. The specialist paper used in their production is made from imported pulp from managed forests where trees (often two) are planted for every one used. Some mill broke recycled element is included. The paper is chlorine and acid free. The paper merchant holds an ISO 14001 certificate of registration for its environmental management system.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what account she takes of wage inflation in the BBC when negotiating the level of the licence fee. [75508]

Mr. Woodward: The Government are currently conducting a funding review to determine the level of the licence fee to apply from April 2007. All relevant factors will be considered as part of the review.

Casinos

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many citizens of Milton Keynes were consulted on the bid for a large or small casino for Milton Keynes. [75400]

Mr. Caborn: The responsibility for consulting local residents on whether an area should bid for a large or small casino rests with the local authority concerned. Details of all local authority bids are available on the Casino Advisory Panel's website at www.culture.gov.uk/cap.

On 24 May, the Casino Advisory Panel announced the areas that have been short listed for the 17 new casinos permitted under the Gambling Act 2005. In making the announcement, the panel made it clear that it would accept, until 28 June, representations on the shortlists from interested parties. Members of the public can express their opinions to the panel on the broad locations of casinos, whether of opposition or support.

Internet Service Providers

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance her Department has issued to internet service providers on their responsibilities for illegal traffic hosted on their networks. [72675]

Mr. Woodward: None. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him by the Minister for Industry and the Regions my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge) on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 226W.

Tourism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists to the United Kingdom there were in each quarter since 1976, broken down by *(a)* country of origin, *(b)* age group and *(c)* duration of stay. [75651]

Mr. Woodward: The detailed information requested is too large to be printed in the *Official Report*. I am therefore arranging for the tabulation to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The information, which comes from the International Passenger Survey and is published by the Office for National Statistics, refers to inbound tourist visits rather than tourists.

Figures for parts *(b)* and *(c)* of the question are provided from 1993 to 2005 only because earlier data are not available in electronic format and there would be disproportionate cost in obtaining this information.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Blind/Partially Sighted Schoolchildren

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school children in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* the Tees Valley are blind or partially sighted. [73655]

Mr. Dhanda: The available information is given in the following table.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1, 2]: number and percentage of pupils whose primary need is visual impairment[3, 4] as at January 2006[5]

	Pupils whose primary need is visual impairment							
	Primary		Secondary		Special		Total	
	Number	Percentage[6]	Number	Percentage[6]	Number	Percentage[6]	Number	Percentage[6]
England	3,750	1.3	3,070	1.4	940	1.1	7,760	1.3
North East	160	3.4	140	3.8	10	0.9	320	3.1
Tees Valley[7]	40	0.3	30	0.2	0	0.0	70	0.2

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[4] Pupils at School Action Plus and those with a statement of SEN provided information on their type of need. Figures for those pupils whose primary need was reported as being visual impairment are given here.
[5] Provisional.
[6] Number of pupils with visual impairment expressed as a percentage of all pupils at School Action Plus or with statements of SEN.
[7] Includes Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington Local Authorities.

Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

Source:
Schools' Census

Since 2004, the Department for Education and Skills has collected data on pupils by type of SEN as part of the annual school census. The above table shows pupils with SEN supported at School Action Plus or with a statement of SEN where visual impairment is recorded as their primary need.

There are a range of factors which may affect the data recorded, including:

Local interpretation of definitions

Classification of children with multiple needs

Differences in diagnoses between education and health professionals

Availability of special school provisions in authorities [deleted or clarified]

CAFCASS

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what reasons were given by the relevant trade unions for rejecting the pay offer made to staff at the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service during 2005-06; and if he will make a statement; [74682]

(2) how many vacancies there were in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in the most recent period for which figures are available, broken down by region; [74683]

(3) what plans he has to negotiate a new strategic pay deal with the trade unions in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service. [74684]

Mr. Dhanda: These are matters for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the chief executive, has written to my hon. Friend with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated June 2006:

Parliamentary Questions Concerning CAFCASS

I am writing to you in response to the three parliamentary questions that you tabled recently.

PQ74682—what reasons were given by the relevant trade unions for rejecting the pay offer made to staff at the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service during 2005-06; and if he will make a statement

The pay award for 2005/06 was rejected because the initial offer was regarded as too low. Following a short and constructive negotiation, a revised offer was accepted.

PQ74683—how many vacancies there were in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in the most recent period for which figures are available, broken down by region

At the end of March 2006, CAFCASS staff vacancies were equivalent to 65.3 full time posts, broken down as follows:

Family Court Advisors—37.9;

Service Managers—7.5; and

Others—19.9

A regional breakdown is attached. The vacancies represent 3.5% of the workforce. CAFCASS vacancies levels are kept under regular review.

PQ74683—what plans he has to negotiate a new strategic pay deal with the trade unions in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

CAFCASS has agreed a set of principles with the CAFCASS trade unions, to underpin a strategic pay review, and discussions on the review have started. Completion is expected before the end of 2006, with at least partial implementation anticipated from April 2007, depending on the progress made and budgetary considerations at the time.

CAFCASS regional vacancy analysis at 31 March 2006

	Vacancy analysis	Establishment (Full-time equivalent)	Vacancy (Percentage)
East Midlands	5.5	148.32	3.7
Eastern	3.7	130.12	2.8
London	9	210.52	4.3
North East	3.5	122.67	2.9
North West	8	309.58	2.6
South East/High Court	9	110.36	8.2
South West	5.1	165.16	3.1
Southern	5	95.71	5.2

CAFCASS regional vacancy analysis at 31 March 2006

	Vacancy analysis	*Establishment (Full-time equivalent)*	*Vacancy (Percentage)*
West Midlands	6.5	198.14	3.3
Yorkshire and Humberside	4	260.55	1.5
National Office	6	93.7	6.4
Total	65.3	1844.83	3.5

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will establish an independent body to oversee the work of Children and Family Court Advisory and Support service; and if he will make a statement. [74845]

Mr. Dhanda: There is already considerable independent oversight of CAFCASS' work. It is inspected by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Court Administration, and inspection reports are published. Complaints about CAFCASS in particular cases, which are not resolved by its complaints procedure, can be referred to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman. CAFCASS' annual reports and accounts are audited by the National Audit Office before they are published and laid before Parliament. In addition, CAFCASS has a non-executive board; the chair and 10 members are appointed by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills and 2 members are co-opted to provide particular expertise.

Chess

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will make a statement on the development and encouragement of chess in schools; [75555]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of under 16s who play chess as part of school activities. [75556]

Jim Knight: We are keen to explore innovative ways of raising levels of motivation and achievement among school pupils and have supported the English Chess Federation to develop a handbook for schools in setting up school chess clubs.

We do not collect data on the number of under 16s who play chess as part of school activities. However, we know that a number of schools incorporate chess clubs within their study support (out of school hours learning) provision. Schools and local authorities have access to Government funding for study support and the freedom to decide which activities to offer to best meet local need and demand. By 2010 the Government also wants all schools, as part of their extended schools provision, to provide a varied range of interesting activities, such as chess clubs, before and after school and during the school holidays.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he will reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 4 April, on the home computer initiative. [73895]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry will respond to the hon. Member on this matter.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many staff in his Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [72993]

Mr. Dhanda: The information for calendar years 2004 and 2005 is given in the following table:

Periods of sick leave of less than five days	*Number of staff*
2005	
2	564
3	328
4	173
5 plus	199
Total	1,264
2004	
2	614
3	351
4	197
5 plus	227
Total	1,389

Information for previous years is not held.

The Department is committed to effective attendance management. In support of the recommendations of "Managing Sickness Absence in the Public Sector" it has introduced a number of initiatives to reduce absence levels to seven days per person by 2010. These initiatives have been shared with Cabinet Office to whom my Department provides regular updates on progress. One such initiative is the publication of a comprehensive Attendance Management and Health Guide which brings together the guidance on these issues.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many staff in his Department attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event in London in 2005; and what the total cost to his Department was of their attendance. [72994]

Mr. Dhanda: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will write to the hon. Member with details of the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event. Copies of her letter will be placed in the Library.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions. [72997]

Mr. Dhanda: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) can pay additional contributions to top up their pension either through the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme (CSAVCS), a money purchase arrangement, or by buying added years of service in the PCSPS. As an alternative to membership of the PCSPS recruits from 1 October 2002 have been able to join a stakeholder arrangement, the partnership pension account.

The number and percentage of staff in the Department who are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension as at April 2006 are shown in the following table:

	Number	*Percentage*
CSAVCS	99	2.61
Added years	231	6.08
Partnership	19	0.50

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of his staff in each of the last three years; and at what total cost. [72998]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the percentage of staff in my Department receiving non-pensionable bonuses in each of the last three years, and the total cost.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Percentage of bonuses	26	32	33
Cost (£)	922,000	1,462,000	1,835,000
Percentage of paybill	0.6	0.96	33

Education and Inspections Bill

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the impact of human rights legislation on the drafting of the Education and Inspections Bill. [73951]

Jim Knight: The former Secretary of State signed a certificate under section 19 of the Human Rights Act indicating that the provisions of the Bill are, in her opinion, compliant with the ECHR/HRA Schedule rights.

During consideration of the Bill on Report I indicated that I would respond in writing to the hon. Member for Brent, East regarding the human rights considerations related to confiscation of property. I will publish that letter in the Library.

Education Funding

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the funding was per pupil in *(a)* primary, *(b)* infant, *(c)* junior and *(d)* secondary schools in each (i) London borough and (ii) local education authority in 2005-06. [75454]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not yet available. The Department is due to collect the section 52 outturn data relating to the 2005-06 financial year from August 2006.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many education maintenance allowances are being paid in each local education authority in England; what percentage of the relevant age cohort these figures represent; and what estimate he has made of the take-up rate in each area. [75213]

Mr. Dhanda: EMA 2005/06 take-up to April 2006 and is shown in the following table.

	Take-up current year (April 2006)		*Take-up as proportion of age cohort*		*Take-up as proportion of eligible population*	
Local authority	*16-year-olds*	*17-year-olds*	*16-year-olds (percentage)*	*17-year-olds (percentage)*	*16-year-olds (percentage)*	*17-year-olds (percentage)*
Camden	753	687	41	39	86	86
Greenwich	1,154	930	42	33	87	81
Hackney	1,388	1,227	55	47	91	92
Hammersmith and Fulham	596	550	41	37	83	86
Islington	896	696	52	40	99	85
Kensington and Chelsea	389	317	27	26	96	92
Lambeth	1,517	1,241	60	47	99	92
Lewisham	1,326	1,079	46	38	90	82
Southwark	1,380	1,162	51	44	92	90
Tower Hamlets	1,587	1,336	64	53	93	87
Wandsworth	900	689	46	36	96	81

Local authority	Take-up current year (April 2006) 16-year-olds	17-year-olds	Take-up as proportion of age cohort 16-year-olds (percentage)	17-year-olds (percentage)	Take-up as proportion of eligible population 16-year-olds (percentage)	17-year-olds (percentage)
Westminster	564	534	36	34	86	89
Barking and Dagenham	922	697	40	32	97	88
Barnet	1,125	1,009	29	27	89	92
Bexley	849	677	21	22	81	77
Brent	1,441	1,303	46	42	94	92
Bromley	940	715	23	19	78	73
Croydon	1,568	1,213	35	28	94	83
Ealing	1,330	1,266	39	37	87	91
Enfield	1,380	1,142	38	32	89	83
Haringey	1,228	1,156	50	45	88	92
Harrow	924	825	34	27	95	93
Havering	833	623	28	21	82	72
Hillingdon	909	741	28	23	82	79
Hounslow	978	804	39	32	93	84
Kingston upon Thames	390	308	22	18	85	79
Merton	682	526	33	25	91	81
Newham	2,021	1,749	56	49	96	93
Redbridge	1,139	1,045	33	32	80	85
Richmond upon Thames	352	309	20	18	83	82
Sutton	595	482	25	20	83	76
Waltham Forest	1,246	1,037	45	38	84	83
Birmingham	6,330	5,262	44	37	86	83
Coventry	1,569	1,176	38	29	85	73
Dudley	1,402	1,087	34	27	85	76
Sandwell	1,834	1,445	47	37	89	82
Solihull	728	542	25	19	83	74
Walsall	1,374	1,090	39	32	86	77
Wolverhampton	1,508	1,134	45	35	87	76
Knowsley	1,178	891	51	39	92	82
Liverpool	2,839	2,188	48	37	89	77
St. Helens	976	759	41	33	99	84
Sefton	1,602	1,260	39	31	85	79
Wirral	1,749	1,274	40	29	86	71
Bolton	1,433	1,161	37	31	82	79
Bury	812	647	30	24	76	72
Manchester	2,685	2,213	46	39	88	83
Oldham	1,407	1,005	45	32	91	74
Rochdale	1,246	1,036	40	34	81	79
Salford	997	816	35	29	81	80
Stockport	993	897	26	24	75	76
Tameside	1,183	891	38	29	84	73
Trafford	919	805	32	30	82	80
Wigan	1,476	1,125	36	27	85	76
Barnsley	1,008	789	34	28	81	74
Doncaster	1,445	1,075	36	27	86	74
Rotherham	1,191	880	34	26	85	73
Sheffield	2,213	1,742	35	28	81	75
Bradford	2,963	2,256	43	34	90	79
Calderdale	984	720	37	27	83	69
Kirklees	1,883	1,546	34	29	82	77
Leeds	3,154	2,221	33	23	88	73
Wakefield	1,429	1,064	32	24	82	72
Gateshead	971	783	40	32	84	78
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,149	893	35	29	88	77
North Tyneside	905	676	36	27	80	70
South Tyneside	791	632	38	31	84	78
Sunderland	1,645	1,248	43	33	87	76
Bath and NE Somerset	599	440	26	20	82	74

Local authority	Take-up current year (April 2006)		Take-up as proportion of age cohort		Take-up as proportion of eligible population	
	16-year-olds	17-year-olds	16-year-olds (percentage)	17-year-olds (percentage)	16-year-olds (percentage)	17-year-olds (percentage)
Bristol, City of	1,561	1,067	34	24	90	69
North Somerset	725	567	29	23	75	71
South Gloucestershire	821	598	25	18	77	68
Hartlepool	607	429	47	33	87	73
Middlesbrough	920	773	46	39	85	78
Redcar and Cleveland	749	613	39	32	85	81
Stockton-on-Tees	917	756	34	29	82	77
Kingston upon Hull, City of	1,580	1,202	46	35	88	76
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,404	1,127	32	27	80	74
North East Lincolnshire	1,061	813	45	34	89	78
North Lincolnshire	779	619	36	30	80	74
North Yorkshire	2,241	1,670	26	20	85	75
York	637	493	29	23	87	79
Bedfordshire	1,302	1,012	24	19	80	73
Luton	1,227	1,032	47	39	87	81
Buckinghamshire	1,337	1,037	20	16	86	81
Milton Keynes	890	702	30	23	80	75
Derbyshire	3,067	2,374	30	25	81	72
Derby	1,088	718	34	24	87	68
Dorset	1,516	1,160	28	21	79	72
Poole	535	406	30	22	84	74
Bournemouth	624	465	33	26	85	74
Durham	2,408	1,851	38	30	84	73
Darlington	520	360	38	28	87	71
East Sussex	2,079	1,690	31	26	76	72
Brighton and Hove	923	721	34	27	87	77
Hampshire	4,165	3,079	25	19	82	73
Portsmouth	880	707	38	30	87	79
Southampton	946	679	38	27	86	72
Leicestershire	2,347	1,798	28	23	79	72
Leicester	2,182	1,880	58	50	89	86
Rutland	82	62	13	8	78	60
Staffordshire	3,487	2,715	32	25	79	70
Stoke-on-Trent	1,482	1,086	46	34	86	74
Wiltshire	1,568	1,148	26	19	78	69
Swindon	717	580	30	25	78	72
Bracknell Forest	327	201	22	12	102	72
Windsor and Maidenhead	295	254	16	12	78	79
West Berkshire	374	249	18	12	83	64
Reading	439	299	26	18	85	66
Slough	587	420	37	26	96	78
Wokingham	344	272	17	14	85	77
Cambridgeshire	1,769	1,325	25	19	82	72
Peterborough	780	577	36	26	84	73
Cheshire	2,521	1,881	28	21	81	73
Halton	751	566	44	33	85	74
Warrington	748	562	28	22	84	73
Devon	3,370	2,605	36	29	79	71
Plymouth	1,320	986	40	30	77	67
Torbay	782	579	45	34	85	73
Essex	4,800	3,455	27	20	83	70
Southend-on-Sea	620	528	30	27	77	74
Thurrock	563	346	27	18	89	63
Herefordshire	783	594	32	25	76	70
Worcestershire	2,324	1,847	31	25	76	74
Kent	5,519	4,068	29	22	83	72

Local authority	Take-up current year (April 2006)		Take-up as proportion of age cohort		Take-up as proportion of eligible population	
	16-year-olds	17-year-olds	16-year-olds (percentage)	17-year-olds (percentage)	16-year-olds (percentage)	17-year-olds (percentage)
Medway	1,180	897	32	24	79	70
Lancashire	5,374	4,419	33	28	82	78
Blackburn with Darwen	968	824	44	37	87	83
Blackpool	748	534	39	28	88	76
Nottinghamshire	3,330	2,419	32	24	84	70
Nottingham	1,600	1,164	48	35	95	78
Shropshire	1,130	845	28	21	79	70
Telford and Wrekin	777	582	33	24	78	70
Cornwall	3,102	2,542	46	38	79	75
Cumbria	2,034	1,576	32	25	76	69
Gloucestershire	2,121	1,659	27	22	79	74
Hertfordshire	3,217	2,465	23	18	81	74
Isle of Wight	710	618	41	36	72	73
Lincolnshire	3,149	2,374	34	26	79	72
Norfolk	3,484	2,556	34	26	83	70
Northamptonshire	2,477	1,741	27	19	80	68
Northumberland	1,326	1,020	33	26	78	69
Oxfordshire	1,496	1,105	19	14	84	74
Somerset	2,181	1,717	30	23	79	73
Suffolk	2,982	2,248	33	26	80	70
Surrey	2,447	1,916	18	14	83	77
Warwickshire	1,798	1,313	26	19	83	72
West Sussex	2,651	2,057	27	22	81	75
England	220,523	171,980	33	26	84	76

Notes:
1. Take-up figures are the number of learners who have received one or more EMA payments.
2. The eligibility estimates are produced using income distributions (derived from the Family Resources Survey) and expected numbers in full-time further education. When applied to individual localities, the figures may be subject to some variation but they provide a useful estimate. 3. City of London has been omitted because of small population size (see note 2, above). Take-up of EMA in the authority to date is 19 16-year-olds and 42 17-year-olds have received at least one payment.

Free Fruit Scheme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the organisers of free fruit schemes for schools. [75451]

Jim Knight: The Government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme is administered by the Department of Health. The Secretary of State for Education and Skills has not met recently with organisers of free fruit schemes for schools.

Gershon Report

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many civil servants were employed in his Department before the Gershon Report; what net reductions were proposed in the Gershon Report; how many reductions have been made; and how many civil servants are expected to be employed in his Department in the Gershon target month of April 2008. [74291]

Mr. Dhanda: The agreed baseline figure that my Department is using to assess progress against its target to reduce civil service posts in response to the Gershon report is 4,660 and is at 1 October 2003. The baseline of October 2003 reflects the starting point for the Department's restructuring programme.

The Gershon report commits my Department to achieving a total of 1,460 staff reductions by 31 March 2008, which would reduce overall numbers to 3,200 (this has now reduced to 3,142 as a result of Machinery of Government changes which transferred 58 staff to DCA with effect from 1 April 2006).

As at 1 April 2006, my Department had reduced staffing numbers by 1,025 from its baseline figure, to 3,635, and expects to meet its target of 3,142 by 31 March 2008.

Lip Reading (Yorkshire)

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what representations he has received on the reduction of funds enabling lip reading classes at York College; [75034]

(2) what discussions he has had on the provision of sign language and lip reading classes for those with deafness or partial deafness in the Vale of York; [75035]

(3) what alternative provision will be made for those affected by the termination of lip reading classes at York College. [75036]

Bill Rammell: We understand that there no plans to reduce the availability of sign language or lip reading provision in York. The Learning and Skills Council will continue to support sign language courses at York College as these are priority programmes and an integral part of the college's adult provision. Lip reading classes have been run by York city council for a number of years some under a sub-contracting arrangement with York College. York city council have reviewed this arrangement and decided that in future all lip reading courses will be delivered directly through York city council.

We have been clear that provision to support deaf and hard of hearing learners and more generally for all learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities remains a priority and this continues to be the case in York.

Medical School

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many places were allocated in each English university for studying medicine in 2005; and how many of those places were taken by *(a)* students from overseas and *(b)* those educated in the private sector. [72267]

Bill Rammell: The available information is given in the following table. Information on the previous educational establishment of the intakes of medical schools is not held centrally. The planned and actual intakes of UK and overseas students are determined independently. An increase in overseas students does not affect the number of places available for UK students.

Planned and actual intakes of medical schools in England 2005/06

			of which:	
Institution	*Planned intake*	*Actual intake*[1]	*Home and EU*[2]	*Other overseas*[3]
Birmingham	385	432	389	43
Brighton-Sussex	138	136	129	7
Bristol	256	265	248	17
Cambridge	299	301	280	21
East Anglia	141	129	126	3
Hull-York	141	136	135	1
Imperial	330	342	318	24
Keele	130	126	126	0
King's College	415	404	373	31
Leeds	263	254	225	29
Leicester/ Warwick	422	485	449	36
Liverpool	317	343	327	16
Manchester	381	357	332	25
Newcastle/ Durham	352	381	354	27
Nottingham	336	352	316	36
Oxford	186	187	183	4
Peninsula	181	176	174	2
QMW	324	327	300	27

Planned and actual intakes of medical schools in England 2005/06

			of which:	
Institution	*Planned intake*	*Actual intake*[1]	*Home and EU*[2]	*Other overseas*[3]
St. George's	264	297	280	17
Sheffield	241	264	248	16
Southampton	246	253	233	20
UCL	330	351	327	24
Total England	6,078	6,298	5,872	426

[1] Intake figures for 2005/6 are provisional until November 2006.
[2] Home and EU domiciles cannot be separated in the return as both pay the same fees.
[3] Includes students from the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands as they do not pay home fees.
Source:
HEFCE's medicine and dentistry return.

School Milk

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will make a statement on his policy concerning the provision of whole milk for drinking in schools; [74792]

(2) what assessment he has made of the relative nutritional benefits to school children of drinking skimmed milk, semi-skimmed milk and whole milk; and if he will make a statement. [74793]

Jim Knight: Local authorities are not obliged to provide milk, but where they do so they must provide it free of charge to pupils entitled to receive a free school lunch. Local authorities decide whether or not to provide whole milk. They are also free to make use of the EU School Milk Subsidy Scheme, which reduces the cost of whole milk and semi-skimmed milk purchased. The new nutritional standards in schools, announced on 19 May 2006, stipulate that only semi-skimmed and skimmed milk should be made available in schools.

The advice of the School Meals Review Panel and the School Food Trust was that only very young children require full-fat milk as part of their diet; and that once children are at school, semi-skimmed and skimmed versions of milk are entirely adequate. This approach reflects current nutrition advice, which is based on advice from the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (now replaced by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition) who considered this issue in relation to cardiovascular disease. Current advice highlights the important role that milk and dairy products play in children's diets, particularly their contribution to children's calcium intake; and states that school-aged children should have the opportunity to choose lower fat versions of milk as these contain at least the same amount of calcium as whole milk, but less fat.

Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans his Department has to review the 2002 guidelines "Safeguarding Children in whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced"; what discussions he has had with other Government departments about this issue; and if he will make a statement. [75040]

Mr. Dhanda: We have no plans to review the Government's guidance "Safeguarding Children in Whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced (2002)". Consequently, we have not discussed review of the guidance with any other Departments. This guidance was produced jointly by the Department of Health, Home Office, Department for Education and Skills and the Welsh Assembly. It is intended to provide a national framework within which agencies and professionals at local level—individually and jointly—draw up and agree upon their own more detailed ways of working together in cases of fabricated or induced illness. It is addressed to those who work in the health and education services, the police, social services departments, the probation service, and others whose work brings them into contact with children and families.

New Schools

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have been (i) built and (ii) opened in *(A)* Southend-on-Sea and *(B)* England in each year since 1997. [73422]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

NUT Conference

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received following the recent National Union of Teachers conference. [75442]

Jim Knight: The NUT leadership has made no formal representations since their recent conference.

Pastoral Care

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* training his Department and its agencies provide to teachers on dealing with the impact on school children of parental separation and divorce. [75486]

Jim Knight: There is scope in the Personal Social and Health Education framework for schools to explore issues such as parental separation and divorce. Since 2003, we have been providing training for teachers of PSHE through the PSHE certificate for teachers, from which over 5,000 teachers have so far benefited. In addition, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has produced a package of guidance for teachers of PSHE. This package includes units of work which can be used to address issues of divorce and separation.

The DfES-funded Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) curriculum resource for primary schools provides ideas for developing children's ability to deal with loss and separation, sometimes through explicit reference to the separation and divorce of parents, as well as other areas of loss. There is also brief guidance for staff on working with children on these subjects.

Personalised Learning

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what pilot studies involving personal digital assistants and other mobile technology are being conducted to help enhance personalised learning in the education system; and if he will make a statement. [74752]

Phil Hope: The Department is currently supporting an innovative project in Wolverhampton called Learning2Go, involving provision of hand held devices to 1,100 students and their teachers across a range of institutions. This exercise is seeking to understand the impact:

(a) on learner achievement when individual and personal access to a device enables learning to continue beyond the school day;

(b) on individual and family learning when enabling access to school related digital content beyond school hours;

(c) on teacher planning and preparation time in line with the aspiration for saving teacher time.

The Department provided funding to Wolverhampton local authority to enable them to fund the conversion of existing educational software for use on the devices. Becta (British Educational Communications Technology Agency) will be conducting a full and detailed evaluation of the project and we will share what we learn to inform future investment/approaches.

Physical Exercise

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the awareness of children and parents about the importance of regular physical exercise and healthy eating outside the school environment. [71386]

Jim Knight: The Healthy Schools' Programme includes physical activity and healthy eating as compulsory elements that schools will need to address to achieve the National Healthy Schools' Standard. The programme encourages children and parents to adopt a healthy lifestyle within and beyond the school environment. We are aiming for all schools to be working towards 'Healthy School' status by 2009.

The national PE, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) strategy has set an ambitious target to increase the percentage of 5-16 year olds who spend at least two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport, within and beyond the curriculum, to 75 per cent. by 2006, and to raise this to 85 per cent. by 2008. The strategy is also encouraging children and young people to participate in sports clubs.

Food education within the National Curriculum aims to develop healthy eating habits both inside and outside the school environment. Pupils should learn about diet, nutrition, cooking, food hygiene and safety. In addition, the School Food Trust will play a key role in taking forward the Government's programme for improving school food. It will give independent support and advice to schools and parents to improve the standard of school meals and to ensure that the issue of school food remains high on the agenda. We have developed a parents' toolkit "Food in Schools: A

short guide for parents and carers" which encourages parents to take an interest in the food their children are being served at school and supporting what happens at school in the home.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the Private Members' Bills in respect of which his Department adopted a policy of neutrality in each Session since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [72118]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not collected by the Department.

Pupil Numbers

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many pupils are being taught at the temporary school at Oakgrove; how long the temporary school will remain in place; and what estimate he has made of the number of pupils who will be taught there in *(a)* September 2006, *(b)* July 2007 and *(c)* September 2007; [75494]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of pupils who will be taught in *(a)* Bradwell Village, *(b)* Caroline Haslett, *(c)* Green Park, *(d)* Olney Infants, *(e)* Lord Grey, *(f)* The Walnuts, *(g)* White Spire and *(h)* Sir Frank Markham schools in (i) September 2006, (ii) July 2007 and (iii) September 2007. [75495]

Jim Knight: Local authorities are responsible for school place planning and the Secretary of State does not make estimates of pupil numbers. As part of the annual surplus places survey, however, the Department collects local authority area level forecasts of the number of primary and secondary pupils. We do not collect forecasts at school level. The following table shows Milton Keynes estimated pupil numbers at September 2006 and 2007:

	2006	*2007*
Primary	20,064	20,605
Secondary	16,740	16,937
Total	38,810	39,549

Source:
2005 Surplus Places Survey

Runaway Children

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in *(a)* Torbay and *(b)* England have been reported as having run away since 2001. [72021]

Mr. Dhanda: Statistics on the numbers of all children who are reported as having run away or missing are not collected centrally. The Children's Society estimates that each year in the UK 100,000 children run away or are forced to leave home to escape problems.

The Home Office has been working with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the National Missing Persons Helpline to establish joint working arrangements to improve the recording, sharing and exchange of information, to improve the way in which missing persons are dealt with, and to inform our understanding of the problem in order to develop strategies to address it. Part of this work includes establishment of a comprehensive national police database of missing and unidentified people reported either to the police or the helpline.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what information and support is available for teachers and schools on preventing children and young people from running away from home or care; and how that support may be accessed. [72153]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 18 June 2006]*: Schools' core business is teaching and learning, but teachers themselves recognise that to achieve the best results they must supplement their focus on teaching and learning with appropriate additional support, and work with other professional agencies to remove barriers to achievement. The Every Child Matters reforms will help them do this by enabling schools to link in with wider children's services, and access their expertise and experience. This is particularly useful in helping schools respond to the needs of more vulnerable young people, such as those who may run away. In addition, the Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme is improving integrated working at the local level along with enhanced information sharing between children's services leading to earlier identification of young people's needs.

More broadly, there exist opportunities within the current curriculum, under PSHE and Citizenship Frameworks, for schools to explore issues to do with recognising and managing risks (i.e. if you run away, what risks would you face); understanding emotions and strategies for dealing with stress; the importance of family and stable relationships; and knowing where to get help. We are not prescriptive with schools about what issues schools explore to achieve the learning objectives set out within the frameworks, and local need determines local provision.

In addition, DfES has run 6 development projects to test out how best to provide safe, flexible and responsive community-based services that can be easily incorporated into mainstream children's services. When we disseminate the lessons learnt so far from these, later this year, they will include information, materials and support models from work with schools in the pilot areas.

School Statistics

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools in England are (i) community, (ii) voluntary controlled, (iii) voluntary aided, (iv) foundation, (v) city technology college, (vi) academy and (vii) other; and what percentage of children in each category of school *(A)* are in receipt of free school meals, *(B)* have special educational needs and *(C)* are from ethnic minority families. [68538]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 May 2006]*: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies: school meals, special educational needs and ethnicity data, January 2006 (Provisional)[1]: England

	Maintained Primary[2]				
	Community	Voluntary Controlled	Voluntary Aided	Foundation	Total
Number of schools	10,842	2,550	3,747	363	17,502
School meal arrangements[3]					
Number on roll	2,838,570	416,760	787,530	109,120	4,151,970
Number taking free meals	425,570	33,280	84,820	9,900	553,560
Percentage taking free meals	15.0	8.0	10.8	9.1	13.3
Number eligible for free meals	514,670	40,160	100,680	11,680	667,180
Percentage eligible for free meals	18.1	9.6	12.8	10.7	18.1
Pupils with SEN[4]					
Number with statements	46,920	6,020	10,280	1,690	64,910
Percentage with statements[5]	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.6
Number without statements[6]	515,980	64,140	119,550	17,090	718,750
Percentage without statements[5]	18.2	15.4	15.2	15.7	17.3
Ethnic minority pupils[4,7]					
Number	507,090	34,980	130,580	16,180	688,830
Percentage[8]	22.4	10.0	20.3	17.7	20.6

	Maintained Secondary[2]				
	Community	Voluntary Controlled	Voluntary Aided	Foundation	Total
Number of schools	2,164	118	554	530	3,366
School meal arrangements[3]					
Number on roll	2,092,550	118,680	503,990	594,810	3,310,030
Number taking free meals	234,360	6,580	48,380	41,320	328,640
Percentage taking free meals	11.2	5.5	9.2	8.9	9.9
Number eligible for free meals	322,870	9,490	60,340	55,920	448,610
Percentage eligible for free meals	15.4	8.0	12.0	9.4	13.6
Pupils with SEN[4]					
Number with statements	50,340	2,590	9,380	11,620	73,930
Percentage with statements[5]	2.4	2.2	1.9	2.0	2.2
Number without statements[6]	352,650	14,570	62,630	76,810	506,670
Percentage without statements[5]	16.9	12.3	12.4	12.9	15.3
Ethnic minority pupils[4,7]					
Number	337,160	10,140	111,000	97,960	556,260
Percentage[8]	16.1	8.6	22.0	16.5	16.8

	City technology colleges	Academies[1]
Number of schools	11	26
School meal arrangements[3]		
Number on roll	12,480	23,800
Number taking free meals	1,270	6,420
Percentage taking free meals	10.2	27.0
Number eligible for free meals	1,530	7,880
Percentage eligible for free meals	12.3	33.1

	City technology colleges	Academies[1]
Pupils with SEN[4]		
Number with statements	130	710
Percentage with statements[5]	1.0	3.0
Number without statements[6]	1,060	5,800
Percentage without statements[5]	8.5	24.4
Ethnic minority pupils[4,7]		
Number	2,640	9,590
Percentage[8]	21.1	40.4

[1] These figures are based on survey returns from over 99 per cent. of primary and secondary schools. A survey return from one academy is known to be outstanding. No estimation has been made for those survey returns that are outstanding.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Includes dually registered and boarding pupils.
[4] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[5] Number of pupils with/without a statement of special educational needs expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils on roll.
[6] Includes pupils with an SEN status of school action or school action plus.
[7] Pupils of compulsory school age and above are classified according to ethnic group.
[8] Pupils who have been classified according to their ethnic group and are other than White British expressed as a percentage of all pupils of compulsory school age and above.

Notes:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
Source: Annual Schools Census.

Sex Offenders

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what arrangements are in place to ensure that sex offenders who are also pupils or students do not have access in schools or colleges to children under 16 years; and what powers he has in respect of such persons. [73813]

Mr. Dhanda: Cases involving sex offenders who are also pupils or students should be considered individually, in line with guidance in "Working Together to Safeguard Children". There should be a co-ordinated approach, involving youth justice, children's social care, education (including educational psychology) and health (including child and adolescent mental health). An assessment should be carried out in each case to assess the risks to other children and to decide what plan of action should be put in place to address the young person's behaviour and to ensure the safety of others. This might include arrangements for monitoring the child to ensure that he does not have unsupervised access to children under 16 while at school or college or provision of specialist services, including education, not in mainstream settings, which help address the young person's behaviour.

Small Change Big Difference

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department and its agencies have taken following the launch of the Government's "Small Change Big Difference" Campaign. [72007]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has a health and attendance management strategy that draws on the recommendations of the "Choosing health" White Paper, "Health, Work and Well-Being" document and "Small Change Big Difference Campaign (SCBD)". In this context, we have recently delivered a number of initiatives to promote health and well being within the Department. These include:

Health Events on all of our sites to promote "5 a day" where literature on 5 a day was supplied by the Department of Health and this was distributed to staff along with free fruit. These events were well attended with around 50 per cent. of our staff participating;

Free pedometers have been made available to all staff along with literature supplied to us by the British Heart Foundation and Countryside Agency on the benefits of walking. Around half our staff have come forward to claim their pedometer and we plan to distribute more at future health events;

Yearly site health check events where staff are offered health literature, weight assessment, cholesterol tests, lung function and blood pressure tests. Our last events were held in October 2005;

The launch of our new smoking policy, shortly after National No Smoking Day (8/3/2006). This acted as a launch pad to announce that we will close all our smoking rooms, in line with the commitment that we have made to the Health Secretary to make DfES smoke free by the end of 2006. We have offered the services of our occupational health advisers to have initial discussions with staff about giving up smoking and we have distributed smoking cessation literature supplied to us by the Department of Health. We intend to provide focussed smoking cessation support to all staff who require it as we close down our smoking rooms on a phased site by site basis throughout 2006;

We have ensured that our catering contractor, Aramark, provides health options in the staff canteens including reducing salt levels in food, using semi skimmed milk, lowering fat content and vegetarian options;

Our two largest sites (London and Sheffield) have a gym available to all staff and all sites have exercise or well-being classes such as aerobics or yoga with the exception of Darlington (one of our smaller sites) where there was insufficient demand.

As the programme of work on SCBD develops, the Department of Health will be working across all of Government to ensure the programme joins up to promote maximum impact. DoH is leading the implementation for this initiative as part of its cross-Government commitment to deliver the public health White Paper "Choosing Health".

Student Finances

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills where potential students in 2006-07 can obtain a full account of what bursaries are available at each higher education institution. [75248]

Bill Rammell: Students can find out about the bursaries available in the 2006/07 academic year through the UCAS website at http://www.ucas.com/. The website allows students to compare bursaries across subjects and at different institutions.

We are working towards providing students with a facility for the next academic year that will enable them to find out about their entitlement to statutory support and bursaries in one place.

Teachers (Maths Graduates)

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of mathematics graduates required as teachers in each year between 2006-07 and 2010-11. [73923]

Jim Knight: There are 2,350 available initial teacher training places for conventional courses for mathematics in 2006/07 and the indicative number of places for 2007/08 is 2,350. In 2004/05 (the latest year for which final figures are available), an additional 560 people were recruited to train as mathematics teachers on employment based routes, and we expect to recruit similar numbers in the next few years.

Places for 2008/09 onwards have not yet been decided, but will take into account the latest available information on recruitment, teachers leaving and returning to the profession and vacancy rates. The Government aim that by 2014 95 per cent. of mathematics lessons will be delivered by a mathematics specialist.

University Placements (Medicine)

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many placements were available in 2005 in universities in England to study medicine; how many applications were made for such placements from *(a)* overseas students and *(b)* British students; and how many places were given to (i) overseas students and (ii) British students. [66611]

Bill Rammell: The available information is given in the following two tables. The planned and actual intakes of UK and overseas students are determined independently. An increase in overseas students does not affect the number of places available for UK students.

Applicants through UCAS to pre-clinical medicine courses at UK institutions, 2005 entry

Domicile	Applicants[1]	Accepted applicants
UK	15,637	7,106
EU	1,426	170
Other overseas	2,297	545
Total	19,360	7,821

[1] Figures only include students where the majority of their applications are to medicine courses.

Source:
UCAS annual datasets.

Planned intake and actual intake to UK medical schools, 2005/6

	Planned intake[1]	Actual intake[2]
Total	7,588	7,898
Of which:		
Home and EU[3]	—	7,352
Other overseas[4]	—	546

[1] Planned intake numbers for UK institutions, split by domicile, are not held centrally. In 2005/6, the planned intake at English institutions was 6,078 of which 5,621 were for home students and 457 for overseas students. Actual intake at English institutions in 2005/06 was 6,298 of which 5,872 were home students and 426 were overseas.

[2] Intake figures for 2005/6 are provisional until November 2006.

[3] Home and EU domiciles cannot be separated in the return as both pay the same fees.

[4] Includes students from the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands as they do not pay home fees.

Source:
HEFCE's medicine and dentistry return.

Vetting and Barring

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1716W, when the new Vetting and Barring Scheme will take effect; and what interim safeguards he will require in respect of children in children's establishments and schools and receiving children's services. [74206]

Mr. Dhanda: Subject to Parliament's approval of the necessary legislation, our intention is to introduce the new Vetting and Barring Scheme in 2008. Implementation will be staged—as was recommended in Sir Michael Bichard's report into the Soham murders—to ensure that the new requirements are established effectively. Until then the current barring schemes will continue to operate alongside the system of Criminal Records Bureau checks. Since the Secretary of State's review into list 99 in January, we have taken a number of steps to strengthen this scheme including the establishment of an independent expert panel to advise and assist the Secretary of State in carrying out his list 99 functions, and new regulations making Criminal Records Bureau checks mandatory for all newly appointed school employees. We will also be introducing new regulations shortly to ensure that any individuals working with children who are convicted or cautioned for sex offences against children will be automatically entered on list 99.

Weapon Detection Scanners (Schools)

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of using weapon detection scanners in schools in areas where children are known to bring weapons into school. [73388]

Jim Knight: We have made no assessment or recommendation about scanners being used in or by schools. The Violent Crime Reduction Bill, if it receives Royal Assent, will enable schools to search, without consent, pupils they suspect are carrying a knife or other weapon. Staff authorised to conduct a search could use a detector but that is for individual schools to decide. Police called in to make a general search at a school could also use a detector.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on progress towards the decent homes standard for social housing in *(a)* Greater Manchester, *(b)* Stockport Metropolitan Borough and *(c)* Tameside Metropolitan Borough. [72646]

Yvette Cooper: All 10 metropolitan authorities in the Greater Manchester area have programmes under way to make their social housing decent.

Progress has been made towards the decent homes target with many examples of associated benefits in regeneration, improved housing management performance and tenant empowerment.

Latest figures for the registered social landlord (RSL) sector in Greater Manchester show that c. 19 per cent. of stock was non-decent in 2005. This included recently transferred local authority stock subject to a major investment programme.

In Tameside 301 council homes were transferred to Ashton Pioneer homes in 1999 and this RSL has now completed its investment programme. There are no non-decent properties in the stock and a substantial reduction in empty properties has been reported.

In March 2000, 16,466 homes were transferred to New Charter Housing Group. Non-decency rates are estimated to have been c.70 per cent. at the time. A 10 year investment programme was begun worth approximately £25 million per annum. In 2005, approximately 23 per cent. of the stock was non-decent and New Charter estimates all the stock will have met the decent homes standard by April 2008.

In addition, Manchester city council has successfully transferred estates in Houghton Green and Carrbrook both of which have been in receipt of substantial new investment to take homes up to and beyond the decent homes standard. The transfer of Manchester's Hattersley estate is expected shortly.

Stockport MBC was granted Section 27 consent for their ALMO 'Stockport Homes' in October 2005 and is due for inspection by the Housing Inspectorate in June of this year. Should the council achieve a two star rating or better, it will be entitled to access tens of millions of pounds in extra resource to help make all its homes decent over the coming years.

In addition Manchester city council is currently consulting several hundred tenants in the Stockport area over future investment plans for their stock.

In April 2005, 731 RSL properties in Stockport (15 per cent. of the total) were non-decent.

London Housing Associations

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to enable London housing associations access to development opportunities. [73318]

Yvette Cooper: We expect that housing associations, in London and elsewhere, will deliver affordable housing both in their own right and through partnership with developers linked to the provision of market housing. We will publish revised planning guidance on the provision of affordable housing through the planning system later this year. The Housing Corporation is also exploring how RSLs might take an increasing role in the provision of market housing for sale.

Sutton Town Football Club

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice the then Secretary of State received regarding the planning application for Sutton Town Football Club's new ground; and what account was taken of the opinion of local residents when her decision on the application was made. [72645]

Yvette Cooper: I believe the hon. Member is referring to a planning application for a new ground for Shrewsbury Town Football Club at Oteley Road, Sutton, Shrewsbury. The application was approved by Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council in September 2003. I understand the local planning authority did not refer the case at the time to the Secretary of State to consider whether to call it in for his own decision, as the authority considered the application was in accordance with the terms of the adopted local plan. It was for the borough council as local planning authority to take into account the views of local residents when determining the application.

Thames Gateway

Paul Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the funds which have been distributed to projects within the Medway local authority area through the Thames Gateway project. [74721]

Yvette Cooper: A total of £100,370,330 from the 2003-08 Thames Gateway budget, has been allocated for projects in the Medway local authority area. A list of these projects is tabled below. Combined, these projects are forecast to lever in over £1.5 billion of private sector investment into the Medway area.

This investment will support the delivery of over 2,500 homes and 900 jobs at Rochester and Strood Riversides; three universities and a college have combined to share a new campus, at Chatham Maritime, increasing full time education student places from 2000 in 2002 to 10,000 by 2010; a new innovation centre will help to retain and create up to 2,000 high quality jobs. Working with our partners in Medway Renaissance, we are also investing in town centre improvements at Chatham and Gillingham and a series of community and environmental improvements projects that will benefit the people of Medway.

DCLG Medway Investment

	£
Rochester Riverside	42,501,000
Universities at Medway	15,000,000
Strood Riverside	13,624,000
Chatham Town Centre and Waterfront	10,000,000
St Mary's Island	5,000,000
Medway Renaissance Partnership	4,400,000
Medway Innovation Centre	3,500,000
National Museums at Chatham	1,400,000
Transport for Medway	1,000,000
Gillingham Town Centre	850,000
North Kent Environmental Programme:	922,000
Ranscombe Farm	665,000
Hillyfields	145,000
Cliffe Conservation Park	112,000
Community Enterprise Hubs Medway	1,123,330
Chatham Centre and Waterfront Environmental	550,000
River Medway Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	400,000
Gateway Knowledge Alliance; Rochester Construction Centre	100,000
Total	100,370,330

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Career Advice

Anne Moffat: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what measures the Government are taking to improve career advice for girls. [74140]

Meg Munn: The Youth Matters: Next Steps document, published on 8 March 2006, sets out proposals for improved information, advice and guidance for young people. It recognises the importance of access to individually-tailored information, advice and guidance that challenges rather than perpetuates traditional stereotypes.

Central to improved information, advice and guidance will be the development of quality standards. The challenging of traditional stereotypes will be included in these standards. The Equal Opportunities Commission is represented on the steering group that is supporting the development of the standards.

Ethnic Minority Staff

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the employment of staff from ethnic minorities in the public sector in Northamptonshire. [72931]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* No assessment of the situation in Northamptonshire has been undertaken.

Under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 public authorities are required to comply with the Employment Duty. This means that they have to monitor, by racial group, the numbers of staff in post and the number of applicants for employment, training and promotion. Where an authority has 150 or more full-time staff they are also required to monitor a number of other indicators. Authorities are required to publish the results of this monitoring annually.

The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) guidance states that authorities should use the information gathered to see if there are differences in the way racial groups are treated; to investigate the underlying reasons for the differences; and to deal with any unfairness, disadvantage or possible discrimination. The CRE are also responsible for enforcing the Duty.

Financial Planning

Anne Moffat: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government are taking to encourage women to plan their financial lives and save for their retirement. [74139]

Meg Munn: On 25 May the Government published a White Paper "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system" The proposals in this paper set out a new structure for the UK pensions system for the long term. It is designed to enable people to take responsibility for their retirement by saving more.

The Government will be taking forward a number of measures in the White Paper to encourage women plan for their retirement:

supported private saving by helping people to make better informed choices about their retirement, introducing a range of pension forecasts to give individuals an understanding of the income they are likely to receive in retirement.

Abolition of the minimum contribution conditions in basic State Pension and awarding new credits for parenting and caring to ensure such contributions are rewarded through the state pension in the same way as paid contributions.

Measures to make it easier to save will be supported by a higher, fairer state pension linked to earnings. This will give a foundation on which to build, and enable them to have confidence that their personal saving will be worthwhile.

Goods and Services (Sexual Discrimination)

John Bercow: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she plans to introduce regulations to implement the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2006 to outlaw sexual discrimination in the provision of goods and services. [75546]

Meg Munn: We published a consultation paper in March setting out proposals for regulations that will prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in the provision of goods, facilities, services and public functions. The consultation period ended on 5 June and our intention is to lay the sexual orientation regulations before the House after the summer recess.

Pension Schemes (Carers)

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she is planning to have with colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions about ensuring that women's caring role is recognised and supported in pension schemes. [75577]

Meg Munn: I have had regular meetings with colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions throughout the development of the pension reforms. I am pleased that the White Paper "Security in Retirement: Towards a new Pension System" has proposals to modernise home responsibilities protection and introduce a new carer's credit to improve state pension outcomes for women and carers. These two measures, allied to the whole package of pension reforms, will deliver a full basic state pension to 270,000 more women by 2020, and extend state second pension to an estimated 1 million people—over 90 per cent. of whom are women.

In proposing personal accounts for private saving we will introduce a new, low cost savings vehicle with easy access for all. Those who are not in paid work will be able to save in a personal account on an opt in basis.

People Trafficking

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she has taken to promote schemes designed to help victims of trafficking outside London. [74570]

Meg Munn: I work closely with Home Office colleagues to ensure that provision for victims is sensitive to women's needs.

The UK is sympathetic to the needs of victims of trafficking. The POPPY Scheme, run by Eaves Housing for Women, already provides a protective environment in which victims can receive care and support whilst deciding whether to assist the authorities. It is a national scheme and takes referrals from across the country.

The Home Office's new £2.4 million funding agreement with Eaves Housing allows for, among other things, the first ever specialist national outreach service in the UK for victims trafficked for sexual exploitation.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Arms Trade Treaty

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he plans to take to increase his Department's efforts, resources and capacity to deliver an Arms Trade Treaty. [74444]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to my previous responses to two parliamentary questions on 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1747 and 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1453W.

British Military Hardware Sales

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what British military hardware has been sold to the United Arab Emirates in the last five years. [74485]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government publish detailed information on their export licensing decisions by destination, in their annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs collects some data on exports of military list items which is published, by destination, in the annual reports.

The Government's annual reports are available from the Libraries of both Houses, and the quarterly reports, from the DTI export control organisation website:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/

We expect to publish the 2005 annual report by June 2006.

Coal Supply

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what projections his Department has made of future levels of *(a)* British deep-mined and *(b)* imported coal supply. [74712]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not make separate projections of British deep-mined, surface-mined and imported coal supply. The most recent projections of primary energy demands to 2020, including solid fuels, were published in February 2006 and are available at:

www.dti.gov.uk/files/file26363.pdf

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the need for a long-term supply of indigenous deep-mined coal as part of the UK's future energy mix. [74713]

Malcolm Wicks: UK coal production and the place of coal as a generating feedstock are being considered in the Energy Review. The Energy Review will report in the summer.

Consultants

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which firms have been engaged by his Department over the past 12 months to provide consultancy services on energy issues. [73171]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* Listed as follows are the providers of consultancy services to the Energy Group during the financial year 2005-06:

Peter Lockyer Advertising Ltd.
Herbert Smith
RWE Nukem Ltd.
Redpoint Energy Ltd.
Jackson Consulting UK Ltd.
Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
University of Leeds
Douglas Westwood Ltd.
TNEI Services Ltd.
EConnect Ltd.
TMD Technologies Ltd.
Climate Change Capital Ltd.
Cranfield University
Wyg Consulting Ltd.
International Energy Agency
Synnogy Ltd.
Health and Safety Executive
Corbis Consulting Ltd.
David Reay Consulting
Paul Arwas Associate
Nautilus Associates Ltd.
Cogent Sector Services Ltd.
Faraday Management Solutions
Optimat Ltd.
Cogent
Centre for Sustainable Energy
KPMG
Parity Resources Ltd.
D-sh Optimization Ltd.
Oxera Consulting Ltd.
Enviros Consulting Ltd.
AEA Technology Environment/AEA Technology PLC
Ecofys UK Ltd.
Oxford Economic Forecasting Ltd.
Entec UK Ltd.
Cyrrus Associates Ltd.
Enigma Interactive Ltd.
Newcastle United Conference and Banqueting
Quiet Life Creative Ltd.
Malmaison
CP Energy Ltd.
European Youth Parliament UK
Yorkshire Agricultural Society
Newcastle City Council
Northumberland County Council
Rural Developments Initiative Ltd.
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)
North Energy Associates Ltd.
Newcastle Chronicle and Journal Ltd.
Tadea (Tees and Durham Energy Advice)
Dods Parliamentary Communications Ltd
Pinsent Masons
Wyn Quentin Bowen
HTSPE Ltd.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
Westminster Sonus Ltd.
Strategic Controls Consultancy Ltd.
European Van Lines International Ltd.
US Department of Energy
Jaakko Poyry Management Consulting
Turner and Townsend Project Management
British Ornithologists' Union
BNFL Environmental Services
CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science)
Tongdean Management Ltd.
Ernst and Young LLP
Deloitte and Touche
Odgers Ray and Berndtson
Towers Perrin
Lambert Smith Hampton Property Solutions
EMC Energy Markets Consultancy
Offshore Design Ltd.
Energy Advice Ltd.
Connect Conferences
Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Building Research Establishment
PERA Innovation Ltd.
Logic Leading Oil and Gas
Envirolink North West
Wetlands Advisory Service
Joint Nature Conservation
BMT Renewables Ltd.
Anatec UK Ltd.
Daventrynet
Seafish Industry Authority

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent by his Department on consultants providing advice on energy issues over the past 12 months. [73157]

Malcolm Wicks: In the financial year 2005-06, the Energy Group of the DTI spent £4 million on consultants to provide advice on energy issues.

Energy Distribution

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the adequacy of regional distribution of *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* heat networks for the implementation of the Government's microgeneration strategy. [74805]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has undertaken some assessment of the impact that increased levels of electricity generating microgeneration will have on the distribution network. This research suggests that the network will not experience problems below penetration levels of 50 per cent. We have not undertaken any similar analysis of the gas and heat networks.

An important characteristic of mot microgeneration technologies is that they can provide a "stand-alone" source of heat and/or electricity with no requirement for connection to electricity, gas or heat networks.

Energy Review

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer to question 72558, which external assessments of the total life-cycle carbon costs of nuclear power will be taken account of in the review of energy policy. [74790]

Malcolm Wicks: The studies that will be considered include:

Japan Central Research Institute (1996)
Sweden, Vattenfall (1999 and 2000)
Finland, A Kivisto
Germany, Institute for Applied Ecology (1997)
Storm van Leeuven and Smith (SLS) (2001 to 2005)
Torness—a study for BE by AEA Technology (2005)
EC ExternE (2003)

Household Energy Supplies

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of houses in the UK which do not require external energy sources. [75601]

Malcolm Wicks: We do not have an estimate of the number of houses in the UK that do not require any external energy source (i.e. receive neither gas nor electricity from the national grids). However, a study we commissioned from the Energy Saving Trust suggests that at the end of 2004 there were around 82,000 microgeneration installations in the UK, which means that at least 82,000 dwellings and community buildings are not wholly reliant on external energy sources.

Nuclear Decommissioning

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in respect of the adequacy of skills available to implement the nuclear decommissioning and waste management strategy approved in April by his Department and the devolved Administrations. [74803]

Malcolm Wicks: The NDA addresses the level and adequacy of skills available to deliver its mission in the context of the Life Time Plans which each of its sites has in place. (The Life Time Plans set out the total scope of activities e.g. project scope, schedule, and cost which need to be undertaken over each site's planned lifetime to bring the site to its proposed end state). The process is that each site produces a skills strategy which, as a minimum, covers the following areas: key skills required in the short, medium, and long term; identification of skills gaps and links to the migration of the existing work force; sensitivities relating to demographic change; recruitment and training strategies; links with training providers; succession planning; and supply chain strategies for long-term availability of skills. The sites' skills strategies are analysed and developed by the NDA to ensure the appropriate supporting infrastructure is in place, and that any key issues or skills gaps are identified.

Severn Barrage Project

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the merits of a Severn Barrage Project. [73855]

Malcolm Wicks: Between 1978 and 1994 the Government supported the most comprehensive programme of research and development on tidal energy in the world at an overall cost in excess of £20 million. Those studies considered tidal barrage energy schemes at a number of potential sites, the largest being in the Severn estuary. The results of the Severn Barrage study were reported in Energy Paper 57 (ISBN 0 11 412952 5).

The most recent study of the Severn scheme was carried out by the Severn Tidal Power Group in 2002 and available at www.dti.gov.uk/files/file15363.pdf?pubpdfdload=02%2F644

The Department is currently part way through an energy review that will consider all options and opportunities for ensuring we meet our medium and longer-term energy goals.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Official Residences (Council Tax)

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which Government Department was responsible for making council tax payments to Westminster city council for his official residence in Admiralty House from 1997 to 2005. [56188]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Ministry of Defence was responsible for making council tax payments to Westminster city council for my official residence in 1997-98. In 2002-03 responsibility for making those payments rested with the Cabinet Office. In the years since, responsibility has rested with the then Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions or the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bushmen of the Kalahari

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the welfare of the Bushmen of the Kalahari since their rehousing by the Government of Botswana; what representations the Government have made to the Government of Botswana on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [75487]

Mr. Hoon: Since relocation, approximately 2,000 San (Bushmen) from the Central Kalahari Game Reserve have had enhanced access to water, medical facilities and education. There are differing views among the San communities as to whether these benefits outweigh those of their former lifestyle. Although there have been no representations at ministerial level, our high commission in Gaborone has encouraged both the San and their representatives and the Government of Botswana to address these issues, through a process of dialogue.

European Defence Agency

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are to change the number of members of staff working for the European Defence Agency. [73929]

Mr. Ingram: I have been asked to reply.

The European Defence Agency's 2006 budget was agreed in November 2005 on the basis of ninety-four staff. To date, no recruiting action has been taken on two of these posts. These will remain unfilled until the Agency's Steering Board decides that they are required. Any plans to change the number of staff working for the Agency in future years will be considered when the Steering Board approves the 2007 budget and the Agency's Council, acting by unanimity, approves the 3 year financial framework for the Agency later this year.

Guantanamo Bay

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the response to the letter which her predecessor wrote to Dr. Condoleezza Rice requesting the release of Mr. Bisher Al-Rawi from Guantanamo Bay on non-humanitarian grounds. [74806]

Dr. Howells: The US Government replied to my right hon. Friend the former Foreign Secretary's (Jack Straw) letter on 27 April. However, since the response is part of ongoing confidential Government to Government correspondence, the release of the reply would be likely to prejudice international relations and adversely affect the handling of this case. For these reasons I am unable to place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Iran

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations her Department has made to the Government of Iran regarding the treatment of Baha'is in that country. [75173]

Dr. Howells: We continue to have serious concerns about the situation of religious minorities in Iran. We have received numerous reports of discrimination against those wishing to practise minority faiths, including the Baha'i community. Ministers and officials have pressed the Iranian authorities on many occasions to address the intimidation and discrimination suffered by Iranian Baha'is. At our suggestion, the EU Presidency did so on 31 January and on 11 April. Most recently the EU raised the matter on 29 May. On 10 April, EU Foreign Ministers underlined their

"continued concerns about the human rights situation in Iran, in particular regarding the situation of Baha'is".

We have also taken action at the UN. We were pleased that all EU countries co-sponsored a UN General Assembly resolution on human rights in Iran in December last year. This expressed serious concern at, inter alia,

"the escalation and increased frequency of discrimination and other human rights violations against the Baha'i, including cases of arbitrary arrest and detention, the denial of freedom of religion or of publicly carrying out communal affairs, the disregard of property rights, the destruction of sites of religious importance, the suspension of social, educational and community-related activities and the denial of access to higher education, employment, pensions, adequate housing and other benefits".

We expect Iran to uphold freedom of religion and belief in accordance with its international obligations under Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the political situation in Sri Lanka. [74777]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 341-342W.

United States

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her answer of 6 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 784-85W to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr. Clegg) on the United States, whether UK responsibilities or obligations would be engaged by the passage through UK *(a)* territory and *(b)* overseas territories of a plane which was travelling directly to a third country in order to conduct a rendition, but on which no detainee was present. [75016]

Dr. Howells: The extent of any engagement of the UK's responsibilities and obligations would depend on the facts and circumstances of each case.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Election Turnout

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the implications for voter participation of extended polling time in elections. [75184]

Peter Viggers: In its review of election timetables in 2003, the Electoral Commission recommended standardising the hours of polling for all elections at those used for parliamentary general elections and other national elections, to increase participation and reduce confusion between local and parliamentary elections.

The Government agreed with this recommendation and the standardised polling hours of 7 am to 10 pm applied generally at local government elections in England for the first time in May 2006. The Commission informs me that it is collecting data from returning officers on levels of voting during the additional polling hours, and intends to publish the results of its analysis in late summer 2006.

The Commission has also evaluated a number of electoral pilot schemes trialling extended polling hours at local elections since 2002. In these, between 5 and 10 per cent. of people voting in person at polling stations chose to take advantage of the extended polling hours.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Discussions

Mr. Ames: To ask the Prime Minister on what occasions since 1 January 2004 he has discussed the situation in Iraq with the US President; and if he will make a statement. [73319]

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Prime Minister what matters he expects to discuss at his forthcoming meeting in Washington DC with President George Bush. [74434]

The Prime Minister: I regularly have discussions on a wide range of issues with President Bush, including on Iraq.

I also refer the hon. Members to the press conference I held with President Bush on 25 May 2006. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Allowances Rules

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to review the rules which prevent payment of carer's allowance and bereavement allowance at the same time. [75488]

Mr. Plaskitt: It is a basic principle of the social security system that only one benefit at a time can be paid for income maintenance and there are no plans to change this rule.

Bereavement allowance is an income maintenance benefit for those who have lost a spouse who had worked and therefore contributed to the national insurance scheme, whilst carer's allowance provides a measure of income maintenance for those forgoing the opportunity of full-time employment to care for a severely disabled person who is entitled to attendance allowance or the middle or highest rate of the disability living allowance care component.

In practice, where there is entitlement to both benefits, bereavement allowance as a contributory benefit takes precedence. However, where the rate of bereavement allowance is less than the rate of carer's allowance, an amount of carer's allowance can be paid to make up the difference. Even where no carer's allowance can be paid, underlying entitlement to the allowance gives access to the carer premium in income support, housing benefit and council tax benefit, and to the carer's additional amount in pension credit.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Arm's-Length Bodies

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many arm's-length bodies have been *(a)* established and *(b)* dissolved by each Government Department in the Province in each of the last 10 years. [74573]

Mr. Hanson: The tables show the number of non-departmental public bodies established and dissolved by each Government Department for which central records are available between 1997 and March 2006.

Non-departmental Public Bodies Created

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Total*
DE	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
DFP	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
DED	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
DOE	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
DHSSPS	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	4
DETI	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
DRD	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
NIO	—	3	2	4	1	1	1	—	—	12
OFMDFM	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	5
Total	2	3	2	4	3	5	6	2	0	27

Non-departmental Public Bodies Dissolved

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
DE	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
DFP	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
DHSS	9	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
DED	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
DARD	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
DOE	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
DHSSPS	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
DHFETE	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
DEL	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
DSD	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
DETI	—	—	—	—		3	—	—	—	3
DRD	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other*	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
NIO	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	5
Total	12	3	13	3	6	4	1	1	1	44

Cars (Biofuels)

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cars in Northern Ireland run on biofuels. [37605]

David Cairns: Information supplied by manufacturers of cars about propulsion fuel types is captured when cars are registered. Biofuel is not one of the fuel types reported by manufacturers and accordingly no information about the number of these vehicles is held on the vehicle register.

Chewing Gum Tax

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will introduce a chewing gum tax in Northern Ireland. [49035]

Paul Goggins: I have no plans to introduce a chewing gum tax in Northern Ireland.

Consultancy Fees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the companies which were paid consultancy fees by his Department in 2005-06; how much each was paid; and what each of the companies was used to accomplish. [69692]

Mr. Hain: The information requested is as follows:

Name of consultancy company	*What they were employed to accomplish*	*Amount paid to consultancy firm (figs to be supplied by FSD) (£)*
Mark Baker	To review the police service Northern Ireland special duty allowance	7,000.00
Queens University Belfast	Evaluate drug project in young offenders centre	9,054.40
Williamson Consulting	Evaluate Ballymena drug project	14,526.00
Williamson Consulting	Evaluate Derry drug project	21,713.50
Deloitte	Independent evaluation of Radiolink Schemes	27,139.38
AV Browne	Development and production of Theft from Vehicles campaign 2	48,268.00
AV Browne	Amend voice over for Theft from Vehicles radio advertisement.	659.70
Anderson Spratt Group	Amendment to Unknown Caller TV advertisement.	2,437.00
Anderson Spratt Group	Executive services for work on Unknown Caller TV advertisement.	425.00
AV Browne	Amendment to Domestic Violence TV advertisement.	26.25
MMMA	Evaluation of the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities (NICEM) Racial Harassment and Advocacy Project	9,990.00
Anderson Spratt Group	Project RICH Support	7,635.86
HP	Improvement of business processes	19,369.98
Deloitte	To enhance the document management system	344,877.89
TTC International Ltd.	To carry out a review of the management, staffing and future development of gardening and grounds maintenance at Hillsborough Castle	11,485.62
Daniell Consulting Ltd.	An independent quality assurance review of the arrangements for the implementation of Part V of the Police Act 1997 in Northern Ireland	2,147.90
Deloitte and Touche	To assist with the implementation of the Criminal Justice Review recommendations leading to the creation and implementation of the public prosecution service Northern Ireland	608,124.00

Name of consultancy company	*What they were employed to accomplish*	*Amount paid to consultancy firm (figs to be supplied by FSD) (£)*
Mr. B. Hancock	Provision of independent advice to the public prosecution service project board	8,050.00
Ms A. Quinn	Provision of independent advice to the public prosecution service project board	9,000.00
Mr. R. Wilson	Security consultant	2,199.00
Mr. W. Hamilton Sturdy	To assist with the implementation of ICT infrastructure/security	65,151.00
White Young Green	Professional advisors on accommodation project	229,718.00
Quest Consulting	Professional advisors on facilities management	9,607.00
Mr. I. Morrison	Professional advisors on counsel fees	21,158.00
Prof M. McWilliams	Advice on drafting of new policy for prosecuting cases of domestic violence	1,250.00
Prof J. Jackson	Launch of public prosecution service	2,000.00
Mr. A. MacLaughlin	Independent assessor of complaints	7,921.00
Internet Solutions Ireland/Fluent Technology	Provision of new IT system for the State Pathologist's Department	126,000.00
Deloitte MCS Ltd.	Business case for new case management system for the State Pathologist's Department	4,000.00
Deloitte MCS Ltd.	Status review of the State Pathologist's Department	12,000.00
Business Development Service	Staffing review of the State Pathologist's Department laboratory	16,000.00
Osprey Mott MacDonald/Mott MacDonald Ltd	Forensic Science Northern Ireland accommodation project—Project Management and Technical Design Services	81,000.00
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Forensic science Northern Ireland accommodation project-financial services	20,000.00
Anne McMurray Consulting	Helping to develop a vision for Youth Justice Agency	1,900.00
N I Youth Forum	Consultation with young people on developments in Youth Justice Agency	2,500.00
Napier Watson Consulting Ltd.	Ongoing client advisor and quality assurance officer to Juvenile Justice Centre project	40,000.00
Bill Duffy	Ongoing design consultancy and operational advice to Juvenile Justice Centre project	7,000.00
Anderson Spratt Group	Ongoing communications advisors to Juvenile Justice Centre project	10,000.00
Keppies Design Ltd.	Ongoing design consultancy and operational advice to Juvenile Justice Centre project	120,000.00
Turley Associates	Ongoing planning consultants to Juvenile Justice Centre project to obtain outline planning permission for new JJC and residential housing development on surplus land	6,000.00
L' Estrange and Brett	Ongoing legal advice to Juvenile Justice Centre project	56,000.00
Brendan Boyle	Preparation and invitation to tender document for Crown Solicitors Office IT Project	2,643.75
Deloitte Total Reward and Benefits Ltd.	Provision of consultancy services on pensions provisions for police lateral entry scheme	22,431.00
Critical Intervention Consultancy services Ltd.	Provision of specialist advice to ACPO and UK Steering Group on Less Lethal Weapons	54,050.83
JBM Consultants	External equality facilitator and assessor	12,933.00
CPCR	Consultancy for Leadership Programme for Grade A and SCS and skills transfer to NIO Business Improvement Team staff	30,581.58
David Clutterbuck	Consultancy re Peoplebank Mentoring Scheme	23,783.94
Tony Greenaway	Consultancy re Investors in People accreditation	6,421.33
Martin Alnutt	Consultancy re Tracking/Evaluation of Leadership programme for Grade A and SCS	2,066.70
Tim Lewis Recruitment	Project management and IT expertise	207,129.67
Deloitte MCS Ltd.	Project Management and IT expertise	112,272.45
	Total	2,467,648.73

Contaminated Land

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the Answer of 24 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 88W, on contaminated land, what sites in Belfast the Department has identified as contaminated from former land use. [52878]

David Cairns: The Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 provides a statutory definition of contaminated land, based on the risks of significant harm to human health and the environment, or pollution of controlled waters given the current land use and environmental setting.

The Department of the Environment has not identified any former industrial sites in Belfast as contaminated land. Its Land Use Database has identified locations where former industrial use may have caused contamination, but does not quantify the areas of land involved. The Department of the Environment plans to update the Database over the next 12 months.

Crosshill Quarry

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland gave authority to the contractor for the cutting of the railway carriages in Crosshill Quarry. [33565]

David Cairns: The Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland was not required to give authority to the contractor for the cutting of the railway carriages in Crosshill Quarry.

Environment and Heritage Service was under no requirement to take a direct involvement in the cutting and reburial of the carriages.

When the work commenced, Antrim borough council was the waste regulatory body for Crosshill Quarry. EHS (on behalf of the Department) did not take on this responsibility until the introduction of the Waste Management Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 on 19 December 2003.

Curricula

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will commission research into the experience of other European countries of the use of the teaching and learning methods embodied in the Early Years Enriched Curriculum Project in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [74989]

Maria Eagle: Throughout the development of the Foundation Curriculum, which includes the enriched curriculum for children in Years 1 and 2, the Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) took account of international and national research. The council commissioned a literature review from QUB Research Team which was submitted in September 2001. This literature review drew attention to good practice in early years education and international comparisons in relation to such factors as performance, literacy, numeracy, and emotional and social development.

Dangerous Wild Animals

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations his Department has received regarding the possible introduction of a dangerous wild animals Act in the last three years. [55153]

David Cairns: The Department of the Environment has no record of any representation relating to dangerous wild animals in the last three years.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the guidelines are for filling vacancies in *(a)* each Department in Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Northern Ireland Office while a grievance procedure relating to the filling of the same vacancy is ongoing. [74478]

Mr. Hanson: The filling of specific vacancies is generally carried out through the "Trawl" procedure whereby individuals apply for posts against specified criteria. If an individual is short listed out they have 10 days to appeal. Once the appeal decision has been made the competition can proceed.

There is no distinction on the operation of "Trawls" between Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments and the Northern Ireland Office.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in *(a)* each Department and *(b)* the Northern Ireland Office did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75084]

Mr. Hanson: The information below shows the number of staff, by Department, awarded a box 4 or box 5 in 2003-04 and 2004-05. Information on box markings for 2005-06 will not be available until after December 2006.

Figures for Departments which have less than five box 4/5 markings have not been included on the basis of confidentiality.

2003-04[1]

Department	*Number of box 4/5*	*Total box marks*	*Percentage of box 4/5*
DARD	7	3,182	0.2
DFP	8	2,712	0.3
DOE	6	1,853	0.3
DSD	35	7,311	0.5
NIO	13	1,647	0.8
Total	90	23,743	0.4

[1] NICS data based on the 92 per cent. of box markings on the database at December 2004. NIO data based on the 91 per cent. of box markings on the database at May 2005.
Note:
OFREG and HSENI excluded from DETI.

2004-05[1]

Department	*Number of box 4/5*	*Total box marks*	*Percentage of box 4/5*
DARD	15	3,136	0.5
DFP	16	2,772	0.6
DOE	8	2,045	0.4
DRD	11	2,758	0.4
DSD	35	7,454	0.5
NIO	14	1,706	0.8
Total	105	24,294	0.4

[1] NICS data based on the 92 per cent. of box markings on the database at December 2005. NIO data based on the 92 per cent. of box markings on the database at April 2006.
Note:
OFREG and HSENI excluded from DETI.

Dogs

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many dog attacks on people have been reported in each of the last five years in Northern Ireland, broken down by local authority. [52989]

David Cairns: The number of reported dog attacks on people in Northern Ireland, broken down by councils, for the last available five year period 2000 to 2004 is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Dog attacks on people in Northern Ireland

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Antrim	15	17	16	18	25
Ards	6	17	20	26	34
Armagh	26	31	37	25	46
Ballymena	8	18	40	21	16
Ballymoney	6	1	9	9	10
Banbridge	28	16	23	12	22
Belfast	121	126	96	97	98
Carrick	19	21	11	18	12
Castlereagh	31	35	17	28	22
Coleraine	38	45	52	39	42
Cookstown	3	2	3	7	5
Craigavon	9	5	8	15	24
Derry	80	109	133	86	117
Down	14	39	48	57	57
Dungannon	25	13	22	13	10
Fermanagh	29	20	27	26	30
Larne	9	0	6	2	0
Limavady	19	33	26	20	19
Lisburn	85	30	40	40	54
Magherafelt	3	4	2	7	4
Moyle	9	8	3	10	5
Newry	23	16	22	15	13
Newtownabbey	59	42	39	31	52
North Down	64	48	24	40	52
Omagh	12	13	2	8	14
Strabane	3	21	6	27	—
Grand total	741	730	732	697	783

Source:
Annual Statistics: All Councils

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many dogs have been destroyed under an order in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [53002]

David Cairns: The number of dogs destroyed under the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 for each of the last full years from 1999 to 2004 is detailed in the table. Figures are not available for years before 1999.

Dogs destroyed in Northern Ireland

	Total number of dogs destroyed
1999	6,965
2000	5,882
2001	4,664
2002	4,534
2003	4,132
2004	3,371

[1] Annual statistics: all councils

Drug Addicts

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many registered drug addicts there are in each *(a)* local health authority and *(b)* ward in Northern Ireland, listed in descending order; what percentage of the total this represents in each case; and how much was spent on drug addiction services by each local health authority in 2004-05. [55547]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Addicts Index Database holds information on all those persons registered in concurrence with the Misuse of Drugs (Notification of and Supply to Addicts) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1973. It is based on a specific list of drugs, not necessarily all those which are used by addicts, and is dependent on GPs and other doctors submitting the relevant information. It does not represent the full total of those currently in treatment for problem drug use in Northern Ireland. The latest figures from the Database shows that in 2004-05 there were 239 'registered drug addicts'. Their distribution by Health and Social Services Board (HSSB) is provided in the following table.

Registered addicts by Health and Social Services Board 2005

	Number	Percentage
Northern HSSB	102	43
Eastern HSSB	97	41
Western HSSB	20	8
Southern HSSB	15	6
Total	[1]239	100

[1] This figure includes five individuals for whom Health and Social Services Board data could not be established.

The data collected for the database do not facilitate description of those on the register by council ward or parliamentary constituency.

In respect of expenditure on addiction services, the four Health and Social Services Boards do not differentiate between those receiving treatment for problem alcohol and drug misuse and co-dependency (both substances).

For 2004-05 the four Health and Social Services Boards report expenditure on combined drug and alcohol addiction services as follows.

Health and Social Services Board	Expenditure (£)
Northern	1,501,412
Southern	766,935
Eastern	3,069,771
Western	1,836,715
Total	7,174,883

Fuel Poverty

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many households in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* district council area in Northern Ireland are recognised as fuel poor. [75591]

Mr. Hanson: The 2004 Interim House Condition Survey collected fuel poverty information on a Northern Ireland wide basis and due to the small sample size it is not possible to break down the information into parliamentary constituency or district council area. This indicates that the overall number of households in fuel poverty has reduced from 203,000 to 153,530 with the number of vulnerable households decreasing from 181,000 to 126,100 for the same period.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made with the implementation of the Northern Ireland Fuel Poverty Strategy since its launch; and when the action plan is expected to be published. [75590]

Mr. Hanson: 'Ending Fuel Poverty: A Strategy for Northern Ireland' was launched in November 2004 and since then approximately £150 million has been spent on programmes to directly tackle fuel poverty. I have also established the Northern Ireland Fuel Poverty Advisory Group and the Interdepartmental Group on Fuel Poverty to monitor and review the Fuel Poverty Strategy and ensure a partnership approach to tackling fuel poverty.

I will launch the Interdepartmental Group on Fuel Poverty Report in early July and this will detail the action plan for tackling fuel poverty in 2006-07.

Gaelic Athletic Association

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has received a request from the Gaelic Athletic Association to meet to discuss the draft PPS 14. [75498]

David Cairns: Mr. Danny Murphy, Secretary to Ulster Council GAA, wrote to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on 5 April 2006 to express the organisation's concerns on the introduction of draft PPS 14 and to ask for a meeting. My hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Woodward) replied to this letter as the responsible Minister regretting that heavy diary commitments prevented him meeting members of the Ulster Council in person. He advised that views expressed in the letter would be recorded as a representation and considered and that officials would be pleased to provide clarification on the draft planning policy statement if requested. No subsequent request was received.

Geddis Farm

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take action to stop the fire burning at the Geddis' Farm in Helen's Bay, North Down; and what research has been undertaken by his Department into the environmental damage caused by this fire. [46538]

David Cairns: The legal responsibility for stopping the fire burning at Geddis' Farm rests with North Down borough council. This can be achieved by use of Article 28 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997.

The Department of the Environment's Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) is able to take prosecution action for the treatment of waste on an unlicensed site. EHS initiated a prosecution case against Mr. Geddis for the unauthorised disposal of waste. The case was heard on 15 February 2006 and Mr. Geddis was found guilty, in his absence. However, he subsequently was able to convince the court to set aside his convictions because he claimed that he had contacted the Public Prosecution Service to request an adjournment. A date for a new hearing has yet to be arranged.

EHS has not undertaken any research into the environmental damage caused by the fire.

Landfill

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what measures are being put in place to help businesses in Northern Ireland reduce the amount of waste they dispose of to landfill; [53054]

(2) what steps he is taking to assist businesses in Northern Ireland to meet the obligations imposed under Government and EU Environmental policies and strategies. [53055]

David Cairns: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given during the Grand Committee debate on 7 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 12. My noble Friend, Lord Rooker will write to the hon. Gentleman in response to his supplementary question on landfill tax revenue.

Limavady Learning Partnership

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) when the Department of Education will make available *(a)* resources and *(b)* guidance to Limavady Learning Partnership to enable it to implement a strategic plan to deal with widening public choice and tackling social disadvantage; [73205]

(2) if he will ensure that the Limavady Learning Partnership receives the required resources and guidance from the Department of Education to enable it to implement its strategic plan on widening pupil choice and tackling social disadvantage. [75005]

Maria Eagle: The details of schools to be offered funding for Extended School activities through Theme 1 of the Children and Young People's Funding Package was announced on 6 June 2006. I have no plans through Extended Schools to fund organisations other than schools, though schools may, if they wish, pool their resources to form clusters or partnerships. A toolkit containing guidance for Extended Schools is also being made available. Not all the schools in the Limavady Learning Partnership will benefit from the announcement, but I would encourage those schools not selected to consider using some of their allocation from the £10 million additional funding package for schools that I announced on 5 June 2006 to support collaborative working.

Marine Pollution

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which areas of the Northern Ireland coast are judged to be most at risk from marine pollution. [40993]

David Cairns: The Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) has recently undertaken a risk assessment of international and short seas shipping, associated port operations and past incidents in the seas surrounding the Northern Ireland coastline in order to identify the areas of the coastline which are most at risk. This work indicated that the areas most at risk are Rathlin Island, the coastline from the Gobbins in Co Antrim to Ballymacormick Point in Co Down and from Donaghadee to Portavogie.

Mournes National Park

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made on the Mournes National Park project. [43717]

David Cairns: It is planned to consult at the end of 2007 on draft primary legislation that would provide a framework for the designation of national parks generally in Northern Ireland. In parallel with this, work specific to progressing the proposal for a Mournes National Park is in hand and the Mourne National Park working party plans to consult later this year on a proposed park boundary.

Moy Park Group

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support has been provided to Ferne Foods Limited by (i) the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment,
(ii) the Department of Employment and Learning and (iii) Invest Northern Ireland since it was taken over by the Moy Park Group. [73512]

Maria Eagle: Ferne Foods Limited in Lisnaskea became a joint venture with Moy Park Limited in 1994. Ferne Foods Limited was offered selective financial assistance from IDB in 1996 of £487,820. This was fully drawn down by 1999 and the Financial Assistance Agreement is no longer active. On 15 occasions from 1998 to 2004 Ferne Foods Limited has taken part in market awareness visits and group stands at exhibitions with Invest NI. IDB offered assistance towards training and development in 1996 of £159,510 of which £139,410 was drawn down. The Department of Employment and Learning supports all employers who request support by providing a job brokering services and suitable training programmes where appropriate.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment was informed of the Moy Park Group's decision to close the Ferne Foods factory in Fermanagh. [73513]

Maria Eagle: Invest NI was informed on 18 May 2006 that a 90 day consultation period was announced for the Moy Park Group Lisnaskea plant and that the future of the plant is in severe doubt. Invest NI has not been informed by Moy Park Group that a decision to close the plant has been made.

Northern Ireland Roads Service Magazine

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of *(a)* publication and *(b)* distribution of the Northern Ireland Roads Service magazine, The Link: Investing in the Road Network of 30 May; and how many copies were printed. [75509]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Roads Service, Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, has been asked to write to my hon. Friend in response to this question.

Letter from Malcolm McKibbin, dated 7 June 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding what the cost of (a) publication and (b) distribution was of the Northern Ireland Roads Service magazine, The Link: Investing in the Road Network of 30th May; and how many copies were printed.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

Roads Service recently produced a 32-page information supplement called 'The Link' on the M1/Westlink scheme. This is one of the largest and most high profile schemes ever undertaken by Roads Service and has attracted a huge level of public interest and an equally high level of demand from the media for information about the scheme. The supplement was distributed to homes across Northern Ireland in late May, through the 3 main newspapers.

Road Service produced the supplement in house with the assistance of the Departmental Graphic Design Unit and Press Office, and the only costs incurred were for printing and insertion into the three main local daily papers. Some 206,000 copies were printed at a cost of £50,118, and associated distribution costs were approximately £8,500, which equates to just over 28 pence per copy.

The supplement was a significant publication and forms part of our communication strategy to provide information to the public on this £104 million scheme.

Petrol/Electric Cars

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many hybrid petrol/electric cars have been sold in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and what grants are available to those who wish to buy such vehicles. [37589]

David Cairns: The number of new hybrid electric/petrol cars registered in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years is:

	Number
2001	1
2002	2
2003	2
2004	17
2005 (to 16 November)	52

UK-wide Government grants have previously been available under the PowerShift programme to those wishing to purchase certain hybrid vehicles. The programme is due to be replaced by the Low Carbon Car programme which is based on a technology neutral approach. Once cleared by the European Commission under state aid rules, the programme will provide grants towards the purchase of cars with particularly low carbon emissions. This is likely to include a number of hybrid vehicles and will be funded by the Department for Transport for England, Northern Ireland and Wales, and by the Scottish Executive for Scotland.

Plastic (Recycling)

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what tonnage of plastic was *(a)* recovered and *(b)* recycled in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [37595]

David Cairns: The Department does not hold nor collate figures for the total amount of plastic that is recycled or recovered in Northern Ireland on an annual basis. Figures for separately collated municipal plastic sent for recycling in 2002, 2003 and 2004 were 724 tonnes, 1,221 tonnes and 1,712 tonnes respectively. This represents an increase of 130 per cent. over three years. Data are not available for previous years.

Data on the amount of plastic actually reprocessed or recycled in Northern Ireland are limited to accredited reprocessors. One of these businesses has recently secured investment to increase the tonnage of waste plastic bottles it reprocesses to over 4,600 tonnes per annum.

Pollution

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans are in place to deal with a major pollution incident in Northern Ireland. [40992]

David Cairns: Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) has plans and resources in place in order to respond to a major pollution incident. During the year EHS runs two shoreline booming exercises in order to test its resource and command and control functions in response to a major coastal water pollution incident. The latest exercise, in mid-2005, was designed to test the agency's ability to protect the River Roe. In 2003, EHS took part in a major national coastal pollution response exercise in Lough Foyle, coordinated by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), which was designed to test the National Contingency Plan.

EHS plans are currently undergoing an extensive review and this is due to be completed in the summer of 2006. As part of this, EHS is a partner in a European Union funded project designed to develop effective contingency plans which minimise the risk from coastal pollution using best practice from four European partners.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether protocols are in place to work with authorities in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the Irish Republic in the case of a major pollution incident in Northern Ireland. [40994]

David Cairns: The Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) Water Pollution Incident response procedures describe a standard approach of response to a water pollution incident and this includes the agency's lines of communication in the event of a cross border/national boundary incident. As an example of cross border cooperation, EHS participated in a national exercise in Lough Foyle in 2003 which was designed to test the National Contingency Plan involving a cross border response to a major water pollution incident.

EHS is currently a member of an environmental emergency planning group involving the Environment Agency in England and Wales, and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. This group meets regularly to discuss all matters involving the tri-agency response and preparedness to incidents of water pollution.

PSNI

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time officers are serving in the Police Service of Northern Ireland. [15256]

Paul Goggins: The numbers of officers serving as of 20 July 2005 in the requested ranks are.

	Number
PSNI regular officers	7,458
Reserve constable full-time	1,205
Reserve constable part-time	753
Constable part-time[1]	152

[1] New title for officers recruited as new intake of part-time officers.

Psychology Degrees

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many psychology degree course places were available in the Province in 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [74646]

Maria Eagle: Information from Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster indicates that there was provision for 368 undergraduate places and 55 postgraduate places for entry onto psychology degree courses in 2005-06.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many students will commence psychology degree courses in the Province over each of the next five years. [74648]

Maria Eagle: Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster have indicated that they currently plan to make provision for the following number of students to commence psychology degree courses over each of the next five years:

	Undergraduate	*Postgraduate*
2006-07	346	120
2007-08	425	114
2008-09	452	124
2009-10	377	120
2010-11	377	120
Total	1,977	598

The actual intakes are a matter for the universities and are subject to change.

Railway Security

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions the railway line between Lisburn and Portadown has been closed because of security alerts in each of the last 10 years. [74477]

David Cairns: Translink advises that it does not have exact figures for closures of specific sections of the railway network readily available. However the information available on the number of Enterprise and cross border services disrupted by security alerts since 2001 is as follows:

	Disruptions
2001	694
2002	76
2003	130
2004	74
2005	90
2006	8

Most of these disruptions would have been caused by alerts between Lisburn and Portadown.

Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer of 13 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1533-4W, on rates, when he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the internal guidance on the assessment and valuation of domestic properties and *(b)* a full list of data fields relating to value significant codes and property attributes. [66674]

Mr. Hanson: Internal guidance on the assessment and valuation of domestic properties and a full list of data fields relating to value significant codes and property attributes have now been placed in the Library.

Road Safety

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the discussions which have taken place between the Road Safety Steering Group and the equivalent body in the Republic of Ireland on a north/south approach to road safety on the island of Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [54589]

David Cairns: While there have been no formal discussions between the Road Safety Steering Group and the equivalent body in the Republic of Ireland on a north/south approach to road safety, there has continued to be a high level of cooperation on road safety matters.

Since a previous response on 23 November 2005, *Official Report*, columns 2013-14W, the ninth joint road safety campaign tackling drink driving, has been launched.

On 9 February 2006 letters of agreement were exchanged between the UK and Ireland to put in place arrangements allowing driving disqualifications to be recognised in both countries regardless of where the offences took place. This will allow the worst offenders, who would otherwise be escaping the rule of law, to be removed from the road. At the same time a commitment was also made that officials would explore possible measures for dealing with driving offences at levels below that of disqualification.

Roads Service

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many properties the Roads Service has compulsorily purchased for future road schemes in each of the last 20 years, broken down by division in Northern Ireland; [52473]

(2) what requirements are in place for the maintenance of property compulsorily purchased by the Roads Service before completion of the relevant road scheme; [52474]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 20 February 2006.

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland two Parliamentary Questions regarding compulsory purchased properties owned by Roads Service:

how many properties the Roads Service has compulsorily purchased for future road schemes in each of the last 20 years, broken down by division in Northern Ireland; and

what requirements are in place for the maintenance of property compulsorily purchased by the Roads Service before completion of the relevant road scheme.

As these issues fall within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service I have been asked to reply.

The following table details the number of properties compulsorily purchased or purchased under blight by Roads Service in each of the last 20 years, which haven't yet been used for a proposed road scheme.

Number of properties acquired

	Northern division	*Southern division*	*Western division*	*Eastern division*
1985	0	0	0	0
1986	0	1	0	0
1987	0	0	0	0
1988	0	0	0	0
1989	0	0	0	4
1990	0	0	0	1
1991	0	0	0	1
1992	0	0	0	3
1993	0	0	0	2
1994	0	0	0	0
1995	0	0	0	2
1996	0	0	0	1
1997	0	0	0	5
1998	0	0	0	2
1999	0	0	0	2
2000	0	0	0	2
2001	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	1

	Number of properties acquired			
	Northern division	Southern division	Western division	Eastern division
2004	0	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0	0

The day-to-day management of property acquired by Roads Service in advance of road schemes is carried out by the Department for Social Development's Lands Service, under the terms of a Service Level Agreement (currently under review). The term 'management' as defined in the Service Level Agreement includes the letting of land, collection of rent, rent review, rent accounting and maintenance of property. It also includes the supervision of derelict land and buildings to ensure that they do not constitute a danger to the public and the safeguarding of vacant land against vandals.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many *(a)* properties and *(b)* gardens have been bought by the Roads Service in the Shandon Park area of East Belfast in each of the last 25 years; and on what date each site was (i) purchased, (ii) last maintained and (iii) completed; [52475]

(2) how much the Roads Service has spent purchasing property in the Shandon Park area of East Belfast in connection with the proposed link road between Ascot Park and Shandon Park. [52476]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 20 February 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland two Parliamentary Questions regarding the Shandon Park area:

how many *(a)* properties and *(b)* gardens have been bought by the Roads Service in the Shandon Park area of East Belfast in each of the last 25 years and on what date each site was (i) purchased, (ii) last maintained and (iii) completed; and

how much the Roads Service has spent purchasing property in the Shandon Park area of East Belfast in connection with the proposed link road between Ascot Park and Shandon Park.

As these issues fall within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

By way of background, I should explain that the proposed widening of the A55 at Knock Road is included in the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan and Roads Service's Major Works Preparation Pool. The two detailed options still being considered are a dual carriageway or two lanes in both directions with right turning lanes at junctions. Both of these options currently include a link road from Ascot Park to Shandon Park. We plan to present these options at a public consultation day in spring 2006.

In the past 25 years, 2 properties/gardens were acquired by Roads Service for the proposed A55 widening scheme—number 2 Shandon Park (purchased 23 May 1984) and number 4 Shandon Park (purchased 7 December 1987). Both these properties were subsequently demolished. In addition, 2 properties/gardens were acquired for the associated proposed link road from Ascot Park to Shandon Park—number 11 Shandon Park (purchased 17 November 1997) and number 13 Shandon Park (purchased 7 February 2003). The total cost for these two properties was £406,000.

The day-to-day management of property acquired by Roads Service in advance of road schemes is carried out by the Department for Social Development's Lands Service, under the terms of a Service Level Agreement (currently under review). This document, among other things, stipulates response times for reacting to maintenance problems.

DSD colleagues have advised that 11 and 13 Shandon Park were rented to tenants but vacated in January and February 2005 respectively. Unfortunately DSD was unsuccessful in its efforts to secure new tenants for them after advertising in the local press in June 2005.

I understand maintenance work has been ongoing at these properties. At 11 Shandon Park work was carried out between February and April 2005 with further work to be carried out this month. At 13 Shandon Park maintenance work was also carried out in June, July and September 2005 and in January 2006.

School Governor Training

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how much each education and library board in Northern Ireland has spent on school governor training in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* staff costs, *(b)* facility hire, *(c)* refreshments and *(d)* other expenses; [74383]

(2) how much each education and library board expects to spend in 2006-07 on training for school governors. [74384]

Maria Eagle: Records for all five education and library boards are only available for the four financial years 2002-03 to 2005-06. Figures for the Western Board will be forwarded when they become available on 12 June. Details of the actual expenditure for the other boards for these years plus the 2006-07 anticipated expenditure figures are as follows:

Financial year/ELB	Staff costs	Facility hire	Refreshments	Other expenses	£ Total
2005-06					
Belfast	30,000	650	0	1,000	31,650
North-eastern	41,468	851	[—]	1,970	44,289
South-eastern	22,574	1,075	360	1,949	25,958
Southern	20,500	1,900	[—]	3,042	25,442
Western	—	—	—	—	—
2004-05					
Belfast	28,000	1,100	0	1,000	30,100
North-eastern	39,434	932	[—]	838	41,204
South-eastern	18,842	5,280	425	3,235	27,782
Southern	20,000	1,900	[—]	3,042	24,942
Western	—	—	—	—	—

Financial year/ELB	Staff costs	Facility hire	Refreshments	Other expenses	£ Total
2003-04					
Belfast	27,000	1,050	0	1,000	29,050
North-eastern	40,984	1,694	[1]—	3,024	45,702
South-eastern	18,093	4,250	350	2,718	25,411
Southern	19,500	1,900	[1]—	3,042	24,442
Western	—	—	—	—	—
2002-03					
Belfast	25,000	500	0	1,000	26,500
North-eastern	38,692	1,232	[1]—	1,710	41,634
South-eastern	15,927	3,000	175	978	20,080
Southern	19,000	1,900	[1]—	3,042	23,942
Western	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Included in facility hire.

2006-07 anticipated expenditure	*Amount (£)*
Belfast	26,650
North-Eastern	47,660
South-Eastern	27,371
Southern	29,550
Western	25,000

Sex Offenders

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer of 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 541W, on sex offenders, for what offences each of the people whose addresses are not known to the police were convicted; whether any of these people have been assessed as a danger to public safety; and whether they were subject to supervision and control orders at the time they moved from their last known residential address. [74314]

Mr. Hanson: Sex offender compliance with the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 is high at around 97 per cent. in Northern Ireland. Notifications are recorded by the police on a live database and the number of unregistered offenders in breach of the requirements may therefore fluctuate on a daily basis. A search of the database to provide the information in reply to the hon. Gentleman's question showed that the number of offenders subject to the notification requirements and for whom the police did not have a current residential address has now reduced to 11. The offences for which these offenders had been convicted were as follows: three for rape; one attempted rape; two unlawful carnal knowledge; two indecent assault on a female; two making/possessing indecent images of children; one buggery. One person with a conviction for making/possessing indecent images of children was subject to probation supervision at the time they failed to comply with the notification requirements. Of the 11 offenders, four had been subject to a multi-agency risk assessment with no one being assessed as Category 3 High Risk i.e. someone whose sexual offending has been assessed as currently likely to lead them to seriously harm other people. PSNI pursue a policy of actively seeking to trace offenders who fail to comply with the notification requirements. This includes placing the offender's details on ViSOR and PNC to alert other UK police forces, checking with agencies such as social security to establish if the offender is claiming benefits etc, and providing full details to colleagues in An Garda Siochana who then complete similar checks for the offender in the Republic of Ireland.

Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether discussions are planned between the Northern Ireland Office and the US consul's office in Belfast in advance of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington DC during July 2007. [74422]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure co-ordinates arrangements on behalf of the Northern Ireland Government in respect of its planning for the 2007 Smithsonian Folklife Festival and consequently has regular contact with staff of the US consulate.

Social Housing

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many social housing units are scheduled to be completed during 2006. [55789]

Mr. Hanson: The Department's completion statistics are based on the completion of each contract. Houses are not therefore counted as each one individually completes. In a contract that will not complete until 2006-07, the individual houses completed in 2005-06 have not been scored.

Some 1,200 new homes are currently programmed for 'contract completion' in 2005-06.

Social Security Agency Office (Bangor)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans *(a)* to replace and *(b)* to refurbish the Social Security Agency office on Hamilton Road in Bangor; what the timescale for any such rebuilding or refurbishment is; and if he will make a statement. [52378]

Mr. Hanson: The Bangor Social Security Office is included in the rollout of jobs and benefits offices as part of the welfare reform agenda. The Social Security Agency and Department of Employment and Learning are currently considering a number of proposals for provision of the new office. These include both the refurbishment of the existing office or a number of new build schemes. A decision is unlikely before May 2006.

A target date for completion will be agreed once contracts have been awarded.

Staff Development

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was of *(a)* staff away days and *(b)* staff team building exercises in each Department in Northern Ireland, including the Northern Ireland Office, in each of the last three years. [69232]

Mr. Hanson: The total cost of *(a)* staff away days and *(b)* staff team building exercises in each Department in Northern Ireland, in each of the last three financial years are as follows:

Total cost of staff away days

Department	*2003-04 (£)*	*2004-05 (£)*	*2005-06 (£)*
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	19,475	39,704	18,708
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	11,435	7,398	12,109
Department of Education	45,632	17,323	9,631
Department of Employment and Learning[1]	—	—	—
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	5,436	10,830	5,546
Department of Finance and Personnel	13,412	26,139	36,170
Department of Health, Social Service and Public Safety	18,065	13,082	26,148
Department of the Environment	2,074	5,242	7,001
Department of Regional Development	2,369	1,735	818
Department of Social Development	13,164	10,029	40,638
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	6,887	9,078	10,323

Total cost of staff team building exercises

Department	*2003-04 (£)*	*2004-05 (£)*	*2005-06 (£)*
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	589	8,191	400
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	0	693	460
Department of Education	5,131	0	0
Department of Employment and Learning[1]	—	—	—
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	3,244	3,155	4,401
Department of Finance and Personnel	611	24,255	16,601
Department of Health, Social Service and Public Safety	17,000	4,766	11,037
Department of the Environment	7,342	7,555	16,185
Department of Regional Development	9,265	11,356	4,056
Department of Social Development	12,015	3,371	3,909
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	6,184	7,257	0

Total cost of away days and team building exercises

Department	*2003-04 (£)*	*2004-05 (£)*	*2005-06 (£)*
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	20,064	47,895	19,108
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	11,435	8,092	12,569
Department of Education	50,764	17,323	9,631
Department of Employment and Learning	43,743	44,480	39,443
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	8,680	13,985	9,947
Department of Finance and Personnel	14,023	50,394	52,771
Department of Health, Social Service and Public Safety	35,065	17,849	37,186
Department of the Environment	9,416	12,797	23,186
Department of Regional Development	11,634	13,091	4,874
Department of Social Development	25,180	13,401	44,547
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	13,072	16,335	10,323
Overall totals[2]	243,079	255,644	263,588

[1] The Department of Employment and Learning does not hold the information broken down into separate away day and team building categories.

[2] Due to rounding figures may not add to totals.

Staff away days and team building exercises are key elements of the NICS and departmental business planning and staff development processes, which inter alia enable engagement with staff about strategic departmental priorities and targets, and the cascading of appropriate priorities to staff to help them in turn in developing their business area and personal work plans.

Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office have been taking steps to ensure that best value for money is obtained in this area. Departments will be making as much use as possible of civil service and wider public sector facilities in preference to private sector venues.

The Northern Ireland Office did not capture information at this level through financial coding for financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05 so to provide this would incur a disproportionate cost. A total of £57,243.92 was spent on development days in the Northern Ireland Office in financial year 2005-06. This equates to approximately £150 per head for the total number of staff involved. Development days are used for training and team building.

Stormont

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the final total cost for the upgrade of Castle Buildings in the Stormont Estate was, broken down by main budget heading. [74699]

Mr. Hanson: Castle Buildings, which is one of the main office accommodation blocks in the Stormont Estate, has been subject to a rolling upgrading programme of work over the past 15 years. Such work included the refurbishment of most of the building in the early nineties leading up to the political talks in Northern Ireland.

Since 2003, projects undertaken and associated costs have been:

		Capital (£000)	*Revenue (£000)*
June 2003	Provision of additional car parking spaces	190,000	—
September 2003	Refurbishment of the link towers and toilet facilities in all blocks and replacement of windows	—	600,000
March 2004	Refurbishment of Castle Buildings canteen	—	114,000
September 2005	Provision of new reception area at block B	200,000	—

Taxis

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prosecutions against illegal operators have been brought by the Department of the Environment taxi enforcement branch in each of the last five years in each police district command unit area in Northern Ireland. [57075]

David Cairns: This information is not available prior to April 2003, nor is it possible to identify the number of prosecutions within each police district command unit area.

Enforcement officers attached to the Department's Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency have detected and reported the following infringements of taxi regulations with a view to prosecution:

Period	*PSV licensing offences*	*FSV driver licensing offences*	*Insurance offences*	*Other offences*
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	309	210	228	137
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	188	140	177	74
1 April 2005 to 28 February 2006	148	68	99	176

Teenage Births

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many under-16-year-olds gave birth in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [42278]

Paul Goggins: The following table gives the number of number of maternities[1] registered in Northern Ireland in each year between 2000 and 2004 where the mother was a resident of Northern Ireland and under-16-years-old at the time of birth.

[1] Maternities are defined to be the number of pregnancies ending in still or live birth. Pregnancies resulting in multiple birth are counted only once.

Registration year	*Number of maternities registered (mother aged under-16 at time of birth)*
2000	58
2001	42
2002	37
2003	33
2004	39

Vehicle Certification

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of vehicles on the road in Northern Ireland without a valid test certificate; and if he will make a statement. [25214]

David Cairns: During a survey carried out in June 2005 at 20 locations across Northern Ireland, the proportion of vehicles on the roads without a valid test certificate was 18.98 per cent.

Women Returning to Work

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many women in Northern Ireland have been successful in getting a placement after attending courses to encourage them back into the workforce in each of the last three years; what the most common type of placement was; and if he will make a statement. [74670]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Employment and Learning does not hold the information requested but can provide information on the number of females moving into employment from DEL programmes. The number of females moving into employment from training for work, transitional employment programme, worktrack, new deal for 18 to 24 year-olds and new deal 25 plus programmes in the last three years are as follows:

	Training for work (Enterprise Ulster)	*Transitional employment programme*[1]	*Worktrack*[2]	*New deal 18-24 and 25 plus*[3]	*Total*
2003-04	271	10	201	1,003	1,485
2004-05	170	64	396	912	1,542
2005-06[4]	54	2	7	820	883
Total	495	76	604	2,735	3,910

[1] Recruitment ceased 30 September 2005.
[2] Programme closed 25 March 2005.
[3] New deal participants moving into unsubsidised or subsidised employment. On this basis a participant is only ever counted once as starting employment, i.e. if a participant has a spell of unsubsidised employment after having a spell of subsidised employment, then the unsubsidised employment always takes priority.
[4] Figures for 2005-06 are not yet complete and will therefore be subject to revision.

Statistics on the most common type of job placement found by females are only maintained for training for work and are as follows:

2003-04	Childcare
2004-05	Childcare
2005-06	Administration.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many women have taken up places on back to workplace courses in Northern Ireland over the last three years, broken down by constituency; and which courses have proved most popular. [74671]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Employment and Learning does not hold the information in the format requested but can provide the following information for the four programmes aimed at getting individuals back to work:

New Deal 18-24 and 25 plus

The number of females starting new deal 18-24 and new deal 25 plus programmes by parliamentary constituency over the last three years are as follows:

Parliamentary constituency	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Total*
Belfast East	144	100	73	317
Belfast North	199	180	206	585
Belfast South	152	99	117	368
Belfast West	330	297	368	995
East Antrim	112	112	108	332
East Londonderry	253	238	241	732
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	249	212	151	612
Foyle	374	384	398	1156
Lagan Valley	49	43	69	161
Mid Ulster	150	120	136	406
Newry and Armagh	205	183	164	552
North Antrim	178	143	186	507
North Down	81	69	77	227
South Antrim	117	87	87	291
South Down	172	136	144	452
Strangford	104	118	97	319
Upper Bann	155	96	96	347
West Tyrone	294	307	336	937
Incorrect/Incomplete post codes[1]	76	55	50	181
Total	3,394	2,979	3,104	9,477

[1] Individuals were attributed to parliamentary constituency on the basis of their post code. Not all individuals had a correct or complete post code.

Statistics on new deal courses which have proved the most popular with women are not maintained by the Department.

Enterprise Ulster—training for work

The number of women commencing training with Enterprise Ulster over the last three years, by Enterprise Ulster area office (figures not retained by constituency) were as follows:

	Number of starts		
Area office	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Ballymena	73	41	43
Coleraine	153	135	80
Londonderry	80	86	69
Omagh	72	84	65
Portadown	97	117	83
Newry	150	206	34
Belfast S/E	118	109	35
Belfast N/W	152	94	69
Total	895	872	478

The most popular courses in 2003-04 and 2004-05 were Early Years Care and Education at NVQ levels 2 and 3 (626 and 378 respectively). In 2005-06 117 women participated in Early Years Care and Education training.

Transitional employment programme and worktrack

The number of women commencing the transitional employment programme (TEP) and worktrack over the last three years, were as follows:

	TWP[1]	*Worktrack*[1]	*Total*
2003-04	19	716	735
2004-05	180	1,460	1,640
2005-06	131	19	150
Total	330	2,195	2,525

[1] Figures for the transitional employment programme and worktrack are not maintained by the Department on a parliamentary constituency basis.

In relation to the transitional employment programme and worktrack the most popular occupational areas were childcare, retail and business administration.

Women's Refuges

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding is made available to women's refuge centres in each Westminster constituency; where this funding comes from; and if he will make a statement. [74239]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the funding administered by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in relation to Supporting People and housing benefit paid to women's refuge centres. The funding is broken down by Westminster constituency for the financial year 2005-06.

		£000
Constituency	*Funding paid through Supporting People*	*Funding paid through housing benefit*
Belfast North	262.262	—
Belfast South	335.327	134.561
Upper Bann	160.876	26.887
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	66.073	5.661
Foyle	354.034	54.858
Newry and Armagh	156.677	34.149
North Down	—	37.139
West Tyrone	152.110	9.555
North Antrim	497.255	83.663
Mid Ulster	143.433	27.998
Lagan Valley	257.773	—
Strangford	169.123	—
Total	2,554.943	414.471

In this current financial year 2006-07 women's refuge centres are due to receive £2.6 million from Supporting People funding. Expenditure relating to housing benefit funding for this year will not be available until the end of this financial year.

Royal Irish Regiment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assistance will be offered by Invest Northern Ireland to those personnel accepting redundancy terms from the Royal Irish Regiment who wish to consider starting their own business. [59525]

Mr. Hanson: The Start A Business Programme is available to entrepreneurs in Northern Ireland considering setting up a new business which will trade mainly within the Northern Ireland market.

The package of support offered to entrepreneurs encompasses assessment of business idea, training, financial and business planning, access to financial support and a subsidised web package. A small grant is also available of £400 for full-time businesses and £200 for part-time businesses.

Other programmes delivered by Invest NI are aimed at start-ups which will develop export markets and at companies who will trade globally.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Services

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1548W, on accident and emergency services, if she will list the accident and emergency departments within each type in 2005. [75060]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* Data are available at trust level rather than at departmental level. The available data have been placed in the Library.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines her Department provides for health trusts on the resultant costs to ambulance trusts of centralising emergency admissions in reduced numbers of accident and emergency departments. [74491]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The provision and location of accident and emergency services is a matter for local, not central, decision. In planning local provision of A and E services, health communities are expected to observe the general principle that all emergency and urgent care should be delivered as close to home as is compatible with clinical safety.

However, the Department does set national response time requirements for ambulance trusts. It is for ambulance trusts, together with primary care trusts as commissioners of ambulance services, to ensure that these requirements are met. This includes ensuring that sufficient numbers of vehicles and staff are available to respond to 999 calls within the national response times. Considerations such as journey times should be taken into account when doing so.

Guidance on commissioning ambulance services, "Driving change: Good practice guidelines for PCTs on commissioning arrangements for emergency ambulance services and non-emergency patient transport services", was issued by the Modernisation Agency in 2004. A copy of this document is available in the Library.

Agenda for Change

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what effect the national level discussions regarding the implementation of agenda for change for ambulance technicians and paramedics will have on services which have already made agenda for change evaluations for these professions locally. [72772]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national discussions are in respect of ambulance services that are experiencing difficulty in concluding the job evaluation of posts. They will not have a bearing on services that have concluded these issues.

Ambulance Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many public responses there were to proposals for ambulance reorganisation in Staffordshire. [71220]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The strategic health authorities for the West Midlands region received 586 written responses from members of the public regarding the proposal to establish a single ambulance service for the West Midlands region, and 139 letters of inquiry relating to the consultation. In addition a number of petitions were received.

British Liver Trust

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to give financial support to the British Liver Trust for the three years from 1 April 2006; and what indications she has given to the trust of the funding it is likely to receive through section 64 grants. [73232]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has recently notified the British Liver Trust of the award of a grant of £40,000 per annum under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968, to support its central administrative costs from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2009[1].

The BLT is already in receipt of a section 64 project grant of £50,000 per annum from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2008[1] for provision of a hepatitis C and liver disease telephone helpline.

[1] Awards in subsequent years to 2006-07 are provisional and subject to the availability of funds approved by Parliament.

Childhood Obesity

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of whether there is a correlation between childhood obesity and obesity in later life. [74153]

Caroline Flint: Good quality scientific studies from relevant populations in the United States of America and the United Kingdom suggest that childhood obesity does appear to persist into adulthood. It should be noted that the majority of obese adults have gained weight during adulthood. However, a significant proportion of children will remain obese and become obese adults. The risk increases when one or both parents are obese. The likelihood of adult obesity also increases with the age of the child and their degree of obesity.

Children who are obese at the age of 13 are more likely to be obese as adults than children who are obese at age nine.

Epidemiological evidence has demonstrated critical times in childhood (perinatal, five to seven years and adolescence) when the development of obesity is more likely to persist into later life. The physiological mechanisms behind this are still being investigated.

The data underline the importance of a population based obesity prevention strategy for children for both immediate and long-term health benefits. It also demonstrates that the evidence based multi-component treatment of obesity should not be delayed until adulthood.

Children's Health Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what audits have been carried out on the management of common acute illnesses in children in the last five years. [67645]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) series provides a rolling audit of the national health service's management of illnesses requiring hospital treatment, including common acute illnesses in children. The publication tables for 2004-05 are now available on the HES online website at www.hesonline.gov.uk

Less serious common acute illnesses, accounting for around 80 per cent. of all episodes of illness in childhood, are managed by parents with support as required from the primary care team. This activity is not audited centrally.

Choose and Book

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the choose and book infrastructure. [74055]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The cost of the central infrastructure of choose and book to date is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Cost (£ million)*
2004-05	12.7
2005-06	6.3
2006-07[1]	2.9
Total spend[1]	21.9

[1] As at 30 May 2006

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact on the availability of NHS Stop Smoking Services of the time scale for fully implementing the choose and book programme. [67420]

Caroline Flint: The choose and book service is currently being rolled out nationally. It supports general practitioners in offering patient choice and enables patients to book first consultant-led out-patient appointments at times that are convenient to them.

NHS Stop Smoking Services are not currently bookable through the choose and book service, although the functionality of the service would allow it. A proposal relating to this matter is due to be considered by the national clinical reference panel, which advises the choose and book programme.

The national health service remains on target to meet its objective of 800,000 quits at four weeks over the three years to the end of March 2006. The latest figures were published in "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2005 to September 2005", on 13 February 2006. A copy is available in the Library.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to collect centrally data on patients' decisions under the choose and book system; and if she will make a statement. [69045]

Caroline Flint: The choose and book service records the list of commissioned options made available to patients and the providers they ultimately book. This information forms part of patients' clinical records and is therefore available only to those with legitimate clinical relationships with particular patients.

Aggregated booking information may be used centrally to review trends in referrals to different provider organisations, but without breaching confidentiality in relation to individual patients.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster) of 25 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1071W, on choose and book, for what reasons the statistics on the Connecting for Health website of 296,655 choose and book bookings to 25 April 2006 differ from those given in the answer. [71499]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The figure of 6,823,970, quoted in the answer of 25 April 2006, is the number of first consultant-led out-patient appointments booked in the period April 2005 to January 2006. The equivalent figure for the period April 2005 to March 2006 is 8,339,293. The majority of these appointments were not booked through the choose and book service.

The figure of 296,655, quoted on the NHS Connecting for Health website, is the number of appointments booked through the choose and book service as at 23 April 2006. As at 14 May 2006, the figure stands at 369,983.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 935W, on the choose and book system, how her Department will monitor whether an aspiration is being met. [73321]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department is establishing a data return to support primary care trusts (PCTs) in assessing whether aspiration payment criteria have been met for the choose and book element of the directed enhanced service (DES). The return will include utilisation data from the choose and book service and practice level referral data from PCTs.

It is for PCTs not the Department to monitor take up of the choice-related aspiration payment available under the DES.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* biomedical scientists and *(b)* neurologists have been appointed to the advisory panel on myalgic encephamyelitis. [74707]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: An independent working group on chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) was established in 1998 to review the care and treatment of people with CFS/ME. It included representatives from a number of clinical disciplines, voluntary organisations and patients' groups and was disbanded when it finished its work in 2002.

A list of members was included in the group's final report, which is available in the Library and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/05/95/06/04059506.pdf

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support her Department gives to chronic fatigue syndrome sufferers. [75027]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: People with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis have access to the full range of health and social services support as outlined in the national service framework for long-term conditions. This includes:

joint health and social care plans that change over time and consider other needs such as housing, transport, benefits, education, careers advice, employment and leisure;

access to a broad range of services, including rehabilitation, equipment, accommodation and personal care to help people live as independently as possible at home; and

support to help people to work or take up other vocational opportunities.

Clinicians (Information)

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to provide clinicians in NHS trusts and other facilities with access to objective analysis and advice on new drugs. [75506]

Andy Burnham: Doctors and other prescribers have access to a wide variety of information resources to support their prescribing. These include the British National Formularies, National Prescribing Centre advice and training, which includes coverage of new medicines, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines, National Electronic Library for Health, the various on-line databases and reference resources, such as Medline, and various academic and professional journals, for example the *British Medical Journal*.

Community Hospitals

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations her Department has received from *(a)* Yorkshire Wolds and Coast Primary Care Trust, *(b)* East Yorkshire Primary Care Trust and *(c)* North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic Health Authority regarding community hospitals in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [73579]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Yorkshire Wolds and Coast Primary Care Trust (PCT) and East Yorkshire PCT fed public views arising from its review of community hospitals to the Department following the publication of the "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services" White Paper. There have been no other representations to the Department from either the PCTs or from North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic Health Authority.

Complementary Medicine

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS funding is available for non-conventional medicine in 2006-07. [74433]

Caroline Flint: Decisions on the commissioning of complementary and alternative therapies, and how much funding to allocate to these, are a matter for primary care trusts and local national health service service providers. There are, therefore, no centrally held records on spending on such therapies within the NHS.

Dentistry

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many students graduated in dentistry in each year from 1997 to 2005 in *(a)* England and *(b)* Cumbria; [64427]

(2) when she will answer question 64427, on dentistry, tabled by the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale on 12 April. [75148]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answers 18 April and 5 June 2006]:* The number of students graduating from dental courses that lead to registration with the General Dental Council, England from the academic year 2002/03 to 2004/05 is shown in the following table. This information is not available centrally prior to 2002-03. No higher education institutions in Cumbria offer pre-registration dental courses.

Academic year	*Headcount*
2002/03	553
2003/04	579
2004/05	605

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record

Numbers exclude students at Eastman dental hospital and the Defence Dental Agency Training Establishment as HESA does not collect data for these institutions.

Figures are from HESA standard registration population which excludes overseas visiting/exchange students, dormant students and those who left within 14 days of starting the course.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial assistance for travel is available to eligible patients travelling to private orthodontic clinic appointments after referral by an NHS dentist. [74094]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national health service does not provide assistance with travel costs for patients receiving private treatment.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* 17 years or under and *(b)* 18 years or over were registered with an NHS dentist in (i) England, (ii) each NHS region and (iii) each strategic health authority in each year since 1997; and what proportion each represents of the relevant age group. [71388]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Registration numbers for September in each of the years 1997 to 2005 have been placed in the Library for primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs) together with England totals. Separate figures are shown for children aged 17 years or under and for adults aged 18 and over.

The registration figures for 1997 are not comparable with the figures for subsequent years because the 1997 data reflect the previous registration periods (24 months for adults and until the end of the following calendar year for children), while the later data mainly reflect the shorter registration period of 15 months. The introduction of personal dental services pilots in October 1998 and subsequent growth has affected the figures from September 1999 onwards; these changes affect comparisons over time. Registration rates are given for SHAs and for England. However, registration rates for PCTs are not available before 2001 because population estimates are not available.

Drug Treatment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the planned changes are in her Department's funding for *(a)* the National Drug Treatment Agency and *(b)* other forms of drug rehabilitation in each year from 2005-06 to 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [75266]

Caroline Flint: Departmental funding for the National Treatment Agency for 2005-06 was £10,560,000. Funding for 2006-07 will be announced shortly. Decisions on funding for subsequent years have yet to be made.

Departmental funding for other forms of drug rehabilitation for 2005-06 such as the pooled drug treatment budget allocation was £299.4 million, which includes £22 million Home Office funding. This funding is to be used for the funding of treatment within each of the six treatment modalities, which are:

general practitioner prescribing;
specialist prescribing;
residential rehabilitation;
inpatient detoxification;
day care; and
counselling.

In addition, an estimated £208 million of mainstream expenditure was made available for drug treatment. Funding for 2006-07 will be announced shortly. Decisions on funding for subsequent years have yet to be made.

GP Referrals

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of whether primary care trusts have used referral centres as a means of delaying GP referrals to consultants during the current financial year; [57781]

(2) what guidance she has given to primary care trusts about the practice of delaying GP referrals to consultants as a means of meeting year-end finance limits; [57782]

(3) what estimate she has made of how many patients have been affected by the practice of primary care trusts using referral centres as a means of delaying GP referrals to consultants during the 2005-06 financial year; [58559]

(4) what plans she has to correct any potential error in waiting time statistics as a result of uncounted delays in the time taken for GP referrals to be passed on from referral centres run by some primary care trusts, with particular reference to North Somerset. [58560]

Caroline Flint: No such estimate or assessment has been made centrally. The Department is quite clear in that referrals to community-based clinical assessment services, and other such centres, should happen only where it adds genuine clinical value for patients. Where they add clinical benefits and are properly integrated as part of the wider primary care health team, such services have a real potential to benefit patients by ensuring that they see the most appropriate clinician in the most convenient setting.

The Department is working closely with Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire strategic health authority to ensure that waiting times of patients referred through North Somerset primary care trust's referral management centre are reported appropriately.

The Department recognises however, that guidance on waiting list reporting is complex, especially in light of changing referral practices, choice, and the 18-week pathway. We therefore intend to work closely with the Royal College of General Practitioners and other professional bodies to develop clear guidance on the role and appropriate use of clinical assesament services and other similar services within the national health service.

Greenbelt Development

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance she has given to *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* general practitioner practices on the provision of funding to patient groups lobbying for development in the greenbelt; [72975]

(2) what her policy is on the development of health facilities in greenbelt land; [72976]

(3) what her policy is on *(a)* GP practices and *(b)* primary care trusts providing funding to patient groups lobbying for development in the green belt. [73241]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The guidance on town planning matters for all national health service organisations is provided in the Department of Health publication "Estatecode—essential guidance on estates and facilities management". The NHS estate is subject to all town and country planning legislation and guidance. Under these provisions, a NHS organisation

is able to put forward a detailed application to a planning authority for the development of greenbelt land for new healthcare facilities where this is considered the most appropriate site. The planning authority will assess the proposal in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are required by statute to operate within resource limits (revenue and capital) set by the Department as part of PCTs funding allocations. PCTs may use their revenue resources for any revenue expenditure permitted in law. As regards the provision of funding to patient groups lobbying for development in the green belt, no departmental guidance or policy has been issued in relation to contracts with general practitioners. However, these practitioners are able to spend their own contract income on patient groups, should they consider this beneficial to their practice.

Health Services Take-up

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when and how guidance on improving the take-up of health services amongst excluded older people will be published. [74799]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are at the early stages of considering options to develop guidance on improving the take-up of health and social care services amongst excluded older people. At this developmental stage, we are unable to provide any details regarding timescales and plans.

HIV/AIDS (Blood Transfusions)

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much compensation has been paid by the UK Government to those who contracted HIV through blood transfusions. [74297]

Caroline Flint: Up to March 2006, the United Kingdom Government have distributed a total of £39,787,617 via the Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts, to those who contracted HIV infection from blood transfusions or from treatment with blood products.

Home Care Charges

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she proposes to take to reduce home care charges in England. [75286]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for councils to decide whether and how to set charges for non-residential social services. The legal basis is that charges generally should be 'reasonable' and that no one should be asked to pay more than they reasonably can. This position contrasts with that applying to charges for residential care, where regulations prescribe a national means test, which councils must follow.

The Department issued statutory guidance, 'Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services—Guidance for Councils with Social Services Responsibilities', which is available in the Library, to all local councils in November 2001. It was amended in September 2003 to reflect the introduction of pension credits. It does not seek to change councils' power to charge, or not, for these services. It is intended to ensure that charges generally should be reasonable and that no one should be asked to pay more than they reasonably can.

The guidance aims to ensure in particular that service users on low incomes are protected from charging and that any charges levied on disability benefits are subject to an assessment of disability costs, to ensure their reasonableness. Councils are required to ensure that charges do not put any users' incomes below basic income support levels or the guarantee credit of pension credit, plus a buffer of 25 per cent. This can lead to real improvements in the position of many users, who will cease to pay charges or pay a smaller charge.

Kidney Dialysis

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residents of the London borough of Bexley received kidney dialysis treatment at hospitals outside the borough in the last period for which figures are available. [73552]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally.

London NHS Better Healthcare Closer to Home Programme

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on *(a)* public relations, *(b)* health consultancy, *(c)* planning consultancy and *(d)* hospitality and other areas in connection with the South West London NHS better healthcare closer to home programme. [73848]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department commissioned the Prince's Foundation to undertake an inquiry by design for the NHS better healthcare closer to home project and contributed funding of £60,000. All other work, as specified, was commissioned by the local national health service. Information on this is not held by the Department; it is a matter for the local NHS.

Long-term Conditions Framework

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department has taken to implement the national service framework for long-term conditions. [75432]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since publication of the national service framework for long-term conditions, the Department has co-ordinated a range of activity to help local health and social care organisations take forward implementation of the NSF. This includes:

working with key national health service, social care, voluntary and independent sector stakeholders, as well as

service users and carers, to identify and address key issues in neurological services and the stakeholders' role in implementation;

ensuring that other key delivery programmes, most especially the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" and the long-term conditions strategy help deliver key NSF objectives; and

work with the Care Services Improvement Partnership to promote implementation of the NSF through a co-ordinated work programme, including regional workshops, a web-based getting started pack and self-assessment tool for services.

National Framework for Continuing Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals (i) she, (ii) her Ministers and (iii) her officials have met to discuss the national framework for NHS continuing healthcare in the last 12 months; on what date the meetings took place; and what the content of each meeting was. [75126]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Work to produce the national framework for continuing care is ongoing, as is stakeholder communication, engagement and involvement.

The Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health my hon. Friend the Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman) met with the Ombudsman specifically to discuss continuing care, and the subject will have come up in numerous visits and meetings. I have met with local authority representatives and also with the Social Care Institute for Excellence, the General Social Care Council and Turning Point when the subject of continuing care was raised.

Officials have studied the evidence given to the Health Committee inquiry on continuing care. Regular meetings take place with staff from the Ombudsman's office to ensure their full participation and involvement in the development of the national framework.

Meetings and/or discussions have also occurred with numerous organisations, members of the public, researchers and academics, including the Royal College of Nursing, Help the Aged, Age Concern, the Alzheimer's Society and the Long Term Medical Conditions Alliance.

Officials have also had contact with these bodies, and with many other voluntary organisations and professional bodies including the English Community Care Association, Leonard Cheshire, Carers UK, POhWER, the British Medical Association, the Independent Complaints Advocacy Service, the ADSS and the LGA, Radar, Headway, the Neurological Alliance, Scope, the National Care Forum, the National Centre for Independent Living, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, the Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations and the National Care Homes Association. Many of these attended the stakeholder summit that was held on 21 July 2005 to share progress, and to gain contributions in from organisations with patients and service users, carer networks and professional organisations.

An electronic discussion forum has been established for regular communication and through which staff from across the health and social care community and wider stakeholder groups can contribute to specific parts of the framework.

NHS Direct

Mr. Gregan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has for the future provision of the best treatments website through NHS Direct. [66047]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS Direct online will continue to signpost to best treatments from the relevant NHS Direct health encyclopaedia topics.

NHS Equipment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many items of NHS equipment she estimates were not returned to NHS trusts after a patient had used them in aiding their recovery in each of the last five years; [73661]

(2) what measures she plans to take to make patients responsible for returning NHS equipment after use; [73662]

(3) what estimate she has made of the amount spent by the NHS in replacing equipment that has not been returned by patients in each of the last five years. [73663]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

It is for the national health service to plan and commission appropriate services for their local population including policies on returning NHS equipment.

NHS Pension Scheme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the liabilities of the NHS pension scheme are. [71605]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government Actuary's Department has valued the total liabilities of the NHS pension scheme as at 31 March 2005 to be £127.9 billion. They are in the process of preparing a detailed actuarial valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2004 which will be published later this year and will include analysis of the factors leading to any change in valuation.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are for *(a)* negotiations on and *(b)* changes to the NHS pension scheme. [71607]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Negotiations are continuing between NHS employers, on behalf of the Department, and the NHS staff side on proposals for a new national health service pension scheme. Proposals will be announced for consultation on the completion of these negotiations.

Nurses

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* support and *(b)* employment advice her Department provides for those successfully completing pre-registration nursing courses but who fail to find a nursing position within the NHS; and if she will make a statement; [75153]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1585W, on pre-registration nursing courses, what assessment has been made by her Department of the employment prospects of those enrolled on pre-registration nursing courses; and if she will make a statement. [75504]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national health service will continue to need new nurses to replace those that retire or take career breaks. However, there is now a much closer match between the demand and supply of health care workers and there is more competition for posts. It is a joint responsibility between higher education institutions and local NHS organisations to see that nursing and other health care graduates are supported to find employment. Vacancies for graduates continue to be posted on NHS Jobs and the NHS careers information service can direct graduates to appropriate sources of information and advice. Graduates are encouraged to be flexible when applying for posts.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of *(a)* NHS nursing vacancies and *(b)* expected nursing vacancies over the next 12 months (i) in total and (ii) in each strategic health authority; and if she will make a statement. [75150]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* In March 2005, 5,801 had not been filled within three months for qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staffing in England. The results of the March 2006 vacancy survey are due to be published in July.

It is the responsibility of local national health service organisations to estimate the likely vacancies over the next 12 months.

Parapox Virus

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has evaluated on the possible risk to human health of the parapox virus carried by grey squirrels. [73176]

Caroline Flint: In the absence of reports of human disease due to parapox virus, the Department has not evaluated any research on risk to human health. Both the Department and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) keep a close watch on incidents of parapox infection in squirrels. The human and animal infection risks surveillance group, which includes membership from the Department, DEFRA, the Health Protection Agency and the Food Standards Agency, meets on a regular basis to assess risk to public health and has considered the potential for this infection to spread to people.

Plagiocephaly

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations she has received on the treatment of plagiocephaly; [73756]

(2) how many children have been treated for plagiocephaly on the NHS with the STARband helmet in the last 12 months; [73757]

(3) what progress has been made in raising awareness of the condition of plagiocephaly among *(a)* health practitioners and *(b)* parents; [73758]

(4) what the incidence of plagiocephaly is in England. [73759]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Departmental Ministers have received 19 letters from Members of Parliament, nine letters and five emails from members of the public, and a large petition about plagiocephaly in the past 12 months. It is for doctors working in national health service trusts to decide how and whether to treat children with positional plagiocephaly. We do not collect information centrally on how they do so. Health visitors and general practitioners are trained to recognise deformities in babies, including plagiocephaly. We have not tried to raise awareness of parents about plagiocephaly but we give advice in "Birth to Five" which is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4111315&chk=pk7ls0

This suggests that babies should experience a range of positions. If followed, this advice would not only help prevent plagiocephaly, but also enhance a child's development. We do not collect statistics on the incidence of plagiocephaly centrally.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will appoint the chief executives of the new primary care trusts; and if she will make a statement. [71825]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The process for appointing primary care trust chief executives is covered by the Commissioning a Patient-Led NHS Human Resources Framework for strategic health authorities and PCTs published in December 2005. It states that the appointment process for PCT chief executives will be managed in regional clusters by the new SHA chief executives. Appointment panels for PCT chief executives will be chaired by the new PCT chair (or interim PCT chair, or SHA chair if the new PCT chair has not been appointed), and will also include the SHA chief executive, the new professional executive committee (PEC) chair (or other senior clinician if the new PEC chair has not been appointed), and an independent assessor.

The Human Resources Framework and supplementary guidance, "Primary Care Trusts: Chief Executive Posts is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/46/55/04134655.pdf.

Purchase of Publications

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why funding for the purchase copies of the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin for NHS clinicians has ceased. [75505]

Andy Burnham: This decision was informed by our policy to devolve as much responsibility as possible to the national health service and to look very critically at central spending. It is our policy that central spending should be kept to an absolute minimum in order to maximise the resources available for the NHS to manage at local level. The decision also took account of the availability of other sources of medicines information.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual cost to the NHS has been of purchasing copies of the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin in each of the last five years. [75507]

Andy Burnham: The annual cost of the Department's central contract to purchase copies of the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin for each of the last five years is as follows:

Financial year	*Cost (£ million)*
2001-02	1.350
2002-03	1.419
2003-04	1.435
2004-05	1.435
2005-06	1.435

Redundant NHS Sites

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what regulations cover the selling of redundant NHS sites; whether monies raised in Gloucestershire from such sales will be spent in the county; and if she will make a statement. [74269]

Andy Burnham: Guidance on the disposal of surplus national health service land and buildings is provided in the Department's publication "Estatecode—essential guidance on estates and facilities management".

NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) have delegated limits for capital investment. Within these limits, they may make capital investment decisions without seeking approval from their strategic health authority (SHA) or from the Department. These limits vary between £1 million and £10 million, depending on the organisation's turnover from provider activities and its most recent performance rating.

Sales of fixed assets such as land and buildings are dealt with in the same way. Within its delegated limit, an NHS trust or PCT can sell assets and reinvest the proceeds without the approval of its SHA. Above the delegated limit, these trusts must seek their SHA's approval both for the sale and to reinvest the proceeds. In many instances, SHAs will approve the reinvestment of the sale proceeds by the selling trust or PCT but the SHA retains the discretion to specify another use.

The SHA with responsibility for health services in Gloucestershire is the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA. Within this wide geographical remit, there are circumstances where the SHA might consider that there is a health-investment need to use capital proceeds from one county in the other counties that it covers.

When the selling organisation is an NHS foundation trust, the ability to dispose of assets is covered by the "Protection of Assets—Guidance for NHSFTs" published by Monitor, the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts. Income from the sale of its assets accrues to the NHS foundation trust.

Residential Homes

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines her Department issues to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts on assessments to establish whether patients require nursing care in residential homes. [73832]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: "Continuing care: NHS and local councils' responsibilities" makes it clear that the national health service is responsible for arranging and funding community health service in care homes. In order for people in residential homes to access these services, they must be registered with a general practitioner.

When assessing the nursing care needs of older people in all settings local authorities and the NHS are required to implement the single assessment process, as set out in "Guidance on the Single Assessment Process for Older People". This ensures a person centred approach to assessment and care planning for older people regardless of both organisational boundaries and the health conditions and circumstances of older people.

Seasonal Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 763W, on influenza, if she will make a statement on the progress of the review on the seasonal influenza vaccination programme; and whether she expects to publish the review findings before general practitioners order their stocks of influenza vaccine for the winter of 2006-07. [73871]

Caroline Flint: Independent assessors have been appointed and are carrying out the review.

Once complete, the reviewers will submit their findings to the Secretary of State for Health. The recommendations will be given careful consideration and the reviewers report will be made available.

General practitioners are already ordering their stocks, and any recommendations from the review will be considered for the 2007 seasonal influenza immunisation programme.

Sexual Health

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of each main category of sexually transmitted disease there were in each primary care trust area in the North East in each year since 2001; and what the rate was of each disease in each area in each year. [75249]

Caroline Flint: Data are not available in the format requested. Statistics of sexually transmitted infections are collected by the Health Protection Agency and are available at national, regional and strategic health authority (SHA) level which is shown in the tables relating to County Durham and Tees Valley SHA and Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA.

County Durham and Tees Valley SHA ,number of new episodes of selected diagnoses 2001-04

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Chlamydia	795	1,007	1247	1,225
Gonorrhoea	275	375	309	265
Syphilis	2	1	11	18
Herpes	99	104	128	134
Warts	1,118	1,235	1,286	1,433
Total diagnoses	6,420	6,736	7,603	8,085
Total workload	4,552	7,374	14,567	16,253

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA, number of new episodes of selected diagnoses 2001-04

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Chlamydia	1,559	1,756	2,168	3,199
Gonorrhoea	270	369	357	332
Syphilis	2	16	56	74
Herpes	365	376	339	339
Warts	2,050	2,115	2,115	2,405
Total diagnoses	12,527	12,829	13,599	15,166
Total workload	11,955	20,528	33,396	38,320

Notes:
Numbers of diagnoses were not adjusted for missing clinic data.
The increased workload in 2003 could be partly due to changes in the reporting system (the addition of S codes)
Definitions of selected conditions:
Chlamydia—Uncomplicated genital chlamydial infection, KC60 code C4a,C4c
Gonorrhoea—Uncomplicated gonorrhoea, KC60 code, B1,B2
Syphilis— Primary and secondary infectious syphilis, KC60 code A1,A2
Herpes—Anogenital herpes (first attack), KC60 code C10a
Warts—Anogenital warts (first attack), KC60 code C11a
Total diagnoses—All diagnoses made, includes all A, B, C and E KC60 codes
Total workload—All workload not requiring a diagnosis, includes all D, P and S KC60 codes

County Durham and Tees Valley SHA, rates of new episodes of selected diagnoses 2001-04, per 100,000 population

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Chlamydia	69.4	87.9	108.7	106.8
Gonorrhoea	24.0	32.7	26.9	23.1
Syphilis	0.2	0.1	1.0	1.6
Herpes	8.6	9.1	11.2	11.7
Warts	97.6	107.8	112.1	124.9

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA, rates of new episodes of selected diagnoses 2001-04, per 100,000 population

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Chlamydia	111.8	126.1	155.7	229.7
Gonorrhoea	19.4	26.5	25.6	23.8
Syphilis	0.1	1.1	4.0	5.3
Herpes	26.2	27.0	24.3	24.3
Warts	147.0	151.9	151.9	172.7

Notes:
Diagnoses are calculated based on genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics in the SHA, rates are calculated for the SHA's resident population. 2003 mid-year population estimates were used for 2004.
Source:
Diagnoses and rates of selected sexually transmitted infections seen at GUM clinics, United Kingdom: 2000-2004, Health Protection Agency

Spinal Cord Injuries

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with spinal cord injuries live in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Southend on Sea. [75431]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on the number of people living with spinal cord injuries are not collected centrally. However, the Spinal Injuries Association has estimated that there are around 40,000 people with spinal cord injuries in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 829W, on spinal cord injuries, (1) what patient activity data of spinal cord injured patients is collected at *(a)* NHS spinal cord injury centres and *(b)* general and district facilities; and how such information is shared between these facilities; [75499]

(2) what plans she has to commission research into the long-term treatment and care of spinal cord injured people; [75500]

(3) if she will request the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to assess the requirement for guidance on the treatment and care of spinal cord injured people. [75501]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Hospital episode statistics (HES) patient activity data is collected at specialised spinal cord injury centres, and general national health service facilities. This data is available via HES online at www.hesonline.org.uk

The Medical Research Council (MRC) has responsibility for allocating research funding on health. The MRC is independent, and funding allocations are based on the merit of submitted research proposals rather than being ring-fenced for specific conditions.

We have no plans to ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to assess the need for guidance on the treatment and care of spinal cord injured people.

Student Grants Unit

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many students applied for a bursary from the NHS Student Grants Unit for the academic year beginning in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005, broken down by type of course; [72315]

(2) how many and what percentage of students had received their bursary from the NHS Student Grants Unit for *(a)* the academic year 2005-06 by (i) September 2005, (ii) October 2005, (iii) November 2005 and (iv) December 2005 and (b) the academic year 2004-05 by (A) September 2004, (B) October 2004, (C) November 2004 and (D) December 2004, broken down by (1) type of course and (2) type of bursary; [72316]

(3) how many complaints the NHS Student Grants Unit received in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005; [72317]

(4) how many applications for dependants' allowance the NHS Student Grants Unit received in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005; and how many were approved in each year. [72318]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Table one shows the number of national health service bursary awards assessed in academic years 2004-05 and 2005-06 by type of course.

Table 1: NHS bursaries: awards assessed—academic years 2004-05 and 2005-06[1]

Course name	2004-05	2005-06[1]
Allied health profession foundation	55	71
Audiology	260	343
Chiropody	1,024	1,023
Dental hygiene	290	231
Dental hygiene and dental therapy	36	139
Dental surgery	569	494
Dental therapy	42	43
Dietetics	882	946
Health professional—unclassified	1,425	1,570
Medicine	7,066	6,651
Midwifery	3,739	3,879
Nursing degree	6,766	7,325
Nursing—diploma higher education	52,587	51,888
Occupational therapy	3,815	3,960
Operating department practitioner	877	1,113
Orthoptics	136	140
Physiotherapy	5,321	5,414
Prosthetics and orthotics	94	88
Radiography	2,733	2,919
Radiotherapy	216	195
Radiotherapy—radiation oncology	30	33
Speech and language therapy	1,638	1,714
Total	89,601	90,179

[1] Academic year to date (academic year 1 September—31 August).

The information is not available in the format requested. Table two shows the applications processed for new and continuing students undertaking degree and diploma courses, month by month for the academic year 2004-05 and 2005-06 with the exception of medical and dental courses where the information is only available for 2005-06.

Table 2

	Academic year 2004-05				Academic year 2005-06			
	September	October	November	December	September	October	November	December
New diploma	7,088	9,437	10,475	10,475	2,729	6,429	9,799	10,941
Continuing diploma	33,937	35,795	36,120	36,120	35,525	35,642	35,950	36,367
New degree	8,561	11,834	13,495	13,495	1,035	4,251	6,684	10,580
Continuing degree	15,360	15,884	16,055	16,055	12,950	13,837	14,875	15,453
New medical	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	4529	—	—	—
Continuing medical	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	2569	—	—	—

[1] Not available

125 written complaints were received from 1 February 2005 to 31 December 2005 and nine in 2004.

Table three shows how many applications were made to the NHS Student Grants Unit for dependants' allowances and how many applications were approved in the academic years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Table 3: NHS Bursaries: applications for dependants' allowances—academic years 2004-05 and 2005-06[1]

	2004-05	2005-06[1]
Applications made	14,601	16,028
Applications approved	12,898	12,950

[1] Academic year to date (academic year 1 September—31 August).

Source:
NHS Business Services Authority

Tuberculosis

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what inoculations are given to children to protect against tuberculosis. [73842]

Caroline Flint: The Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination is the only inoculation recommended to protect at risk children against tuberculosis.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the basis was for the decision to withdraw tuberculosis inoculation for schoolchildren; and what guidance is available for parents who wish their child to be inoculated. [73791]

Caroline Flint: Since the introduction of the Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) schools programme in 1953 the epidemiology of tuberculosis has changed from a disease of the general population to one predominantly affecting high-risk groups. The new recommendations are based on the advice of the joint committee on vaccination and immunisation and are aimed at delivering an improved targeted risk based programme. The widespread introduction of targeted BCG vaccination means that the majority of children at high risk of tuberculosis will now be vaccinated in early life.

The Chief Medical Officer announced changes to the BCG programme via a letter to the medical profession and primary care trusts on 6 July 2005. In support of these changes an updated leaflet, factsheet, and poster were produced and sent directly to the professionals and primary care trusts. All of these resources were aimed at raising awareness of tuberculosis, and also informing health professionals and the general public alike, of the changes to BCG policy. All these resources were also made available to order free of charge via the Department's publications line.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Abu Qatada

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in deporting Abu Qatada to Jordan. [69173]

Mr. Byrne: Abu Qatada has appealed against the decision to deport him. The appeal hearing started on 9 May, and closing submissions have still to be made. Subsequent action will depend on the outcome of that appeal.

Alcohol Sales

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to prevent the sale of alcohol to people who are already drunk. [74533]

Mr. McNulty: The Government's strategy for tackling this issue is based on working in partnership with the licensed trade, who have themselves recognised the need to redouble their efforts to prevent their staff selling to those already drunk. We are working closely with the industry on the details of how they will do this.

In addition, through the Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns (AMECs), we have been encouraging the police to develop and use innovative tactics to deal with alcohol-related crime and disorder, which include measures to prevent sales to drunks such as visits to licensed premises and to detect sales, through, for example, the use of undercover officers.

Anti-Semitic Incidents

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1613W, on anti-Semitic incidents, how many of the 132 reported incidents in Greater Manchester in 2005 occurred in each of the 10 Greater Manchester authorities. [70334]

Mr. McNulty: The information given in the answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1613W, was taken from research conducted by the Community Security Trust and reported in 2005. That report is available at http://www.thecst.org.uk but does not give a further breakdown as to where these incidents took place.

Assisted Volunteers Return of Irregular Migrants Programme

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the assisted volunteers return of irregular migrants programme was in each year since its introduction; how many people have been helped under the programme; and how many of these subsequently returned to the UK without authorisation. [73523]

Mr. Byrne: The costs tabled in the attachment include all of those relating to the programme including staffing costs.

Of the 577 people who have returned to their country of origin under the assisted volunteers return of irregular migrants (AVRIM) programme since the introduction of the programme in November 2004, four were refused leave to enter the UK as visitors, two were granted leave to enter as visitors, one had entry clearance and was granted leave to enter as a spouse, one was granted leave to enter as they were applying under an EEA family permit and one held an EEA residence permit.

Programme year	*Number of those returning to their country of origin under Avrim*	*Cost of programme (£)*
2004	82	98,572
2005	419	630,764
2006	[1]76	—

[1] up to 30 April 2006

Asylum/Immigration

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers there are in *(a)* Coventry, South and *(b)* the west midlands region. [71751]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* The number of asylum seekers supported by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) is published on a quarterly and annual basis, broken down by Government office region and local authority. The next publication covering the first quarter of 2006 will be published on 23 May 2006, and will be available on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html. Data on asylum seekers supported by NASS broken down by parliamentary constituency are also available from the Library.

The location of asylum seekers not supported by NASS could be provided only by looking at individual case records.

While a supported application is being processed and dispersed accommodation arranged, asylum seekers are housed in Initial Accommodation. As at the end of April 2006 there were 160 asylum seekers in Initial accommodation in the west midlands region.

Some longer standing asylum seekers remain supported by local authorities. Latest available management information suggests that there are 17 cases still supported by authorities in the west midlands.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers that have yet to be deported reside in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* Greater London. [72631]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of asylum seekers who were not removed when all their appeal processes had been exhausted in each of the last five years. [73524]

Mr. Byrne: The recent National Audit Office report "Returning failed asylum applicants" acknowledges that the number of failed asylum seekers in the UK is impossible to determine as some will have left the country of their own accord.

No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of failed asylum seekers who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately, and that remains the case.

Information on the number of removals of failed asylum seekers is published quarterly and annually, on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer of 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 71W, on asylum/immigration, what criteria are used when considering a fresh application from a foreign national whose previous appeal rights have been exhausted; and if he will make a statement. [73412]

Mr. Byrne: The criteria for deciding whether a fresh asylum claim has been made are set out in the immigration rules, particularly rule 353. A copy of the rules is available in the Library.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer of 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 71W, on asylum/immigration, what the cost to public funds was of consideration of fresh applications for asylum from those who had exhausted their appeal rights in the latest period for which figures are available. [73414]

Mr. Byrne: This information was not recorded before June 2005. There were 279 fresh applications recorded in the period June 2005 to March 2006 from those who had exhausted their appeal rights. In its 2004 report "Improving the speed and quality of asylum decisions", the National Audit Office accepted a figure of approximately £3,000 as the average cost of reaching an initial decision on an asylum application. Updating to 2006 prices suggests a current average cost of £3,400.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer of 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 71W, on asylum and immigration, what percentage of the applicants who submitted a fresh asylum application came from each country. [73416]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that of the approximately 6,000 failed asylum seekers whose appeal rights have been exhausted and who have submitted further representations which they claim amount to a fresh asylum claim, approximately 17 per cent. were from Zimbabwe, 13 per cent. from Iraq, 7 per cent. from Iran, 7 per cent. from Somalia, 7 per cent. from Eritrea, 6 per cent. from Sri Lanka, 6 per cent. from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 6 per cent. from Afghanistan, 3 per cent. from Pakistan, 3 per cent. from Turkey, 3 per cent. From Ethiopia, 3 per cent. from Sudan and 1 per cent. from Kosovo. The remaining numbers form percentages of less than one per cent. from each of a substantial number of countries. This information is based on internal management information and as such is not published within official statistics.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer of 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 71W, on asylum and immigration, how many foreign nationals whose appeal rights have been exhausted have taken up the suggestion of returning home to their country voluntarily. [73417]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that the numbers are as follows:

2006[1]	*Number*
January	244
February	339
March	443
April	431
Total	1,457

[1] Of foreign nationals who have returned to their country of origin under the Voluntary Assisted Return Reintegration Programme (VARRP) programme and whose appeal rights exhausted.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the average cost to public funds of supporting a failed asylum seeker in the last period for which figures are available. [73413]

Mr. Byrne: The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) provides support to eligible asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute. Generally, this support ends when the asylum seeker's claim for asylum has been finally determined.

However, where the applicant's claim has been finally determined as refused, support may continue under section 95 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1999 provided the applicant has minor dependants under the age of 18. The average cost of section 95 support, including accommodation and subsistence from un-audited April to November 2005 financial information is estimated at £141 per person per week.

Support may also be provided under section four of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1999 if the applicant is destitute and unable to leave the UK immediately due to circumstances beyond their control. The average

cost of section four support for the same period is estimated at £129 per week.

Brian Haw

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received regarding the *(a)* removal and *(b)* right to remain and protest of Mr. Brian Haw from Parliament Square [74778]

Mr. McNulty: I cannot comment on this case as it is currently sub judice.

Careless Driving

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers received a custodial sentence in 2005 after being convicted of careless driving following an incident in which a person died. [70895]

Mr. Coaker: Available data for the specific offence of careless driving, contrary to s.3, Road Traffic Act 1988 in England and Wales, do not indicate whether the incidents to which they relate involved injury or death.

Control Communications Commands

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason *(a)* Waltham forest and *(b)* Redbridge are in the second half of the last wave of the process for the integration of control room functions to Control Communications Commands in the Metropolitan Police; what steps he has taken to ensure that the integration process has identified and tackled problems arising in the earlier stages; and if he will make a statement. [47940]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for the Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis who will write to my hon. Friend separately. I will arrange for a copy of his letter to be placed in the Library.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer the letter to his predecessor dated 21 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mrs. Asma Asad. [72166]

Mr, Byrne: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given on 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 902W.

Departmental Costs

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the top three grades are paid from his Department's budget. [67459]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office ministerial team consists of seven Ministers and I am advised that there are in total 260 substantive members of the senior civil service currently working in the Department.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in each of the last five years. [67992]

Mr. Byrne: The figures available for the Home Office are set out in the table in annex A. The data for staff disciplined for misuse of the internet includes any misuse of IT including misuse of the internal email system. Similarly, the data for staff disciplined for misuse of the telephone at work include any misuse of the telephone including excessive use or unauthorised telephone calls.

Question: Figures of how many people in the Home Office (including its Agencies) have been (a) disciplined and (b) dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in each of the last five years. Annex A

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*[1]
Internet disciplinary action	7	61	11	19	26	5
Dismissals	3	4	5	2	5	0
Telephone calls disciplinary action	2	2	0	2	2	5
Dismissals	2	0	0	0	2	2

[1] To present

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in his Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [73017]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that the number of staff in the Home Office that have had *(a)* five or more *(b)* four *(c)* three, and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years are shown in the following table:

Staff having the shown number of periods of sick leave of less than five days in period

Period	*(a) Five or more*	*(b) Four*	*(c) Three*	*(d) Four*
Home Office Main (including Immigration and Nationality Directorate)[1]				
2002-03	1,333	841	1,350	1,991
2003-04	1,876	1,123	1,675	2,506

Staff having the shown number of periods of sick leave of less than five days in period

Period	(a) Five or more	(b) Four	(c) Three	(d) Four
2005	1,156	949	1,523	2,485
Identity and Passport Service[2]				
2003-04	348	200	390	500
2004-05	271	199	375	544
2005-06	268	214	371	610
HM Prison Service[3]				
2003-04	726	1,061	2,664	6,305
2004-05	586	919	2,393	6,052
2005-06	545	880	2,324	5,689

[1] Data are provided on the basis of staff having and average less than five days per spell of sickness—The figures for 2002-03 and 2003-04 are based on calendar days, those for 2005 on working days.
[2] IDPS figures show periods of less than five working days.
[3] HMPS figures show periods of less than five calendar days

Drug-related Crime

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to prevent shoplifting by drug misusers to fund the purchase of drugs. [74534]

Mr. Coaker: The Government's drug interventions programme (DIP) which began in 2003 is providing a route out of crime and into treatment for drug misusing offenders who commit crime to feed their habit. DIP uses contact with the criminal justice system as an opportunity to engage drug misusing offenders in treatment and support.

Individuals who are arrested for certain offences including theft—which includes shoplifting—in the 98 areas with the highest levels of acquisitive crime are tested for class A drugs as a part of DIP. Those testing positive are required to attend an assessment with a drugs worker. Testing on arrest is a way of identifying drug misusers at an early stage in the criminal justice process. Other key elements of the programme are operating across England and in Wales.

The drug interventions programme continues to have a positive impact in communities not only by the interventions that it offers but also by delivering a more integrated approach by local agencies to the problems of offenders. Since the programme began over 43,000 drug misusing offenders have entered treatment through DIP.

Acquisitive recorded crime—to which drug related crime (including theft) makes a substantial contribution fell by 12 per cent. in the year to April 2005 compared with the previous 12 months.

Drugs Offences (Mansfield)

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there have been for drug offences in *(a)* Meden and *(b)* Birklands ward of Mansfield in each of the last five years. [71933]

Mr. Coaker Data for Meden and Birklands ward are not collected centrally.

Convictions relating to Mansfield criminal justice court from 2000 to 2004 are given in the following table.

Number of convictions for drug offences in Mansfield by sentence or order given[1], 2000 to 2004

						Sentenced		
						Imprisonment		
	Absolute or conditional discharge	Community Rehabilitation Order	Community Punishment Order	Combination orders	Fine	Immediate custody[2]	Fully suspended	Otherwise dealt with
2000	3	42	7	4	51	11	0	13
2001	14	23	5	1	52	16	0	24
2002	23	48	8	4	59	15	1	31
2003	52	41	22	2	91	16	0	53
2004	43	46	16	3	86	19	1	43

[1] Where a person is found guilty of two or more drugs offences at the same court appearance the sentence or order shown in this table is the most severe penalty . [2] Includes unsuspended imprisonment and youth sentences.

Embarkation System

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of dismantling the embarkation system was. [73676]

Mr. Byrne: The provision of any embarkation control falls to the individual port operator, including the immigration desks themselves and any associated construction and power supply requirements. The accommodation and equipment for the control is provided free of charge to the Department in accordance with statutory legislation. As such the cost of dismantling such facilities also falls to the individual port operator and not the Home Office.

Foreign Criminals

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Ministers have

duties related to the release of foreign offenders in England and Wales. [68618]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has overall responsibility for the Home Office. I am the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality and am supported in this by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan). The Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety, my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, East (Mr. McNulty) and is supported by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker).

Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC is Minister of State for Criminal Justice and Offender Management and she is supported by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe).

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether any of the foreign prisoners released without being considered for deportation are currently thought to be in Scotland; [67463]

(2) whether he has identified any failures by the immigration and nationality directorate or immigration service in relation to foreign prisoners released by the Scottish Prison Service; [67464]

(3) when he alerted the Scottish Executive or the Scottish Prison Service to concerns over the operation of the system for deporting foreign prisoners. [67465]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 2 May 2006]:* I refer to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, on 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are held in UK Jails, broken down by country of origin. [69363]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that as of 8 May 2006 the prison IT system contained the records of foreign nationals held in prison as set out in the following table. Details of prison populations held in Scotland and Northern Ireland can be obtained from the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Office respectively.

Foreign nationals held in prison establishments[1] in England and Wales, at 31 March 2006

Country of origin	Total held[2]
Afghanistan	82
Albania	117
Algeria	178
Angola	73
Austria	10
Bangladesh	169
Belgium	39
China	249
Columbia	124
Congo, Republic of	81
Cyprus	58
Czech Republic	24
Democratic Republic of Congo	29
Denmark	10
Estonia	13
Finland	2
France	159
Germany	112
Ghana	186
Greece	19
Hungary	19
India	259
Iran	161
Iraq	252
Irish Republic	719
Italy	118
Jamaica	1,550
Kenya	61
Latvia	49
Lithuania	175
Malta	8
Netherlands	139
Nigeria	878
Pakistan	443
Poland	191
Portugal	170
Romania	150
Russia	115
Serbia and Montenegro	91
Sierra Leone	68
Slovakia	12
Slovenia	2
Somalia	298
South Africa	158
Spain	86
Sri Lanka	157
Sweden	12
Trinidad and Tobago	101
Turkey	283
Uganda	73
United States of America	94
Venezuela	53
Vietnam	169
Zimbabwe	160
Other Foreign Nationals	1,221
Grand Total	10,231

[1] Including the Immigration Removal Centres at Dover, Haslar and Lindholme managed by the Prison Service on behalf of IND
[2] All custody types

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the *(a)* regulations, *(b)* conventions and *(c)* laws that he has identified as affecting the deportation of foreign criminals. [69517]

Mr. Byrne: The following have been identified as affecting the deportation of foreign criminals:

(a) Regulations

(i) Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 which transpose ED Directive on the Free Movement of Persons (2004/38/EC);
(ii) Immigration (Notices) Regulations 2003;
(iii) Immigration Rules (HC395 with amendments);
(iv) The Special Immigration Appeals Commission (Procedure) Rules 2003v) The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (Specification of Particularly Serious Crimes) Order 2004;
(vi) The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (Procedure) Rules 2005;

(b) Conventions

(i) The 1951 Refugee Convention;

(ii) The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

(c) Laws

(i) The Immigration Act 1971;

(ii) Special Immigration Appeals Commission Act 1997;

(iii) Human Rights Act 1998 iv) Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;

(iv) Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000;

(v) Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002;

(vi)Criminal Justice Act 2003;

(vii) Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006;

(viii) Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Illegal Immigration

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many carriers have been fined for transporting illegal immigrants in each year since the passage of the relevant legislation. [74540]

Mr. Byrne: In 2005, charges were imposed on 157 different air and sea carriers under section 40 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 as amended in respect of passengers arriving in the United Kingdom without the required documents.

For earlier years records are not accessible centrally and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were found at each main port of entry in 2005. [74673]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Illicit Drugs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account the Government take in formulating their policy on illicit drugs of the effects of supply-side prohibition; and if he will make a statement. [71311]

Mr. Coaker: The Government's strategy in tackling drugs is founded on the fact that all drugs subject to it are harmful and no one should take them. We take full account of the importance of the role of legislative controls on the unauthorised production, supply and possession of these drugs in reducing the harms that such drugs cause by helping to limit their use and deter experimentation. These necessary controls are an integral, but not exhaustive, part of the Government's drugs strategy.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rate of absenteeism due to illness was in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in the last period for which figures are available. [73673]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that the annualised rate for the number of working days lost per employee per year based on sickness absence reported on our computerised resource data system, Adelphi, from 1 March 2005 to 31 March 2006 is 10.32 days.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many letters of complaint have been received by his office relating to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in each year since 2001. [73680]

Mr. Byrne: The total number of complaints received from members of the public through the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's central complaints unit, broken down by category and year are presented in the table. These figures do not include complaints received elsewhere across IND that are dealt with under separate processes i.e. MPs correspondence. Central data specifying the nature of that correspondence is not maintained electronically.

	Formal complaints (relating to staff behaviour)	*Operational complaints (relating to level of service)*
1 April 2000-31 March 2001	—	2,747
1 January 2001-31 March 2002	530	—
1 April 2001-31 March 2002	—	3,943
1 April 2002-31 March 2003	436	3,402
1 April 2003-31 March 2004	546	11,788
1 April 2004-31 March 2005	422	13,008
1 April 2005-31 March 2006	433	13,618
Total	2,411	50,142

These figures do not include complaints received elsewhere across IND that are dealt with under separate processes i.e. MPs correspondence. Central data specifying the nature of that correspondence is not maintained electronically.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to commission a report into the most recent allegations of corruption by staff at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. [74994]

Mr. Byrne: Following the publication of allegations in *The Observer* on 21 May 2006, an internal disciplinary investigation has taken place, as a result of which a member of IND staff has been dismissed. A criminal investigation continues.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has considered commissioning an externally-based investigation into allegations of corruption at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. [74995]

Mr. Byrne: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given earlier.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures his Department follows for checking that applicants for employment in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the immigration and nationality directorate are entitled to reside and work in the United Kingdom. [75201]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that our current policy is to ask all new staff to produce a passport. If they are not a British or EEA national, an original Home Office document confirming immigration status must be produced. If a UK citizen does not have a passport, and is not being employed in an IND operational grade, they may provide two pieces of alternative identification which can include an original birth certificate, P45. In addition all new entrants will have their immigration status checked against IND records.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will order a review of immigration casework in which Mr. James Dawute was responsible for *(a)* decisions and *(b)* recommendations for decisions. [75200]

Mr. Byrne: Immigration Service managers are carrying out a risk assessed review of selected casework dealt with by Mr. Dawute. The outcome of this review will determine if a more detailed and far reaching review of all of Mr. Dawute's cases is required. In addition, the Immigration and Nationality Department's Security and Anti Corruption Unit are conducting a criminal investigation into Mr. Dawute and this will include reviewing some of the cases handled by him.

Leave to Remain (Overruled Decisions)

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions a Minister has overruled a decision by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate to reject an application for leave to remain since 1999. [73681]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on the number of occasions Ministers have asked for cases to be reviewed or have overruled decisions made by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate since 1999 are not available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Licensing

Ms Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been brought for *(a)* sales of alcohol to under age children under the Licensing Act 2003 and *(b)* crime and disorder associated with pubs and clubs in Kingston upon Hull, North since November 2005. [69775]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to identify prosecutions in Kingston upon Hull, North as the centrally held data are not broken down to that level of detail. Additionally, since the Licensing act 2003 came into force in 2005 there are no data currently available for prosecutions under the act.

Data for 2005 will be available in the autumn.

Lilian Woodcock

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when Lilian Woodcock (née Nyakundi), date of birth 24 September 1977, registration number LR172801667J/01, will receive the outcome of her application for leave to remain in the UK as a spouse. [74634]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that officials at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to Mrs. Woodcock's legal representatives on 26 May 2006 informing them of the outcome of her application.

Mini-motorcycles

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* mini-motorcycles have been confiscated by the police and *(b)* fines have been issued to drivers of mini-motorcycles in (i) Dudley, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) England in the last two years. [63023]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally.

Ministerial Cars

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the fuel costs were for ministerial cars used by his Department in each of the last five years. [67124]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Transport (Dr. Ladyman) on 27 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1226W.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality has visited *(a)* the Immigration and Nationality Department, *(b)* the Channel ports and *(c)* an immigration detention centre since 2001. [73623]

Mr. Byrne: In addition to everyday contact with the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND), the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality regularly visits IND and related facilities.

People Trafficking

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to link the Coordinated Strategy for Prostitution with the response to the Tackling Trafficking Consultation. [74839]

Mr. Coaker: We are currently in the process of assessing the responses to the consultation paper on proposals for tackling human trafficking.

It is our intention to publish the UK strategy later this year. This will link in with the wider coordinated strategy for prostitution, particularly in relation to tackling demand for prostitution and raising awareness of the trafficking of women and children for the purposes of prostitution.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in the prevention of human trafficking into the United Kingdom. [74857]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are committed to tackling human trafficking and on the 5 January 2006 launched a national consultation exercise on proposals for a UK action plan on human trafficking. The question of how to prevent human trafficking features prominently in the consultation and a summary of the consultation responses is due to be published on the 21 June 2006 with a final UK action plan to follow later in the year.

The Government have introduced comprehensive legislation to criminalise trafficking and in 2000 established Reflex, a multi-agency taskforce on organised immigration crime which has worked closely with international law enforcement partners in taking forward trafficking investigations and in strengthening the capacity of other countries to deal effectively with trafficking at source. In addition, on 3 April 2006 the Serious Organised Crime Agency was launched with organised immigration crime as one of its key priorities, bringing a renewed focus on improving intelligence on organised criminals engaged in this type of crime. During the course of our presidency of the Council of the European Union the Home Office developed an EU action plan on human trafficking which was adopted at the JHA Ministerial Council on 1-2 December 2005. This plan takes an end-to-end approach to the issue and includes specific measures to prevent trafficking into and within the EU.

Police

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on progress with proposals to merge West Mercia police force with other forces. [69968]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 May 2006]:* Following the announcement by the previous Home Secretary (Mr. Clarke) on 3 March of his intention to merge the four existing forces in the West Midlands region into one strategic force, we are now in the four-month period for objections to be formulated by the police forces, police authorities and local authorities involved and submitted to the Home Secretary by 2 July.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to continue with his predecessor's plans to abolish the West Mercia police force. [71956]

Mr. McNulty: The strategic objectives set by the previous Home Secretary (Mr. Clarke) were based on the considered evaluation of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. It is clear that the present strategic structure of our police service is not fit for purpose in many ways and so the status quo is not an option. The strategic goals outlined by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the work done so far point us in the right direction.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to meet representatives of the four Welsh police forces and police authorities to discuss the proposed merger of police forces in Wales. [72968]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* I met Welsh Assembly Minister Edwina Hart and the four chief constables of the Welsh forces on 1 June to discuss the proposed merger of police forces in Wales. I will also meet with the police authority chairs shortly.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how he expects the number of police officers on patrol at a given time to be affected if constabularies are combined; and if he will make a statement. [67096]

Mr. McNulty: Restructuring of the police service is about strengthening policing and ensuring that all police forces across England and Wales have the required capacity, capability and resilience to provide the most effective policing to the communities they serve. The number of police officers in each strategic force and how they are deployed is a matter for the chief constable concerned.

We are committed to basic command units including neighbourhood policing being at the centre of the new strategic police forces providing local policing to local communities. The proposed new strategic forces should reduce the likelihood of abstractions of patrol officers to major and high profile investigations.

We are undertaking to increase the time spent by police officers on front line duties. At the end of 2003-04 63.6 per cent. of police officer time was spent on front-line duties. We have set a target for an overall improvement to 72.5 per cent. by March 2008.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the work of police witness care units; and if he will make a statement. [39193]

Mr. McNulty: Joint police and Crown Prosecution Service Witness Care Units (WCUs) were piloted in 2003 in 5 areas, Gwent, Essex, North Wales, South Yorkshire and the West Midlands. An independent evaluation of these pilots found that witness attendance at court improved by nearly 20 per cent. and that there was an overall increase of six per cent. in victim and witness satisfaction. It also showed that the number of trials which had to be adjourned as a result of witness difficulties decreased by 27 per cent. and that there was a 17 per cent. reduction in 'cracked'

trials where the witness withdrew their statement or did not attend. There was a 10 per cent. increase in the number of 'positive' cracked trials where the defendant entered a late guilty plea.

Building on the success of these pilots, Witness Care Units were rolled out across all 42 criminal justices areas in England and Wales under the No Witness No Justice project. Full coverage was achieved in line with our target of December 2005, with 165 Witness Care Units now in operation.

Although relatively new, Witness Care Units have already demonstrated their effectiveness. The number of trials that did not go ahead as planned because a witness did not attend was reduced from a national average of 908 in September 2004 to 727 in August 2005, a decrease of almost 20 per cent. In those cases handled by Witness Care Units, the witness attendance rate has increased from 78.5 per cent. in the 3 months before WCUs went live to 84 per cent. in August 2005.

A sustainability plan for the project is currently being developed which will provide a detailed analysis of the benefits of Witness Care Units, taking into account savings in time for the police, prosecutors and court officials, reductions in cracked and ineffective trials and savings in legal costs.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the areas that *(a)* have and *(b)* do not have Witness Care Units; and if he will make a statement. [59194]

Mr. McNulty: The Government met their target to have full national coverage of Witness Care Units by the end of 2005. There are now 165 Witness Care Units in operation across every criminal justice area in England and Wales.

Witness Care Units are a vital part of the Government's drive to improve support for victims and witnesses. Witness Care Units, jointly staffed by the Crown Prosecution Service and the police, have helped to move the criminal justice system from a concept of partnership to a reality, where Government, agencies and practitioners work together to deliver better services for the public.

It is important that witnesses are valued, kept informed and looked after whether or not they are called upon to attend court. Witness Care Units ensure that witnesses receive a more thoughtful and tailor-made service, with their individual needs considered from the time a statement is first taken by the police. If the case proceeds to court, witnesses will have a single point of contact to keep them up to date on how the case is proceeding, if and when they are required to give evidence and what the final outcome is.

Post-Retirement Employment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what opportunities exist for people to work beyond retirement age in his Department. [68969]

Mr. Byrne: In the non-agency Home Office, staff below senior civil service grades currently have the option to retire at any point between the ages of 60 and 65 subject to attendance, performance and disciplinary requirements which are applicable to all staff irrespective of age. A member of staff may ask to remain beyond the age of 65, but permission will normally only be granted on an exceptional basis where there is a particular operational business need.

Information about staff in the Identity and Passport Service and Her Majesty's Prison Service are shown in the following table.

	'Standard' retirement age	*May opt to stay until*
Non-agency Home Office		
Non-SCS staff	60	65
Identity and Passport Service		
Non-SCS staff	60	65
Prison Service		
Administrative grades and chaplains	60	65
Industrial grades and operational support grades[1]	60	65
Officer grades (pre-Fresh Start i.e. in post September 1987)[2]	[3]55	60
Officer grades (post-Fresh Start i.e. joined after September 1987)	60	60

[1] Staff over 60 are subject to annual reviews of their capability (both health and performance)
[2] Staff wishing to stay over 55 are subject to annual reviews of their capability (both health and performance).
[3] Reserved right.

Prison Staff (Bonuses)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* governors at each open prison received bonuses in each year since 1999 to 2000; what the cost of such bonuses was at each prison in each year; and if he will make a statement. [74874]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on special bonuses has only been recorded centrally since September 2000. Obtaining information prior to this date would entail disproportionate cost. Information on the number and total value of bonuses awarded within each Open prison between 1 September and 31 December 2000 is contained in the following table.

To avoid identifying individuals where the number of bonuses recorded was low, exact figures of less than four are not provided.

Number of bonuses paid to staff and governors at open prisons in England between September and December 2000

Establishment	Number		Value (£)	
	All staff	All operations managers	All staff	All operations managers
Askham Grange	—	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	—	—	—	—
Ford	—	—	—	—
Grendon/Spring Hill	—	—	—	—
Hewell Grange	—	—	—	—
Hollesley Bay	1-3	—	1,000	—
Kirkham	—	—	—	—
Leyhill	—	—	—	—
Moorland Open	—	—	—	—
North Sea Camp	—	—	—	—
Standford Hill	1-3	1-3	2,000	2,000
Sudbury	—	—	—	—
Thorn Cross	—	—	—	—
Usk/Prescoed	—	—	—	—
Wealstun	—	—	—	—

Prisons

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many inmates there were at *(a)* HMP Grendon and *(b)* HMP Springhill in each of the last 10 years; and what the level of resourcing was at each in each year; [65592]

(2) if he will increase the number of places for women in open prisons. [65595]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following tables provide information on: the numbers of inmates held in Her Majesty's Prison Grendon and Her Majesty's Prison Spring Hill for each year since 1996, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system; the numbers of staff serving at the prisons, as provided from the Prison Service personnel system; and the cost figures for the prisons for the financial years between 1996-97 and 2004-05, as are available in the published Her Majesty's Prison Service Annual Report and Accounts.

Number of prisoners within Grendon/Spring Hill each year since 1996[1]

	Closed trainer (Grendon)	Open trainer (Spring Hill)
1996	220	198
1997	219	207
1998	221	242
1999	215	242
2000	195	242
2001	202	243
2002	206	245
2003	219	306
2004	224	304
2005	222	304

[1] The figures are the average for January-December for each year.

Staff in post for HMP Grendon and Spring Hill (combined)

31 March	SIP	FTE[1]
1997	311	?
1998	303	?
1999	315.	315.0
2000	334	334.0
2001	338	328.5
2002	299	288.5
2003	313	302.5
2004	344	335.3
2005	354	342.4
2006	340	328.4

[1] Full-time equivalent.

Annual report and accounts costs for HMP Grendon/Spring Hill

Financial year	£ Annual cost
1996-97	8,702,300.00
1997-98	8,992,600.00
1998-99	9,486,126.00
1999-2000	10,278,228.00
2000-01	11,066,549.00
2001-02	10,503,600.00
2002-03	11,834,438.00
2003-04	14,095,177.00
2004-05	14,704,902.00

Mr. Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1212-4W, on Leyhill open prison, how many of the prisoners who have absconded since 1999 have been recaptured; if he will restate the table to show those recaptured by year of abscond and offence; and if he will make a statement. [73472]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* Available data indicate that since 1999 there have been 393 absconds from Leyhill prison. Of these, 365 prisoners have been recaptured since 1999. Details of these are given in the table. In addition to those recaptured a further four prisoners who were unlawfully at large have died.

Recaptured absconders from open prisons in England 1999-2000 to 2005-06

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Murder	3	5	2	4	2	4	3
Manslaughter	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Death by reckless driving	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Attempted rape	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Assault	2	—	—	4	5	9	6
Attempted Murder	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Kidnap	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Attempted kidnap	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Robbery	4	1	3	3	16	8	14
Attempted robbery	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Burglary	12	4	5	13	38	35	18
Drug related offences	1	1	1	1	12	10	6
Arson	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Affray	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Fraud	3	—	—	—	1	1	—
Driving offences	2	2	1	6	8	5	2
Possession of an offensive weapon	—	2	—	—	3	1	—
Handling stolen goods	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Holding warrant	1	—	—	1	4	3	1
Theft	—	3	4	2	6	5	2
Blackmail	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Breach of order	—	—	—	2	3	—	—
Criminal damage	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Violence	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Illegal Immigrant	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	31	24	18	40	103	89	60

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have absconded from HMP Springhill in each of the last five year, broken down by category of offence; how many such absconders have not yet been apprehended; and if he will make a statement. [74798]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since 1 January 2001, 169 prisoners have absconded from Springhill open prison. 13 prisoners have not yet been apprehended. Details of the absconders and those remaining unlawfully at large are provided in the following tables.

Offence	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Total number of absconds from Springhill prison by calendar year and type of offence					
Murder	1	—	2	—	2
Manslaughter	2	—	—	1	—
Death by reckless driving	—	—	—	3	—
Escape	—	—	1	—	—
Threats to kill	—	—	1	—	—
Assault[1]	—	1	5	4	4
False imprisonment	—	—	1	—	—
Robbery	4	1	15	5	7
Attempted robbery	—	—	—	1	2
Burglary	3	3	17	11	9
Drug related offences	—	1	5	5	3
Hijack	—	—	2	—	—
Affray	—	1	—	—	1
Fraud	—	—	1	2	1
Driving offences	2	5	8	5	2
Possession of an offensive weapon	2	—	—	—	2
Handling stolen goods	—	—	2	—	2
Wounding	—	—	1	—	—

Offence	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Theft	—	1	4	1	—
Breach of Order	—	—	1	1	—
Violence	—	—	—	—	1
Debts	—	—	—	—	1
Total	14	13	66	39	37

[1] Including actual bodily harm, grievous bodily harm and other types of assault.

Total number of absconds from Springhill prison, who has not yet been apprehended, by calendar year and type of offence

Offence	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Death by reckless driving	—	—	—	2	—
Robbery	—	—	—	—	2
Burglary	—	—	1	—	—
Possession of an offensive weapon	1	—	—	—	1
Drug related offences	—	—	—	2	—
Fraud	—	—	—	2	—
Driving offence	2	—	—	—	—
Total	3	0	1	6	3

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have absconded from Ford prison since 21 May; how many were *(a)* awaiting deportation and *(b)* being considered for deportation; and if he will make a statement. [75225]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Six prisoners, all foreign nationals, have absconded from Ford open prison since 21 May 2006. Of these two were being considered for deportation and four had been notified to IND but no decision had been reached on enforcement proceedings.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners are being held in Ford prison; and how many of them are *(a)* awaiting deportation and *(b)* being considered for deportation. [75227]

Mr. Sutcliffe: None. All foreign national prisoners were removed from Ford prison on 26 May 2006 and returned to closed conditions where they will be subject to full and rigorous risk assessment before any decision is made on the level of security they require.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to review the risk assessment procedures for prisoners who are awaiting deportation, or being considered for deportation, before they are accepted to open prisons. [75228]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following a review of the criteria for the categorisation of foreign national prisoners and their allocation to open conditions in May, the Prison Service concluded that no changes were required of the policy. However, governors have been instructed to take into account recent public statements made by Ministers, including the Prime Minister, regarding the likelihood of deportation when considering foreign national prisoners for category D status and allocation to open conditions. The overriding purpose of the security classification must be to ensure that prisoners are retained in custody with a level of security that is consistent with the need to protect the public.

Probation Service

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders were placed under supervision of the probation service by the courts in 2005-06. [75392]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The latest available information shows that some 137,624 offenders started court order supervision by the probation service in the year from 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005.

Promotion Boards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what promotion boards have been held in his Department in each of the last five years. [72877]

Mr. Byrne: Annual promotion boards have not been held in the Home Office since 2000.

Prosecutions (Northern Ireland)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of cases brought for prosecution by the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland resulted in conviction in each of the last 10 years. [74424]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The Public Prosecution Service, which when fully rolled out will be responsible for all prosecutions arising from police investigations, only came into existence in June 2005. Prior to that date, the Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions was only responsible for the conduct of the more serious criminal cases and the bulk of prosecutions in the magistrates court were

conducted by the police. The police continue to conduct prosecutions in the magistrates court in those areas not yet covered by the PPS. The figures provided in the tables reflect, therefore, only those cases conducted by the PPS or the old Department of the DPP.

Figures are only available for the past five years following the introduction of a Case Management System.

The figures for the magistrates court are:

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Convicted (on at least one count)	3,453	3,763	4,428	7,316	10,544
Acquitted (all coun	249	227	237	391	317
Total	3,702	3,990	4,665	7,707	10,861
Percentage conviction rate	93.3	94.3	94.9	94.9	97.1

The figures for the Crown court are:

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Convicted (on at least one count)	794	1,125	1,257	1,398	1,307
Acquitted (all counts)	94	139	162	177	176
Total	888	1,264	1,419	1,575	1,483
Percentage conviction rate	89.4	89.0	88.6	88.8	88.1

Road Traffic Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the Parliamentary Advisory Committee on Transportation Safety on *(a)* the enforcement of and *(b)* other issues connected with sections (i) 14 and (ii) 15 of the Road Traffic Act 1988; and if he will make a statement. [75631]

Mr. Coaker: My officials are in regular contact with the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety and discuss a range of roads policing issues. The wearing of seat belts has not however featured specifically in recent discussions. The enforcement of requirements as to the wearing of seat belts is an operational matter for the police.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets he plans to set the Serious Organised Crime Agency for tackling fraud. [72087]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Secretary's letter setting priorities for the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) in its first year of operation has been laid before Parliament. The priorities set out there include tackling organised crime threats from fraud against individuals and the private sector. The SOCA Board has subsequently determined that approximately 10 per cent. of its overall effort should be devoted to fraud.

The Home Secretary has set a broad performance framework for SOCA within which its performance will be judged on its ability to contribute to the reduction of the harm caused to the UK by serious crime. The measures on which SOCA will be judged will include the quality of its knowledge and understanding of the crime networks and markets in its priority areas, and the dislocation that it is achieving in respect of those networks and markets.

Student Visas

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign students from *(a)* Nigeria, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* Ghana and *(d)* Bangladesh remain in the UK having outstayed their student visa. [72381]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not available.

Terror Suspects

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of whether foreign national terror suspects are on the electoral roll fraudulently. [74086]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that we have no specific intelligence that foreign terror suspects are fraudulently registering as electors.

If the hon. Member has particular information relating to this practice he should pass it to the appropriate authorities.

Terrorist Attacks (Compensation)

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much compensation has been allocated to people affected by terrorist attacks in the UK in the last 24 months. [74616]

Mr. McNulty: Compensation for people injured in terrorist attacks in Great Britain is paid from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. There is a separate, broadly similar scheme in Northern Ireland for people injured there.

The compensation provision available to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority for incidents occurring in Great Britain was augmented by £5 million in 2005-06 to cover the extra costs of compensation arising from the 7/7 bombings. A further £2.5 million is being provided in the current financial year for the victims of the 7/7 bombings outside the terms of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.

Payments made to victims of terrorist incidents occurring in the last 24 months total £2.12 million to date. These payments are all in respect of the London bombings.

Other payments made in the last 24 months in respect of all previous terrorist incidents total £1.06 million. These payments relate to the London (Soho) bombing of 1999 and the Manchester bombing of 1996, and include both final awards and interim awards.

The Government also contributed £1 million to the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund, which has made payments totalling around £8 million to victims of the London bombings.

Trafficking Convention

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress is being made towards the Government being in a position to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. [73140]

Mr. Coaker: We have been looking into the various provisions contained in the Council of Europe Convention on trafficking and have been gathering evidence from our European partners about best practice in member states, the impact of provision of support for the victims of trafficking and any impact that provisions including recovery and reflection periods have had.

We are also engaging actively with the key non-governmental organisations and others working in the field of human trafficking to ensure that we explore thoroughly with them the potential benefits and disadvantages of the approach set out in the Convention.

We launched a public consultation on our strategy to combat trafficking in human beings 5 January 2006 this has now closed. We anticipate developing an action plan which takes a comprehensive end-to-end approach covering the different elements of our anti-trafficking strategy. The consultation document asked for views on whether the UK should sign up to the Convention these will be considered in our decision. A summary of responses from the consultation will be published on 21 June.

Under-age Drinking

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he proposes to take to eliminate *(a)* under-age drinking and *(b)* the use of false identification documents by under-aged youths to purchase alcohol. [74531]

Mr. McNulty: The Government are determined to tackle sales of alcohol to under-18s. Enforcement of the law takes place on a daily basis through test-purchase operations carried out by Police and Trading Standards officers. In addition to this regular activity, the fourth national Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign (AMEC 4) is currently under way. Part of this includes the provision of extra funding for up to 5,000 test-purchase operations during the four-week period of the campaign. Those who sell to under-18s risk a £80 fixed penalty notice, or prosecution. Licensees selling to under 18s additionally risk having their licence reviewed and conditions applied, or even having their license revoked.

The Violent Crime Reduction Bill currently before Parliament establishes a new offence of persistently selling alcohol to under-18s. If three sales are made in three consecutive months, the new offence will be committed, and the licensee risks a fine of £10,000 and having their licence suspended for 3 months. The police can offer the licensee the option of avoiding prosecution by closing their premises for 48 hours.

In addition to enforcement activity, Ministers and officials from the Home Office and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport are working very closely with the licensed industry, and have secured commitments from both the off-licensed sector and the on-licensed sector to seek to eliminate sales of alcohol to children. Progress against these commitments will be monitored closely through test-purchase failure rates.

The Government are aware of the problems faced by young people when wishing to prove their age or purchase age-restricted products, also by retailers when requesting proof of identity. Consequently, the Government are working with the British Retail Consortium's Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) which validates the variety of proof of age card schemes available. This allows card schemes to apply for accreditation under PASS and entitles them to issue cards displaying the PASS holographic logo. This is easily recognisable both to retailers and young people and helps them know that they have a proof of age document which should be accepted. The logo is trademark registered, making it an offence to forge. In the longer term, the identity card can be used as proof of age as well as proof of identity, however, this is a few years away from introduction.

Volunteers Return Scheme

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of foreign nationals given financial or practical assistance under the volunteers return scheme who have not yet left the UK. [73522]

Mr. Byrne: Reintegration assistance payable under the voluntary returns programmes is only payable to returnees on return to their country of origin. The International Organization of Migration (IOM) provides returnees with counselling and information in the UK, coach transport to Heathrow airport, IOM representation and assistance to the departure gate.

Under the enhanced VARRP programme, returnees also receive a £500 resettlement grant at the departure airport.

Work Permits

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether NHS trusts will be able to remove from shortlists doctors who require work permits but who had already been selected for interview before the new regulations came into force. [74603]

Mr. Byrne: The changes to the Immigration Rules for Postgraduate Doctors and Dentists were announced by the Department of Health on 7 March 2006. We put transitional arrangements in place for those who had been offered a recognised training post before this date and which commences before 4 August 2006.

Those offered a post on or after 7 March 2006 would not be covered by these transitional arrangements, and the employer would need to show why they could not fill their post with a resident worker in order to be granted a work permit for a non-EEA national.

The new Rules came into effect on 3 April 2006. Before this date, those meeting the old Rules would still have been eligible for leave as a Postgraduate Doctor or Dentist.

The full transitional arrangements are available on the IND website at www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 8 June 2006

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Code of Conduct for Councillors

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the revisions to the code of conduct for councillors are expected to be introduced. [74466]

Mr. Woolas: We intend to consult on a draft revised code of conduct for local authority members later this year, with the view, subject to the outcome of this consultation, to implementing an amended code next year.

Council Tax

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what policies the Group Valuation Office has on photographing homes for council tax re-banding purposes; and how the Group Valuation Office selects homes that are to be photographed. [75951]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency has a public fact sheet, "Council Tax—Inspections and Photography". This provides a summary of the Agency's policy on photographing homes for council tax purposes as set out in their Council Tax Manual. Both the Manual and the fact sheet are available on their website www.voa.gov.uk. A copy of the fact sheet and the relevant extract from the Manual will be placed in the Library. Photographs are taken, where Valuation Office Agency staff consider them to be of use in undertaking the statutory tasks of compiling and maintaining council tax valuation lists.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals have been employed in his Department in each of the last 5 years; what vetting procedures are in place for each category of staff; and whether these include liaison with foreign law enforcement agencies. [68025]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not readily available and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's procedures for security vetting comply with the policy set out to Parliament by the then Prime Minister on 15 December 1994, which came into force on 1 January 1995. All staff who require security clearance for their posts in the Department are subject to this policy, regardless of their nationality.

Local Authorities (Standards Committees)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice she has given to local authorities on *(a)* steps they should take to recruit independent members of Standards Committees and *(b)* support and training which should be made available to monitoring officers. [74467]

Mr. Woolas: The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/2812) set out procedures for appointing independent members of standards committees. The Standards Board for England has also issued guidance, as it is empowered to do by The Standards Board for England (Functions) Order 2004 (SI 2004/2618), to local authority monitoring officers to assist them in undertaking their roles.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Election Expenditure

Mr. Bone: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent meetings the Commission has held to discuss limits on expenditure by candidates in general elections. [75054]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has held no recent meetings to discuss candidates' expenses limits at general elections. It is, however, planning a series of meetings with party representatives over the summer on the regulation of candidates' election expenses. Reports of these meetings will form part of its contribution to Sir Hayden Phillips' review of the funding of political parties.

TRANSPORT

Automatic Number Plate Recognition Cameras

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how data captured by Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras is stored; who has access to the data; and if he will make a statement. [74812]

Dr. Ladyman: Three of Department for Transport's Agencies operate Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems, DVLA, VOSA, and Highways Agency.

Data from DVLA's ANPR cameras are used solely by DVLA for VED enforcement. In addition, DVLA complies in all respects with the BSI code of practice on the storage of digital evidence, which covers the secure handling of data through the use of access controls and tight audit trails.

Data from VOSA's eight mobile ANPR cameras is used solely by VOSA for intelligence gathering to enable targeted enforcement. VOSA hold 11 databases such as test certificate and O licence that are used to identify non-compliant operators. Intelligence gathered is encrypted and saved to disk then down loaded to the back office function. Access is via a decryption key held by the Intelligence officer. In addition, VOSA complies in all respects with the BSI code of practice on the storage of digital evidence, which covers the secure handling of data through the use of access controls and tight audit trails.

The ANPR data gathered by the ANPR cameras operated by the National Traffic Control Centre (NTCC) has two characters dropped from the number plate before being encrypted, creating a depersonalised record, which is transmitted back to the NTCC. Once this has been matched to a record from an adjacent camera or a defined period has lapsed the data is deleted. The only information being retained being the average journey time for that section at that time. No one has access to the full number plate data.

There are 108 ANPR cameras around the Birmingham box (M5, M6 and M42). 63 feed to roadside readers which are downloaded by consultants working for the HA. The information is used for traffic flow monitoring, journey time reliability and performance monitoring of schemes such as the M42 Active Traffic Management Scheme. The HA is only given reports and depersonalised information.

45 further cameras feed back to the West Midlands Police Control Office (who are the data owner) and the HA is provided with depersonalised data for traffic management purposes.

Bicycle Accidents

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving bicycles were reported on *(a)* roads and *(b)* pavements in (i) Kingston and Surbiton constituency, (ii) South West London and (iii) London in each year since 1997. [74780]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of personal injury accidents reported to the police involving one or more bicycles, by whether the bicycles were on the road or the pavement at the time of the accident, in (i) the constituency of Kingston and Surbiton (ii) the strategic health authority of South-West London (iii) and London for 1997 to 2004 (the latest year for which figures are available) are shown in the table.

Personal injury accidents involving one or more bicycles: by location of the bicycle: 1997-2004

	Kingston and Surbiton Constituency[1]			Strategic Health Authority of South West London[4]			London		
	Road[2]	Pavement[2]	All[3]	Road[2]	Pavement[2]	All[3]	Road[2]	Pavement[2]	All
1997	71	4	75	744	20	764	4,427	56	4,482
1998	71	3	74	871	36	707	4,232	125	4,357
1999	70	5	75	681	36	717	4,147	99	4,246
2000	48	2	50	523	21	544	3,503	67	3,570
2001	43	4	47	474	24	498	3,289	83	3,372
2002	33	3	36	468	21	489	3,028	77	3,105
2003	35	4	39	445	19	464	3,046	79	3,125
2004	43	2	45	480	23	503	2,945	76	3,021

[1] The accidents in these columns are those that occurred in the 2004 boundary for Kingston and Surbiton constituency.
[2] There is the possibility of double counting between these rows if an accident involved two or more bicycles and at least one was on the pavement and at least one was on the road.
[3] Includes accidents where it is not known whether the bicycle(s) involved were on the pavement or the road.
[4] The Strategic Health Authority of South West London, comprises of the London Boroughs of Croydon, Kingston-upon-Thames, Richmond-upon-Thames, Sutton, Merton and Wandsworth.

Illegal Drivers

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers he estimates are driving in the UK without having taken a driving test. [75342]

Dr. Ladyman: It is not known how many full driving licence holders have never taken a driving test.

The Road Traffic Act 1934 introduced tests of competence to drive. This Act, however, provided an exemption from the need to take a driving test for those drivers who had held a provisional licence prior to 1 April 1934. Also between 18 February 1947 and 17 February 1948 provisional licences obtained during the Second World War were converted to full licences without the requirement to sit a driving test.

Records kept at this time did not distinguish between full licence holders who obtained full entitlement as a consequence of passing a test and those who relied on the exemptions contained in the appropriate Acts.

Red Traffic Signals

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely impact on road casualties of adopting a policy of allowing vehicles to make a left turn at red traffic signals. [75928]

Dr. Ladyman: The proposal for 'turn left on red' is not considered suitable for traffic management purposes in this country.

Although there are similarities between the road traffic signalling systems in the UK and abroad, there are also differences. Many other countries use fixed time signals, where the green period is based on average flows. These periods will not necessarily be proportional to the actual flow. 'Turn right (left) on red' is often used to overcome resultant delays. The majority in the UK are either vehicle actuated or connected to an Urban Traffic Control system using 'live' information. Timings are proportional to the flow and 'turn left on red' would not afford the same advantage.

There are also differences in junction type. Where 'turn right (left) on red' is used, for example in the United States, most junctions have good visibility between side and main road traffic. Many junctions in the UK have poor intervisibility because of existing buildings and the junction geometry. Any uncontrolled movements from the side road would involve increased risks and an increased accident potential at the junction.

Also, in the UK many pedestrian phases display a green figure on the 'side road' while a red is shown to the 'main road'. Allowing vehicles to turn left on red would pose increased risks to all pedestrians, especially vulnerable road users such as blind and partially sighted pedestrians, who are often given audible and/or tactile signals as an indication that all conflicting vehicular movements have stopped.

Studies in the mid-1970s, in six states of the USA where 'turn right on red' was introduced, showed that pedestrian and cyclist accidents increased, ranging from 48 per cent. to 123 per cent. Vulnerable groups showed the greatest increase.

Number Plates

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what legislation the Register of Number Plate Suppliers was introduced and is maintained; and if he will make a statement. [75519]

Dr. Ladyman: The Register of Number Plate Suppliers was introduced in the Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001 (VGA) and is maintained by the same legislation. The Road Safety Bill currently going through Parliament will amend the VGA by extending the scheme to Scotland and Northern Ireland, giving the Secretary of State enforcement powers to prosecute errant suppliers and outlawing so called "show plates".

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the operation of the Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001; what recent representations he has received about the operation of these regulations; and whether he plans to amend the Regulations. [75520]

Dr. Ladyman: The Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001 are operating well. I have not had any recent representations about the operation of these regulations and presently have no plans to amend them.

Road Accidents

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents in England and Wales were a direct result of *(a)* speeding and *(b)* driving under the influence of (i) drink and (ii) drugs in each year since 1997, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [75382]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available.

Road Traffic Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will produce an annual report on the operation of section *(a)* 14 and *(b)* 15 of the Road Traffic Act 1988; and if he will make a statement. [75521]

Dr. Ladyman: There are no plans to produce such an annual report. TRL Ltd. already publishes an annual report on observed seat belt wearing rates on behalf of the Department and the Home Office publishes annual figures for prosecutions including seat belt wearing offences.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Alcohol/Drugs

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are being taken to encourage a no-drug policy in schools. [74855]

Jim Knight: "Drugs: Guidance for Schools" issued to all schools by the Department in March 2004 makes it clear that drugs have no place in schools. The guidance outlines a range of strategies, including drug testing of pupils, which schools can adopt to ensure a drug-free school. We also expect that all schools should have a drug policy available to all pupils and parents. We have made clear that where pupils are permanently excluded for supplying an illegal drug, the Secretary of State would not normally expect the governing body or the independent appeal panel to reinstate the pupil. We will also be conducting an evaluation study of drug testing in maintained schools.

The standards in the DfES guidance are supported by the Government-funded certification programme for teachers of Personal Social and Health Education and by the National Healthy School Programme.

Biological Diversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which Minister in his Department is responsible for monitoring his Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if he will make a statement. [73945]

Jim Knight: Under Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Ministers and Government

Departments have a duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity. This has been replaced by a similar provision under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, which comes into effect on 1 October 2006. The Department for Education and Skills has taken a number of steps to benefit biodiversity including:

the ongoing consultation on a Sustainable Schools Strategy in which the natural environment plays a major part: www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations

the requirement for all major new build and refurbishment projects in schools to achieve a minimum "BREEAM Schools" rating of very good;

promoting the preservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of schools through a range of criteria in the Land Use and Ecology section of the methodology: www.breeam.org/schools

launching a Sustainable Schools web portal for teachers on 9 June 2006: www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools

Class Sizes

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average secondary school class size was in *(a)* Cornwall and *(b)* England in 2005-06. [72782]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the table.

Maintained secondary schools[1]: Average class size[2,3]—January 2006 (provisional)

	Average class size
England	21.5
Cornwall local authority area	21.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
[3] Classes taught by one teacher.
Source:
Schools' Census

Education and Inspections Bill

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received regarding the mergers provisions of the Education and Inspections Bill. [73911]

Jim Knight: We have received two representations regarding the amalgamation of schools and how the process by which two or more schools are closed and a single new school is opened using the predecessor schools' sites is affected under the school competition provisions of the Education and Inspections Bill.

GCSEs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of GCSE students in *(a)* the London borough of Havering and *(b)* other London boroughs achieved five or more C grades or higher in 2004-05. [75452]

Jim Knight: 61.2 per cent. of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieved five or more GCSEs or equivalents[1] at grades A* to C in 2005 in the London borough of Havering. The following table shows the proportion in other London boroughs.

Government office region[2]—local authority	*Number of end of Key Stage 4 pupils*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades*
London	72,934	55.5
Inner London	22,678	50.4
Camden	1,443	51.8
Hackney	1,289	47.3
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,146	59.0
Haringey	2,106	47.7
Islington	1,376	44.2
Kensington and Chelsea	579	61.8
Lambeth	1,375	53.0
Lewisham	2,207	49.4
Newham	3,234	51.0
Southwark	2,239	47.2
Tower Hamlets	2,445	50.9
Wandsworth	1,857	54.1
Westminster	1,382	46.8
Outer London	50,276	57.8
Barking and Dagenham	1,938	50.8
Barnet	3,380	64.1
Bexley	3,252	57.5
Brent	2,638	57.3
Bromley	3,502	64.0
Croydon	3,725	54.5
Ealing	2,586	59.5
Enfield	3,534	51.7
Greenwich	2,493	45.7
Harrow	2,171	61.9
Havering	3,021	61.2
Hillingdon	2,934	51.0
Hounslow	2,613	57.9
Kingston upon Thames	1,467	67.6
Merton	1,531	47.1
Redbridge	2,968	70.0
Richmond upon Thames	1,495	54.9
Sutton	2,470	68.0
Waltham Forest	2,558	49.1

[1] Includes all equivalences approved for use pre 16.
[2] Local authority and Government office region level figures only cover maintained schools.

Teachers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on teacher retention in the London borough of Havering. [75570]

Jim Knight: There were 2,050 full-time equivalent teachers in maintained schools in Havering in January 2005, compared to 1,870 full-time equivalent teachers in 1997. In January 2005, there were 13 full-time vacancies in Havering, or 1.4 per cent. of full-time

teachers in post in the maintained sector. In January 1997, there were nine full-time teacher posts vacant, or 0.5 per cent. of full-time teachers in post.

Significant increases in London teachers' pay, including doubling the threshold payment in 2003 for good experienced teachers in London, have provided a clear incentive for teachers to stay in the capital. Since 2004, school teachers in London have been able to use interest free loans of up to £100,000 through the key worker living initiative to help them afford the cost of homes. 1,800 teachers were helped to buy homes between April 2004 and March 2006 under the scheme which continues until 2008.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with African *(a)* leaders and *(b)* parliamentarians regarding corruption in Africa; and if he will make a statement. [73581]

Hilary Benn: Corruption is a serious problem in much of Africa. DFID is supporting a wide range of activities to help countries detect and take action against corruption. Some of the recent discussions I have had with African leaders and parliamentarians about corruption are outlined below.

When I visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in October 2005, the main focus was to urge the Congolese Government to tackle corruption—particularly within the army pay system.

I had frank discussions with President Kibaki of Kenya about corruption when I visited in January 2006. Since then some steps, including the removal of three senior Ministers, has taken place in response to public pressure following the release of the Githongo dossier and Goldenberg report. This is an encouraging start but Kenyans are calling for more to be done. When I met President Kibaki again recently, I stressed the importance of continued progress in the corruption investigations. I have also met several Kenyan Members of Parliament (MPs) to discuss progress on corruption and specifically the Public Accounts Committee report on the so-called Anglo-Leasing affair.

I met President Kagame and Ministers in Rwanda in November 2005. Discussions focused on the Rwanda-UK Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which covers corruption among other issues.

When visiting Tanzania in May 2006, President Kikwete and I focused discussions on corruption and growth. Following progress made by his predecessor Benjamin Mpaka, President Kikwete is determined to improve governance and tackle high-level corruption.

I met President Museveni when I visited Uganda in May 2006. I discussed the President's commitment to tackle corruption made in his election manifesto and subsequent public statements.

President Mwanawasa of Zambia and I met in February 2005 and emphasised the importance of continued commitment to combating corruption and continuing improvement of public financial management.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations his Department has made to the World Bank regarding its Africa Plan; and if he will make a statement. [73583]

Hilary Benn: The World Bank's Africa Action Plan, endorsed by Bank Governors at their annual meeting in Washington in September 2005, forms part of the Bank's response to the commitments made at Gleneagles last June. DFID officials discuss the Plan regularly with Bank staff. I raised implementation of its recommendations at the Bank's spring meetings in April this year, and look forward to discussing progress in the first year by the time of this year's annual meeting of Governors in September.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the implications of the World Bank Africa Plan for efforts to address climate change; and if he will make a statement. [73582]

Hilary Benn: The World Bank's Africa Action Plan does not specifically address climate change. However, the World Bank fully recognises the severity of the impact climate change will have in Africa and is committed to helping countries address these. It is also looking at improving the ways African countries can benefit from a global shift towards cleaner energy, through carbon finance projects, for example.

Last year at Gleneagles the G8 asked the World Bank to lead the development of a new global investment framework to speed up the adoption of cleaner energy in developing countries to help address climate change. As part of this framework the World Bank is also developing approaches to help countries adapt to the impact of climate change. This work was discussed by governors at the World Bank's Spring Meetings in April. In my written statement to the Development Committee at the Spring Meetings I welcomed the valuable work the World Bank had done so far and stressed the need for this to be developed further by the Annual Meetings in September. I also said that helping member countries meet the challenges of climate change should be a key objective of the World Bank over the coming years. The statement is available on DFID's website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve the governance of the Democratic Republic of Congo's natural resource wealth. [74834]

Hilary Benn: Improving the management of natural resource and improving revenue generation in the DRC is one of the main features of DFID's Country

Engagement Plan for DRC. DFID funded the non-governmental organisation Global Witness to conduct research on natural resources in the Great Lakes region, and we have now developed a plan for long term involvement in the sector.

DFID and the World Bank have been leading support to the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in DRC—which aims to improve revenue transparency between government and mining companies.

DFID is also involved in the development of the World Bank's plans to support implementation of the DRC's forestry code—to ensure it provides for a sustainable timber business in DRC, and protects the livelihoods of forest dwelling communities and the environment.

We are now developing a large programme of support to the minerals sector. This is likely to include continuing support to the implementation of the EITI, support for efforts to improve the regulation of companies involved in minerals extraction, and developing partnerships with the private sector to provide services to mining communities.

Departmental Office Expenditure

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent on the running of the Department's office in *(a)* Accra, *(b)* Luanda, *(c)* Makurdi, *(d)* Kinshasa, *(e)* Banjul, *(f)* Nairobi, *(g)* Maseru, *(h)* Lilongwe, *(i)* Maputo, *(j)* Kigali, *(k)* Khartoum, *(l)* Dar es Salaam, *(m)* Kampala, *(n)* Lusaka, *(o)* Harare, *(p)* Addis Ababa, *(q)* Bujumbura, *(r)* Abuga, *(s)* Ekiti, *(t)* Jigawa and *(u)* Enugu in 2004-05. [73560]

Hilary Benn: The following table shows how much was spent (on administrative resources) running these offices during the financial year 2004-05:

Office	*Cost (£ million)*
(a) Accra—Ghana	2.637
(b) Luanda—Angola	0.397
(c) Makurdi—Nigeria	0.140
(d) Kinshasa—DRC	1.786
(e) Banjul—Gambia	0.120
(f) Nairobi—Kenya	2.878
(g) Maseru—Lesotho	0.137
(h) Lilongwe—Malawi	2.972
(i) Maputo—Mozambique	2.387
(j) Kigali—Rwanda	2.170
(k) Khartoum—Sudan	1.518
(l) Dar Es Salaam—Tanzania	1.994
(m) Kampala—Uganda	3.085
(n) Lusaka—Zambia	2.106
(o) Harare—Zimbabwe	1.630
(p) Addis Ababa—Ethiopia	2.760
(q) Bujumbura—Burundi	0.290
(r) Abuja—Nigeria	3.724
(s) Ekiti—Nigeria	0.200
(t) Jigawa—Nigeria	0.140
(u) Enugu—Nigeria	0.200

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department have had *(a)* 5 or more, *(b)* 4, *(c)* 3 and *(d)* 2 periods of sick leave of less than 5 days in each of the last 3 years. [72999]

Mr. Thomas: This information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

DFID is committed to managing sickness absence effectively. Our average working days sick absence per staff year fell from 7 days in 2003 to 4.8 days in 2004. Figures for 2005 are not yet available. We are currently in the process of reviewing our data retrieval requirements with the objective of increasing our ability to access information on a more flexible basis than at present.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension. [73003]

Mr. Thomas: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) can pay additional contributions to top up their pension either through the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme (CSAVCS), a money purchase arrangement, or by buying added years of service in the PCSPS. As an alternative to membership of the PCSPS recruits from 1 October 2002 have been able to join a stakeholder arrangement, the partnership pension account.

The number and percentage of staff in the Department for International Development who are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension as at 26 May 2006 are shown in the table.

	Number	*Percentage*
CSAVCS	50	2.73
Added Years	120	6.56
Partnership	27	1.48

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures of *(a)* project and *(b)* staff performance are in place in his Department. [74831]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is as follows.

(a) DFID rates the performance of its projects and programmes on a five point scale. This assessment is required for all bilateral projects/programmes with a commitment value of £1 million or more and takes place annually while the project is running and at the completion of the project.

DFID uses this performance information in our Public Service Agreement (PSA) 'value for money' target.

(b) Beginning in 2006 DFID has introduced staff performance arrangements which focus on individual delivery of outputs against agreed objectives. There are three categories of performance:

Performing to a very high standard

Performing well

Most in need of development

Assessments are completed annually at the end of March.

Ethiopia

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that UK aid to Ethiopia is not used for military spending; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of Ethiopian GDP that its defence spending represents. [74615]

Hilary Benn: For this Ethiopian fiscal year, 2005-06, defence expenditure is budgeted to amount to 2.9 per cent. of GDP. In recent years, the Ethiopian Government has maintained its defence budget in constant cash terms, so it has declined as a percentage of GDP.

We no longer provide budget support to the Government of Ethiopia and all our funds are provided for specific purposes. We receive regular accounts of expenditures and monitor the delivery of services.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what account was taken of the disputed election in Ethiopia in allocating UK aid to that country. [74620]

Hilary Benn: My written statement of 24 January 2006 explained to the House that as a result of concerns over human rights and governance in Ethiopia following the disputed 2005 election, UK and all other donors who had been giving direct budget support to the Government of Ethiopia has decided to withhold this form of support. We wrote to the Minister of Finance in December to explain this decision.

I made clear that the UK would work with other donors to continue to support the poorest people in Ethiopia. On 26 May, I announced approval of the Protection of Basic Services Grant, which has been developed by the World Bank and DFID. Through this grant, funds will be earmarked for use at the regional and local level to deliver essential services in education, health, agriculture and water. There will be a strong focus on transparency and accountability. The World Bank will provide over £120 million of funding, and DFID will provide £94 million over two years. The Netherlands will also be contributing and other donors are considering contributions.

I will place a statement in the House setting out more information on these two schemes shortly.

Guinea

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) whether his Department is involved in planning for the Guinean 2007 legislative elections; [74828]

(2) whether his Department is providing assistance to Guinea *(a)* to reform the country's electoral commission and *(b)* for other political reforms; [74841]

(3) whether his Department is supporting the development of rural radio stations in Guinea. [74829]

Hilary Benn: The Department for International Development's support to Guinea in these areas is through the European Union's assistance programme to improve the climate for democracy and the rule of law. Following commitments made by the Guinean authorities in April 2005, the EU agreed to unspent funding being used for programmes supporting the poorest parts of society, for civil society and the promotion of good governance, democracy and human rights. It includes:

plans to provide £6 million for the 2007 legislative elections in addition to £2 million in support of the 2005 local elections;

assistance to the Electoral Commission provided as part of the local election support, but the Guinean authorities now need to demonstrate their willingness to reform the Commission;

plans for a good governance project. Though support will depend on the willingness of the Guinean authorities to implement reforms;

plans for support to civil society, including private radio stations. However EU conditions for funding have not yet been met by the Guinean authorities.

We shall continue to monitor the progress made.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has allocated to Guinea over the next three years. [74840]

Hilary Benn: The Department for International Development does not have a bilateral development programme in Guinea nor plans to establish one. We provide support through the European Union and multilateral agencies, which amounted to an estimated £7.8 million in 2003.

We are concerned about the political and humanitarian situation, and provided £750,000 in preventative humanitarian assistance in 2005-06. A similar commitment is planned this financial year.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by his Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature of the charges brought against them were. [73957]

Mr. Thomas: I can confirm that no illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by DFID since 2001. Nationality checks are carried out as part of the recruitment process before any individual is appointed to DFID. We have not included any agency workers, contractors or consultants as these individuals are not employed directly by DFID.

Nepal

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what direct funding his Department has allocated to the Government of Nepal in 2006-07; and what provision has been made within that amount for the establishment of a Defence Ministry. [73724]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* DFID currently plans to provide £6.8 million in direct assistance to the Government of Nepal in the financial year 2006-07. This will support Government programmes in health, basic education, rural roads and agriculture, all of which target poor people.

The total planned bilateral DFID assistance for 2006-07 is currently £30 million, with the £23.2 million balance being channelled mainly through non-Government organisations, multilateral organisations, or directly through DFID—administered projects. In many of these projects, the Government of Nepal is an important partner, even though DFID funds do not go through the Government budget.

No provision has been made from DFID's bilateral programme for support to the Nepali Defence Ministry.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the UK has provided support to ensure the ceasefire in Nepal is effectively monitored. [74180]

Mr. Thomas: The issue of ceasefire monitoring is currently under negotiation between the Government of Nepal and the Maoists, and no arrangements are yet in place. The UK Government recognise the need for effective ceasefire monitoring and the importance of sufficient resources being made available by the international community. The interdepartmental Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) is a potential source of UK funding and this is currently being considered.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the UK has restructured its aid to Nepal in order to support the new democratic Government in Nepal. [74181]

Mr. Thomas: The recent political developments in Nepal offer an important new opportunity to make progress towards a lasting peace and a return to multi-party democracy. DFID is currently considering, with other donors and other UK Government Departments, how best to respond to the new situation, so that development assistance contributes effectively to peace, democracy, poverty reduction and social inclusion of marginalised groups. Early priorities are likely to include support for ceasefire monitoring; voter education and other help relating to a constituent assembly; and resources to improve access by the poor to essential services and infrastructure. In addition to DFID's bilateral programme, consideration is also being given to financial and technical support to the peace process from the interdepartmental Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP).

The EU is currently discussing what peace building support it can provide to Nepal, and the UK expects the EU to consider positively any requests by the Nepalese Government for assistance.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on progress of the analytical framework for donor assistance in Nepal. [74830]

Mr. Thomas: Multilateral and bilateral donors are considering how best to help Nepal make progress towards a lasting peace and a return to multi-party democracy. Donors are committed to close co-ordination among themselves and with the Government. This should ensure that aid funds and advice are well targeted; are provided in ways that are easy to use; avoid duplication; and do not place unnecessary demands on the new Government.

Donor assistance can help in three broad areas: direct support for the peace process (such as ceasefire monitoring); building confidence in the peace process by ensuring that poor and excluded groups see real improvements in their quality of life; and by building the capacity of state institutions to function effectively and thereby gain people's confidence and trust.

Palestinian Territories

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received from aid agencies in the Palestinian Territories on *(a)* the humanitarian situation and *(b)* their ability to operate in the current security environment; and if he will make a statement. [73716]

Hilary Benn: DFID is in close contact with aid agencies in the Palestinian Territories, including the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), which co-ordinates monitoring and response to the humanitarian situation. The UN released an updated consolidated appeal for humanitarian assistance on 31 May 2006 and will also, from June, produce monthly humanitarian monitoring reports.

UN OCHA reports that the main restrictions on humanitarian operations are Israeli restrictions on movement and access to, and within, the West Bank and Gaza, as well as security concerns in Gaza. DFID has agreed to provide expertise that will help UN OCHA monitor the humanitarian situation and co-ordinate humanitarian access with Israeli security forces.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received from *(a)* the World Bank and *(b)* the IMF regarding mechanisms for the delivery of funding for health and education in the Palestinian Territories; and if he will make a statement. [73717]

Hilary Benn: DFID is in close contact with the World Bank, IMF, European Commission and international donors on mechanisms for delivering funding for Palestinian basic needs. At its meeting on

9 May the Quartet (United States, European Union (EU), United Nations and Russia) welcomed the offer by the EU to develop and propose a mechanism for delivering direct assistance to the Palestinian people. The Quartet also invited other donors and international organisations to consider participation in such a mechanism.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with Jan Egalund, the UN emergency relief co-ordinator, on the impact of the security situation in Darfur on the humanitarian situation there. [74661]

Hilary Benn: I spoke to Jan Egeland recently about the situation in Darfur, and he has also briefed my officials both in Sudan and at the UN in Geneva following his most recent visit. I very much share his concern about the deteriorating security situation there, which has worsened dramatically since January, with increasing levels of banditry, armed clashes and attacks on civilians and UN and NGO staff. The rising level of insecurity threatens to reverse progress made in 2005. Over the last four months alone, 250,000 people have been driven from their homes by the violence. The ability of the UN and NGOs to access the most vulnerable people is becoming a critical issue with no or very limited access to up to 650,000 people in Darfur.

In recent weeks we have seen encouraging steps forward with the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), and the more recent announcement from the Government of Sudan agreeing a joint African Union/United Nations Technical Assessment Mission to travel to Darfur. Stabilising security in Darfur is crucial if the DPA is to succeed. A UN force would build on the achievements already made by the African Union's Peacekeeping Mission in Darfur (AMIS).

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Department of Finance and Administration

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) how many staff are employed in the Department of Finance and Administration; [75938]

(2) how many staff were employed in *(a)* the Department of Finance and Administration and *(b)* its predecessor Departments in each of the past 10 years for which figures are available. [75939]

Nick Harvey: The Department of Finance and Administration had the following numbers of staff as at 31 March for each of the following financial years.

	Number of staff
2005-06	142
2004-05	158
2003-04	141
2002-03	147
2001-02	141
2000-01	122
1999-2000	131
1998-99	122
1997-98	121
1996-97	115.5

The figures up to and including 1999-2000 are the Department's complement. Figures from 2000-01 are full-time equivalents.

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost was of running the Department of Finance and Administration, broken down into *(a)* wages and associated costs, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* other costs, in each of the last three years. [75940]

Nick Harvey: The total cash cost of running the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) over the last three financial years has been:

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*£000 2005-06*
Total cost	14,636	14,502	17,953
Includes:			
Salaries and other staff costs	4,397	4,649	4,964
Other running costs	2,646	1,752	1,948

The cost of accommodation is not currently held in a form attributable to an individual Department.

As DFA is the central finance department, these figures include a significant level of corporate expenditure which is not directly attributable to the direct costs of running the Department. Some of the larger corporate items during 2005-06 included pension contributions (£10,277,000), contracts management (£608,000), child care vouchers (£217,000), and special payments (£198,000). Employer-related pension costs increased by around £2,881,000 in 2005-06 following an increase in the contribution rate.

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what recent audits have been undertaken into the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of Finance and Administration; and by whom they were carried out. [75941]

Nick Harvey: The Internal Review Service (IRS) of the House of Commons carries out regular reviews of financial areas within the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) as part of its assurance to the Accounting Officer on the adequacy of internal controls. From October 2004 PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) have provided internal audit services in partnership with the IRS in-house team.

In 2005 there were a number of reviews of processes that are only conducted at the time of a general election.

A list of recent audits and reviews covering the responsibilities of the Department of Finance and Administration is set out as follows:

	Carried out by
2003-04 (10 audits)	
Administration of Members' allowances	IRS
Fraud return	IRS
Members' Computing Services	IRS
Risk assurance	IRS
Business Continuity Planning	IRS
Resource Accounting	IRS
Fixed Assets	IRS
HAIS Security	Insight Consulting
Predictive payroll testing	IRS
Review of IRS	PwC
2004-05 (16 audits)	
Accounts Receivable	IRS
Delegated Authorities and authorised signatories	IRS
Invoices paid control checks	IRS
Consultancy Payments	IRS
VFM Contract management	IRS
Core financials review of 14 areas of financial control	IRS
Risk assurance	IRS
Fraud	IRS
Government Procurement Card	IRS
Management of attendance	IRS
Members allowances—debtors	IRS
Monitoring of Members allowances	IRS
Payable order handling and security	IPS
VFM Business cases	PwC
Shared services	IRS
2005-06 (20 audits)	
Ongoing review of paid invoices	IRS
Child care	IRS
Diversity	IRS/PwC
Data Protection	IRS
Financial planning	PWC
Follow-up 2004-05	IRS
Follow-up 2005-06	IRS
General Ledger	IRS/PwC
Injury claims	IRS
HR Disciplinary procedures	IRS/PwC
Lump Sum payments	IRS
Pensions	IRS/PwC
Project management	PwC
Resettlement Grants	IRS
Risk Assurance	IRS
Suspense accounts	IRS
Tender evaluations	IRS/PwC
Winding-up allowance (to be issued)	IRS
Redundancy (to be issued)	IRS

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what measures are in use to ascertain the levels of satisfaction among hon. Members with the services provided by the Department of Finance and Administration. [75942]

Nick Harvey: The Department of Finance and Administration provides a number of services to Members of Parliament and their staff. These include direct services such as payroll, administration of allowances, pensions and occupational health; and advisory services on matters such as personnel and data protection. A variety of mechanisms are used to ensure that the Department's services meet customer needs and that they are provided efficiently and effectively.

The Department is taking an active part in the design of the second Member satisfaction survey which will take place in 2007, as it did for the last survey which took place in 2003. It also works closely with the Advisory Panel on Members' Allowances and recently submitted evidence to the Administration Committee on its review of Post-Election Services to Members. The Department has procedures for reviewing complaints received from Members and administrative errors; and the departmental website has a facility for Members to give feedback. Services are subject to regular audits by the House-wide Internal Review Service.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

World Trade

11. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with other EU Trade Ministers on the current World Trade Organisation negotiations. [75728]

Mr. Darling: The Government remain fully committed to securing an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). Both my predecessors and I have had regular contact with the EU Trade Commissioner, our counterparts in other EU member states, with the Director General of the WTO and with the Trade Ministers of other WTO member countries.

Sunday Trading

14. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on his Sunday trading proposals. [75731]

Mr. Darling: We are currently reviewing the whole question of Sunday shop opening hours.

No decisions have been made and if Government do decide to alter the current arrangements there will be a full public consultation.

Small Businesses

16. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent assessment he has made of the effect of employment legislation on the economic viability of small businesses. [75734]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department conducts a thorough analysis of the impact of all proposed employment legislation on small firms and this is published as part of a regulatory impact assessment.

The Government with the aid of all stakeholders have identified a number of areas of employment law to review with the intention of providing greater simplification and clarity. The Government are committed to reducing compliance and complexity costs for business while continuing to deliver excellent regulatory outcomes.

In addition the Government provide comprehensive advice for employers through the ACAS telephone helpline, which received a million calls a year and the ACAS and www.businesslink.gov.uk websites. This together with the stable management of the economy provides a great environment for small business.

Renewable Energy

18. **Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the costs and benefits of tidal lagoons and barrages as sources of renewable energy. [75737]

Malcolm Wicks: Between 1978 and 1994 a £20 million Government programme of research and development on tidal energy considered tidal barrage schemes at a number of potential sites and more recently a study of the Severn barrage was carried out by the Severn Tidal Power Group and published in 2003.

The DTI has previously commissioned an independent assessment of a proposed tidal lagoon scheme in Swansea Bay, which it is our intention to publish.

Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will reply to the letter of 15 December 2005 from the hon. Member for Aylesbury, on behalf of Mr. S P of Bledlow Ridge, about the aftermath of the Buncefield disaster, which was transferred to his Department by the Department of Transport on 6 January (Department of Transport reference SL/026807/05). [76347]

Malcolm Wicks: Unfortunately the hon. Member's letter has not been received from the Department of Transport. A copy has been requested and a response will be provided as soon as possible.

Export Control Act

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had on strengthening end user controls; and whether he expects such controls to be addressed in the 2007 Review of the Export Control Act 2002. [75597]

Malcolm Wicks: Verification of the end-user is a key part of the risk assessment in determining whether to issue an export licence. I have no present intention to change the procedures.

Green Technologies

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the potential for job creation in the green technologies sector; and if he will make a statement. [72723]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are committed working with the environmental goods and services sector to promote new green technologies and industries. We are working with the Environmental Innovations Advisory Group to enable grater innovation in the environmental industries sector. This includes projects on procurement, technology support, state aids, finance and regulation. We also work with the Regional Development Agencies and the Devolved Administrations to estimate the size of the sector, and published data in 2004 showing the sector already employed over 400,000 people.

Miners' Compensation

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what average payment has been made to claimants in each coal board area with vibration white finger in categories one to three; and how much was paid in legal fees to lawyers in each region. [74676]

Malcolm Wicks: Average payments for each vibration white finger (VWF) group, total compensation and total solicitor fees per region are detailed in the following table:

	Average payment by VWF group (£)				
Region	*1*	*2*	*[1]4*	*Compensation total (£ million)*	*Solicitors' fees total (£ million)*
Wales	9,642	8,937	7,858	102.4	12.0
Scotland	10,812	10,659	9,781	59.0	6.6
East Midlands	9,592	8,973	8,432	201.1	11.2
Yorkshire	9,935	9,545	8,309	319.6	33.1
North East	11,797	11,427	10,985	142.8	26.4
Midlands	8,622	8,361	7,043	76.8	3.0
South/South East	9,676	8,640	7,309	16.0	2.5
Other	8,073	8,473	—	5.0	0.2
Overall	9,962	9,556	8,763	922.7	95.1

[1] Group 3 claims are denied and no payments made to claimants in this Group. Group 4 claims are from those miners who were in a Group 3 occupation but have been tortiously exposed to vibration and therefore received settlement payments.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects the Coal Health Claims scheme to be completed. [75195]

Malcolm Wicks: Our current predictions are to complete the Vibration White Finger scheme during 2008 and the respiratory disease scheme during 2009.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much Thompson solicitors have received in fees from processing Coal Health Claims from people in *(a)* North Durham, *(b)* Durham and *(c)* in total. [75196]

Malcolm Wicks: The figures for fees paid to Thompson for processing claims under the Vibration White Finger (VWF) and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD) schemes are set out in the following table:

£

	North Durham	*County Durham*[1]	*Total*
COPD	2,424,580	17,198,310	88,039,621
VWF	218,117	2,829,608	11,573,906
Total	2,642,697	20,027,918	99,613,527

[1] County Durham is made up of North Durham, North West Durham, City of Durham, Easington, Sedgefield and Bishop Auckland constituencies.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many individuals have received payments from the Coal Health Claims scheme in *(a)* County Durham, *(b)* North Durham and *(c)* in total. [75197]

Malcolm Wicks: The figures for payments made to claimants under the Vibration White Finger (VWF) and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD) schemes are set out in the following table:

	North Durham	*County Durham*[1]	*Total*
COPD	3,664	21,534	318,210
VWF	595	6,819	128,948
Total	4,259	28,353	447,158

[1] County Durham is made up of North Durham, North West Durham, City of Durham, Easington, Sedgefield and Bishop Auckland constituencies.

Nuclear Power Stations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the full costs of securing *(a)* any new nuclear facilities and *(b)* associated nuclear materials in transit will be paid for entirely by private investors; and if he will make a statement. [75611]

Malcolm Wicks: Nuclear site licensees and, where necessary, approved carriers are required by law to meet the costs of security for civil nuclear sites and associated nuclear materials in transit.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the full costs of research funded by the Government into Generation 4 reactor designs will be taken on by private investors if the energy review concludes that a new generation of nuclear reactors should be built in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [75612]

Malcolm Wicks: In the past the UK's contribution to the Generation IV international research collaboration has been funded by BNFL. Future funding of research relating to the civil nuclear industry is currently under consideration.

Patents

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what account is taken by the Patent Office of the intellectual property rights of indigenous communities in relation to traditional knowledge when considering patent applications involving such knowledge. [74558]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the patent examination process, the Patent Office has to consider whether applications relate to inventions which are, among other things, new and inventive. This requires the Office to search through published material, which will include intellectual property rights of indigenous communities in relation to traditional knowledge. Moreover, if a patent application is made by a person who is neither the true inventor, nor has lawfully acquired rights to the invention, any person, including members of an indigenous community, can apply to the Office to have the matter rectified.

Post Office

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what Government services are available from the Post Office; and if he will make a statement. [75539]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Post Office Ltd. currently has contracts to provide the following Government services: benefit payments through Post Office Card Accounts and the Exceptions Service, motor vehicle licensing, 'Check and Send' service for photocard driving licenses, 'Check and Send' service for passport applications, provision of passport application forms, asylum seeker benefits, game licences, rod licences, European Health Insurance Cards and television licences (the contract for which expires on 31 July 2006).

Regional Growth

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress has been made against the Government's target to reduce the disparity in growth rates between English regions. [75735]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All English regions grew in 2003 and 2004 and the poorer-performing regions narrowed the gap in growth rates with London, the South East and East.

The Government will make a full report on progress towards its regional economic performance target later in the year.

Thorp Plant

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what has become of the liquid recovered as part of the clean up at Thorp Processing Plant completed on 14 June 2005; to where has it been removed; by what means; what the cost of the operation was; and whether this cost was met from the NIREX budget. [72802]

Malcolm Wicks: The dissolver liquor that leaked from an accountancy tank in the THORP feed clarification cell was contained within a designed secondary containment system. The liquor was later pumped to downstream vessels where it remains pending subsequent processing. The work was carried out by British Nuclear Group on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). The costs associated with the temporary closure due to the incident will be the subject of an insurance claim by the NDA.

Wireless Telegraphy Act

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much Ofcom spent on preparation for the auction of the award of Wireless Telegraphy Act 1998 licences in 2005-06; how much it plans to spend on preparations for the award of such licences in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [72413]

Margaret Hodge: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom) which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter have been placed in the Libraries of House.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much Ofcom spent in consultancy fees in preparation for the award of the recent Wireless Telegraphy Act licences for the frequencies 1781.7-1785MHz paired with 1876.7-1800MHz; and if he will make a statement. [72415]

Margaret Hodge: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom) which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member.

Copies of the chief executive's letter have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

DEFENCE

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on information technology (IT) sourced from outside his Department in each of the last five years; who is responsible for such projects in his Department; and what IT *(a)* expertise and *(b)* qualifications they possess. [71798]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence's spend on information technology (IT) sourced from outside the Department in each of the last five years is given in the following table.

£ million

Financial year	*Operating costs?IT (excluding calls and line rental, etc)*	*Capitalised asset additions—IT and comms equipment*
2000-01	403,500	35,371
2001-02	325,347	87,490
2002-03	474,815	95,886
2003-04	561,266	183,309
2004-05	547,672	134,466

Information on the departmental spend on IT and Telecommunications operating costs and assets is published each year in the departmental annual accounts.

The Director General Information acts as the Department's Chief Information Officer and sets policy for how the Department exploits information, as well as being Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for several of MOD's largest IT programmes. The chief executive of the Defence Communications Services Agency is responsible for the organisation which procures the majority of the Department's IT. In addition to their own experience in delivering results in Government, the incumbents of these senior posts are supported by experts with the appropriate expertise and qualifications in specialist areas. All major programmes will have an SRO appointed who is responsible for delivery of that programme.

Marine Salvage

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has sold salvage rights to any maritime wreck during the last 10 years. [74202]

Mr. Ingram: During the last 10 years the Disposal Services Agency (DSA) has sold salvage rights in respect of the following wrecks:

Name of vessel		*Date of agreement*	*Date expired*
MV Jolly Girls	Sank North Shields on 2 December 1940	June 1997	7 May 2002
HMS Campania	Sank in Firth of Forth on 5 November 1918	26 June 1998	1 March 2004
HMS Sidon	Sunk as a target WNW Portland Bill in 1957	15 March 2000	1 May 2005
HMS Upstart	Sunk as a target off the Isle of Wight 29 July 1959	16 September 2000	1 November 2005

Additionally, on 27 September 2002, a Licence Agreement was signed with Odyssey Marine Exploration Inc., in respect of the Sussex, which sank in a storm in the western Mediterranean in 1694. This agreement provides that excavation and any recoveries are made in accordance with a strict set of provisions to ensure archaeological best practice.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has had discussions with marine salvage companies *(a)* Deep 6 and *(b)* SubSea Resources in respect of planned salvage operations on any British shipwreck for which it is responsible. [74203]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence has held no discussions with either Deep 6 or SubSea Resources.

Mesothelioma (Compensation)

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the House of Lords judgment in the case of Barker *v.* Corus UK Ltd. on future spending plans of his Department in respect of expenditure on compensation payments for those suffering from mesothelioma. [75766]

Mr. Watson: Currently, the Ministry of Defence receives around 50 mesothelioma claims each year. In the vast majority of claims brought against the Department the sole defendant is the MOD. Therefore, the financial implications of the House of Lords judgment in the case of Barker *v.* Corus UK Ltd. are likely to be minimal in respect of expenditure on compensation payments.

Porton Down

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 41W, on Porton Down, how many of the experiments were *(a)* wholly and *(b)* partly commissioned by (i) UK companies, (ii) foreign companies and (iii) foreign Governments; and if he will make a statement; [73798]

(2) how much income was generated for the Department from undertaking animal experiments at Porton Down on contract for other *(a)* Governments and *(b)* private sector organisations; [73799]

(3) if he will list the *(a)* UK companies, *(b)* foreign companies and *(c)* foreign Governments with whom the results of animal experiments at Porton Down were shared; and if he will make a statement. [73800]

Mr. Ingram: The remit of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) at Porton Down is to undertake research on behalf of the UK Government.

DSTL participates in International Collaborative Programmes with other allied nations on behalf of the Ministry of Defence. These are conducted under signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to ensure the free and open exchange of information between the participating nations. DSTL is not a commercial contract organisation but does accept commercial contracts where these support MOD's wider programmes.

All research work undertaken as part of these collaborative programmes is closely aligned to supporting, complementing and enhancing the MOD research programme. This exchange of information will include research involving the use of animals. This assists the advancement of the International research programmes and prevents the duplication of research funding. The participation by DSTL in these International Collaborative initiatives means that some aspects of the research programme will receive funding through foreign Governments, or their contractors. The research involving the use of animals is only a small sub-set of the overall collaborative research programme and is not accounted for separately.

In conducting any animal research, DSTL fully complies with all of the legislative requirements that are placed on research organisations licensed to undertake research involving animals, under the terms of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 as administered by the Home Office. This compliance includes a full ethical review of the proposed work where the benefits of saving lives have to justify the use of animals in research. This ethical review also ensures that there is no unnecessary duplication of animal-based research.

DSTL submits the results of its scientific research to peer reviewed open literature publications wherever possible. It is estimated that, security concerns included, 95 per cent. of DSTL research is published in the public domain. These publication figures include research involving the use of animals. Therefore, the results of the research, the development of techniques and alternatives are available to all researchers to review, regardless of which country they work in or whether they are employed in the commercial or Government sector.

Second World War POWs

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps his Department has taken to assess the need for support of the survivors of the British Army who were recruited from the Indian subcontinent and who were taken prisoner of war on the Western Front in the second world war; [74102]

(2) what arrangements are in place for support and financial assistance for members of the British Army who were recruited from the Indian subcontinent and who were taken prisoner of war on the western front in the second world war; [74103]

(3) what discussions have taken place between the Government and the Indian Government on the situation faced by members of the British Army who were recruited from the Indian subcontinent and who were taken prisoner of war on the western front in the second world war; [74104]

(4) what recent representations his Department has received with regard to the need for support and financial assistance to surviving members of the British Army recruited from the Indian subcontinent and who were taken prisoner of war on the western front in the second world war; [74105]

(5) what recent representations he has received on the support and financial assistance provided to former members of the British Army recruited from the Indian subcontinent and who were taken as prisoners of war by Japan in the second world war; [74106]

(6) what arrangements his Department has put in place in liaison with the Indian Government to assess the needs of the surviving members of the British Army recruited from the Indian subcontinent who were taken as prisoners of war by Japan in the second world war; [74107]

(7) what support and financial assistance has been provided to former members of the British Army recruited from the Indian subcontinent and who were taken as prisoners of war by Japan in the second world war. [74108]

Mr. Watson: The responsibility for meeting the needs of former members of the Indian Army who were taken as prisoners of war in the second world war generally passed to the Governments of the countries of which they became nationals when they gained independence in 1947.

Personnel recruited into the British armed forces from the Indian subcontinent and held as prisoners of war by the Japanese may be eligible for a payment under the United Kingdom's November 2000 ex gratia scheme for far east prisoners of war in the following cases:

former members of the Indian Army who were British subjects at the time when they became prisoners of war and who have since the war resided in the UK for at least 20 years;

members of UK-based units, including those that were locally recruited such as the Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery (many of the latter were recruited in what is now Pakistan); and

members of certain other former colonial forces who had qualified for a payment under a 1950s compensation scheme based on liquidated Japanese assets.

Nepali Gurkhas who were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese have also received payments from the ex gratia scheme.

I am aware of no recent discussions between the UK and Indian Governments on the problems faced by former Indian Army prisoners of war but each year the Department receives a number of communications from former members of the Indian Army who face financial hardship and inquire whether they are entitled to any financial support from the UK. We have no record as to whether these may have been held as prisoners of war during world war two.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will list those *(a)* Acts and *(b)* parts of Acts which received Royal Assent between 1976 and 2006 for which his Department has policy responsibility and which remain in force. [70081]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers have responsibility for the following Acts or parts of Acts:

The Law Officers Act 1997

The Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate Act 2000

Those parts of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 which establish the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office.

The Law Officers also share responsibility with other Criminal Justice Ministers for a range of criminal justice legislation and take the lead on issues arising from the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 and the Criminal Justice Act 1987.

Prosecutors/Crime Victims (Dialogue)

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Solicitor-General what mechanisms are in place to encourage and facilitate dialogue between prosecutors and victims of crime. [73975]

The Solicitor-General: There are two key mechanisms in place to encourage and facilitate dialogue between prosecutors and victims of crime. The prosecutors pledge sets out the level of service that victims of crime can expect to receive from prosecutors. This includes; promoting and encouraging two-way communication between victims and prosecutors at court, and keeping victims informed of the progress of any appeal and explaining the effects of the court's judgment.

In addition, the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime sets out the minimum level of service that victims of crime can expect to receive. The code, which was launched in April this year, places obligations on prosecutors to inform victims about charging decisions and communicating with victims at court.

WALES

Biological Diversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which Minister in his Department is responsible for monitoring his Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if he will make a statement. [73935]

Mr. Hain: Under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Ministers and Government Departments have a duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity. This has been replaced by a similar provision in section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 which comes into effect on the 1 October 2006.

In June 2003, the Wales Office became a separate entity within the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and we have adopted the DCA corporate policy for sustainable development. The department remains committed to ensuring that biodiversity is considered as part of any new build or major refurbishment. My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Nick Ainger) has lead responsibility for sustainability issues in the Wales Office.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on progress with reform of the Arts Council. [74998]

Tessa Jowell: Arts Council England underwent a peer review in 2005. The final report of the review team was published in December, alongside an action plan to take forward their recommendations. The Arts Council is making progress in acting on the review recommendations, as exemplified by plans for a restructure at the organisation's national office, which were announced on 30 March this year.

Big Lottery Fund

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the Big Lottery Fund regarding the future classification of lottery good causes after 2009. [74514]

Mr. Caborn: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have discussions from time to time with the chair and chief executive of the Big Lottery Fund. We cover a range of issues but have not focused on the future classification of lottery good causes after 2009.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on plans to establish the Big Lottery Fund. [74515]

Mr. Caborn: Plans to establish the Big Lottery Fund were agreed within Government. However, neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State nor I have had any specific discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this matter.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what impact she expects the creation of the Big Lottery Fund to have on the National Heritage Memorial Fund. [73805]

Mr. Caborn: None. The Big Lottery Fund will distribute Lottery money to projects connected with charitable expenditure, health, education and the environment and the National Heritage Memorial Fund will continue to enable emergency acquisitions of heritage treasures.

Commonwealth Institute Building

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with English Heritage on the future of the Commonwealth Institute Building. [75822]

Mr. Lammy: I met the Chairman and Chief Executive of English Heritage on 6 June 2006 to discuss the Commonwealth Institute Building.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the possible implications for other listed buildings of delisting the Commonwealth Institute Building. [75823]

Mr. Lammy: The Commonwealth Institute's role as an international and inter-governmental organisation is unique. Its future is not just a domestic issue, but an international issue of concern to 52 other countries and for these reasons no parallels may be drawn for other listed buildings.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will estimate the pension liability of her Department over the next 30 years. [75235]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the technical Note by HM Treasury which was placed in the Library of the House following an oral statement in Parliament by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-390. Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual Departments, they are estimated for individual pension schemes. Table 1 of the Note gives a breakdown of liabilities per pension scheme.

Departmental Performance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library her Department's balanced scorecard for each quarter in the past year; and if she will make a statement. [74569]

Mr. Lammy: The quarterly balanced scorecard is an internal performance monitoring tool. It provides periodic management information to the DCMS Board on the status of our key programmes and initiatives. It is designed to facilitate the free and frank exchange of views within the board and is not made available more widely. The DCMS Autumn Performance Report and Annual Report provide extensive information on our performance. These documents are published and are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by her Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature was of the charges brought against them. [73969]

Mr. Lammy: No illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed directly by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport since 2001. This includes staff on fixed-term appointments and casual contracts, but excludes agency workers, contractors and consultants.

Lottery

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which 10 parliamentary constituencies received least in awards from Lottery sources in 2005; and which 10 constituencies have received least in 2006. [75542]

Mr. Caborn: The following lists show which constituencies have received the least monetary value in Lottery awards in 2005 and 2006 so far reported to the Department:

2005

Birmingham, Yardley
East Surrey
Stoke-on-Trent South
Elmet
Chingford and Woodford Green
Portsmouth North
Birmingham, Hodge Hill
Nottingham North
Bolton West
New Forest East

2006

Kingston and Surbiton
Enfield, Southgate
Feltham and Heston
Wallasey
Bexleyheath and Crayford
Castle Point
Ilford North
Plymouth, Devonport
Upminster
Bedford

The lists are derived from the Department's Lottery award database, searchable at: www.lottery.culture.gov.uk which uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors.

School Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value was of the contract awarded for the UK School Games to be staged in Glasgow in 2006; whether the contract was awarded in accordance with normal open tendering procurement practice; whether the British Olympic Foundation was involved in the tendering processes; and whether the award was funded from the National Lottery. [75372]

Mr. Caborn: The selection of an operator to organise the UK School Games this September and the subsequent grant of National Lottery money was a matter for the Millennium Commission. In my capacity as Chair of the Commission, I will write to the hon. Member on this matter and arrange for copies of my reply to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Public (West Bromwich)

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1412W, to the hon. Member for Stourbridge (Lynda Waltho), on The Public (West Bromwich), on what basis the decision was made that the payments by Arts Council England to Robin and Gorringe are commercial in confidence. [75354]

Mr. Lammy: The decision that payments made by the Arts Council to the firm Robin and Gorringe should be treated as commercially sensitive was based on our consideration of the ongoing and complex discussions that are under way between the administrators and contractors at The Public. These are aimed at achieving completion of the building project. It was our judgement that publishing this information could be detrimental to the conduct of these discussions and consequently disrupt the process of completing the building project and removing The Public from administration. The information was therefore judged too commercially sensitive to be published at this time.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding her Department has *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent from Lottery receipts in supporting charitable organisations in preparation for the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [73777]

Mr. Caborn: Lottery distributors make awards independently of Government. Information on all Lottery awards is available from the Department's Lottery awards database, at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk, which uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors.

The database, however, does not identify as a distinct category those awards that have prepared organisations for the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Pay Equality

23. **Barbara Keeley:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she is taking to address the gap between men's and women's pay. [75714]

Meg Munn: The Government have set up a team of officials who are working across Government to take forward the Women and Work Commission recommendations on ways to tackle the gender pay gap and an action plan will be issued later this year. I will also chair a project board of senior officials.

Election Candidates

24. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what her assessment is of the progress being made towards more women being selected to contest seats in general elections. [75715]

Meg Munn: We introduced in 2002 the Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates) Act which allows positive measures designed to ensure greater equality in the selection of prospective parliamentary candidates.

The Labour party was able to increase the percentage of women MPs in the last general election by using all-women shortlists to select candidates in its retirement seats.

By contrast the Liberal Democrat party and the Conservative party respectively only selected 32 per cent. and 12 per cent. of women candidates for their 50 most winnable seats.

Financial Planning

25. **Miss Begg:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government are taking to encourage women to plan their financial lives and save for their retirement. [75716]

Meg Munn: Proposed reforms set out in the Government's recent White Paper: "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system" will enable women to make more informed choices about planning and saving for retirement, by providing simpler, fairer and more widely available state pensions as the foundation on which to save.

Pensions

26. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions on recognition for women's caring role in pension arrangements. [75717]

Meg Munn: I have had regular meetings with colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions throughout the development of the pension reforms. I am pleased that the reforms in the White Paper: "Security in Retirement: Towards a new Pension System" will deliver fairer pension outcomes for women and carers.

Sexual Orientation (Discrimination)

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what representations she has received on the consultation by the Department of Trade and Industry on the proposal to outlaw sexual orientation discrimination in the provision of goods and services. [76050]

Meg Munn: We have received a very high number of responses to the consultation that closed on 5 June about the proposed sexual orientation discrimination regulations and are now beginning the process of analysing these responses. I and my officials have also had a number of meetings with organisations and individuals who are interested in the proposed regulations during the consultation period.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Breast Cancer

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many women failed to attend their first breast screening tests in each of the last three years; what the take-up was of the second offered screening in each year; and what age group was most likely to miss their first appointment in each board area in each year. [74219]

Paul Goggins: The following tables show how many women in Northern Ireland during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, who (A) failed to attend their first breast screening appointment; (B) attended their second breast screening appointment having not attended their first appointment (C) attended both their first and second breast screening appointments.

The vast majority of women who receive a first invitation to breast screening are in the 50-53 age group. In 2004-05, 91 per cent. of the eligible population in Northern Ireland had been invited to a first screening appointment by their 53rd birthday.

(A) First invitation to first breast screening appointment (routine) by Health Board of Residence

	Health Board	Number invited	Number not screened	Percentage not screened
2002-03	Northern	2,376	520	21.9
2002-03	Eastern	3,914	1,348	34.4
2002-03	Southern	1,782	497	27.9
2002-03	Western	1,608	470	29.2
2003-04	Northern	2,955	548	18.5
2003-04	Eastern	3,983	1,320	33.1
2003-04	Southern	2,632	672	25.5
2003-04	Western	2,089	468	22.4
2004-05	Northern	1,899	410	21.6
2004-05	Eastern	4,543	1,381	30.4
2004-05	Southern	1,314	325	24.7
2004-05	Western	1,567	375	23.9

Source:
Quality Assurance Reference Centre.

(B) Routine invitation to women who had previously not attended a previous breast screening appointment by Health Board of Residence

	Health Board	Number invited	Number screened	Percentage screened
2002-03	Northern	993	257	25.9
2002-03	Eastern	3,179	575	18.1
2002-03	Southern	1,059	212	20.0
2002-03	Western	779	117	15.0
2003-04	Northern	1,067	268	25.1
2003-04	Eastern	3,132	565	18.0
2003-04	Southern	1,316	289	22.0
2003-04	Western	807	152	18.8
2004-05	Northern	800	206	25.8
2004-05	Eastern	3,029	621	20.5
2004-05	Southern	658	157	23.9
2004-05	Western	764	153	20.0

Source:
Quality Assurance Reference Centre.

(C) Routine invitation to women who had previously attended a breast screening appointment by Health Board of Residence

	Health Board	Number invited	Number screened	Percentage screened
2002-03	Northern	6,042	5,608	92.8
2002-03	Eastern	9,262	8,004	86.4
2002-03	Southern	4,560	4,064	89.1
2002-03	Western	3,896	3,471	89.1
2003-04	Northern	7,944	7,379	92.9
2003-04	Eastern	9,924	8,723	87.9
2003-04	Southern	6,463	5,860	90.7
2003-04	Western	5,586	5,101	91.3
2004-05	Northern	4,568	4,167	91.2
2004-05	Eastern	10,746	9,535	88.7
2004-05	Southern	3,755	3,412	90.9
2004-05	Western	3,909	3,559	91.0

Source:
Quality Assurance Reference Centre.

Central Government Funding

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total value was of central Government funding in Northern Ireland in each of the past 30 years at today's prices. [67823]

Mr. Hanson: The difference between Government expenditure and revenue attributed to Northern Ireland has been estimated on an occasional basis since the late 1990s. These estimates indicate that public expenditure exceeds taxes collected in Northern Ireland. The estimates of this funding shortfall, often referred to as the 'Fiscal Deficit', are set out in the following table.

It is important to note that these estimates do not carry the imprimatur of official statistics as there are major difficulties in allocating revenue and expenditure across UK regions. The estimates for the earlier years in the table were based on the best data then available, which have been frequently revised since.

Estimated general Government expenditure and revenue in Northern Ireland

	Identified	Expenditure attributed[1]	Total	Revenue	£ billion Fiscal deficit
Current prices					
1995-96[2]	8.59	1.96	10.56	6.02	4.53
1996-97	9.12	1.94	11.06	6.27	4.79
1997-98	9.13	1.97	11.10	6.66	4.44
1998-99	9.64	1.97	11.61	7.10	4.51
1999-2000	10.03	2.00	12.03	7.38	4.65
2000-01	10.80	2.15	12.96	7.86	5.09
2001-02	11.81	2.07	13.88	7.94	5.94
2002-03	12.70	2.37	15.07	8.09	6.97
2003-04	13.53	2.48	16.01	9.11	6.90

	Identified	Expenditure attributed	Total	Revenue	£ billion Fiscal deficit
2003-04 prices[3]					
1995-96	10.53	2.41	12.94	7.38	5.55
1996-97	10.80	2.29	13.09	7.42	5.67
1997-98	10.50	2.26	12.76	7.66	5.11
1998-99	10.80	2.20	13.01	7.96	5.06
1999-2000	11.03	2.20	13.22	8.11	5.11
2000-01	11.73	2.34	14.06	8.53	5.52
2001-02	12.51	2.19	14.70	8.41	6.29
2002-03	13.03	2.43	15.46	8.30	7.16
2003-04	13.53	2.48	16.01	9.11	6.90

[1] Attributed expenditure includes expenditure benefiting all parts of the UK as well as various accounting adjustments
[2] Data prior to 2000-01 were not produced on a consistent basis
[3] Using MM Treasury GDP deflator series

Departmental Hearing (Strangford View)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to public funds has been of the Department of Environment's hearing in relation to the wall at Strangford View, Killyleagh; and if he will make a statement. [75473]

David Cairns: To date invoiced costs received by the Planning Service total £5,170 while the Planning Appeals Commission has incurred costs of £2,209.

New enforcement notices were served on 19 May 2006. They require that, within 16 weeks of that date, the wall and associated fill material should be removed and the lands in question be regraded to form a reinforced slope to the satisfaction of Roads Service engineers (to retain the approved road).

Discussions are ongoing between the Planning Service and the developer's representatives about the development of the remainder of the site.

Disability Access

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether any buildings in *(a)* each of the Northern Ireland Departments and *(b)* the Northern Ireland Office, fall short of disability access regulations. [73085]

Mr. Hanson: All Northern Ireland Departments (including the Northern Ireland Office) have programmes of work identified to achieve compliance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act for all buildings which need to be adapted. Currently some 74 Government buildings remain to achieve full compliance with the Act.

Down District Council

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to public funds has been of Down district council's corporate box at Down Royal Race Course in the last 12 months; how much of the cost related to *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food; and if he will make a statement. [75474]

David Cairns: The cost of providing a corporate box at Down Royal Race Course is included in the overall expenditure incurred by Down district council on tourism. The level of expenditure requested is not held centrally.

Lung Cancer

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to improve the survival rates of those diagnosed with lung cancer in the Province. [75470]

Paul Goggins: The Government and the DHSSPS are committed to improving the survival rates for all cancers including lung cancer. This commitment is underpinned in the Department's public service agreement which aims to increase the five-year survival rate for lung cancer by 5 per cent. by 2010, compared to the 1993-95 baseline.

The Department in partnership with the Northern Ireland cancer network (NICaN) is taking forward work on a number of fronts which have the potential to improve survival rates for lung cancer patients. These include:

the provision of better information for lung cancer patients;

the development of GP referrals guidelines and improved primary care pathways for those suspected of having lung cancer, and;

further improvements in oncology protocols for the treatment of lung cancers.

Police

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 500W, on police, what Mr. Colin Ashe's key duties and responsibilities are as chief executive of the Northern Ireland Police Fund; what his grade is; what the grade is of other chief executives, or equivalent, of other Government Departments and agencies in Northern Ireland; and what direct experience Mr. Ashe has relevant to the Northern Ireland Police Fund. [69239]

Paul Goggins: Mr. Ashe's key duties and responsibilities are a matter for the Northern Ireland Police Fund. Information on the grade of all chief executives and their equivalents is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In relation to Mr. Ashe's experience, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for St. Helens, South (Mr. Woodward) of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 500W.

Restorative Justice Schemes

Mr. Holloboone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the introduction of community-based restorative justice schemes in Northern Ireland. [72939]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to my statement on community-based restorative justice made on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 98WS.

Superannuation Entitlements

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many part-time members of staff at each health trust in the Province have submitted industrial tribunal applications regarding non-payment of superannuation entitlements; [65347]

(2) how many industrial tribunal applications by part-time staff from each health trust in the Province regarding superannuation entitlements *(a)* have been successful, *(b)* have been rejected and *(c)* are still to be resolved. [65348]

Mr. Woodward: This information is not held centrally. I will write to the hon. Member with the information as soon as it becomes available and place a copy in the Library.

281 industrial tribunal applications have been lodged by part-time staff seeking retrospective access to the HPSS Superannuation Scheme.

Details of numbers of applications by Trust are not held centrally. I will write to the hon. Member with the information as soon as it becomes available and place a copy in the Library.

Substantive answer from Paul Goggins to David Simpson:

The majority of the applications to the Office of the Industrial Tribunals by HPSS employees seeking retrospective access to the HPSS Superannuation Scheme refer to the period 1976 to 1991, prior to HSS Trusts coming in to operation. In many cases individual applicants have made claims in respect of a number of periods of employment. It is not possible to provide a breakdown by Trust, however, details are provided in the following table by health and social services board area.

HSS board area	Number of cases	Successful	Unsuccessful dismissed/ withdrawn	Pending
EHSSB	180	11	18	151
NHSSB	44	3	5	36
SHSSB	39	0	8	31
WHSSB	18	0	2	16
Total	281	14	33	234

Theatres

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what public funding has been allocated to *(a)* the Riverside Theatre, Coleraine and *(b)* theatres in (i) Belfast and (ii) Londonderry in each of the last three years. [72545]

Maria Eagle: Public funding allocated to *(a)* the Riverside Theatre, Coleraine and *(b)* theatres in (i) Belfast and (ii) Londonderry in each of the last three years is as follows:

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Coleraine			
Riverside Theatre	45,900	45,000	60,596
Belfast Theatres			
Lyric Theatre	2,644,511	625,193	611,545
Grand Opera House	4,148,400	2,553,955	485,000
Old Museums Arts Centre	205,600	248,893	283,960
Londonderry Theatres			
Playhouse Theatre	240,024	1,338,276	399,675
Millennium Forum	257,877	224,943	—
Waterside Theatre	123,792	176,369	54,767

Notes:
These figures include both capital and revenue funding. They represent the grants allocated to projects although in some cases the expenditure may not be incurred until future years.

Traffic

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what daily average number of vehicles used the *(a)* Lodge Road Roundabout, Coleraine and *(b)* Caw Roundabout, Londonderry during 2005. [75949]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 8 June 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding how many vehicles on average used the *(a)* Lodge Road Roundabout Coleraine and *(b)* Caw Roundabout Londonderry during 2005.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

By way of background, I should explain that Roads Service collects traffic volume data by means of 270 automatic census points strategically located throughout the Northern Ireland road network. The information is recorded for one week in each quarter during the year and an annual average calculated. The results are published in Roads Service's annual Traffic and Travel Information Report, which presents the traffic volumes in a variety of formats for each site. Figures for the 2005 Report are still being processed, and therefore, the figures quoted below are based on the latest available data.

With regard to the Caw Roundabout, census points are placed on all four approach roads. The table details the average daily number of vehicles entering the roundabout from each road.

Caw roundabout	Average daily flow
Foyle Bridge[1]	15,930
Clooney Road[2]	15,600
Caw Brae[2]	7,510
Crescent Link[2]	12,970
Total	52,010

[1] This figure relates to the 2003 census as 2004 figures are unreliable, probably due to works on the Foyle Bridge during that period.
[2] These figures relate to the 2004 Census.

In relation to the Lodge Road Roundabout, unfortunately census points exist on only three of the five approach roads. While I have detailed the average daily number of vehicles entering the roundabout from these roads in the table below, I am unable to provide you with the full information requested.

Lodge road roundabout	Average daily flow
Ballymoney Road[2]	8,250
Sandleford Bridge[2]	13,840
Ballycastle Road[2]	10,480
Lodge Road	No information available
Rugby Avenue	No information available
Total	32,570

[2]These figures relate to the 2004 Census.

Valuation and Lands Agency

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what Geographical Information System data is used by the Valuation and Lands Agency's domestic rates Automated Valuation Model. [70395]

Mr. Hanson: Valuation and Lands Agency's CAMA (Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal) system uses the following Geographic Information System data:

Ordnance Survey for Northern Ireland's (OSNI) digital database of vector and raster maps;

OSNI's X Y coordinates (geocodes) linked to VLA's database of property attributes;

Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency's Census output areas; and

VLA's neighbourhood and estate code polygons.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biomass Industry

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which recommendations made in the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's report of May 2004 on biomass the Government has implemented. [22205]

David Miliband: The Government's response to the report was published in October 2004 and set out the measures that were in place at that time, or were being developed to address the issues raised in the recommendations. Copies of the Government's response have been placed in the House Library. Significant developments have since taken place on a number of issues relevant to the report:

In March 2006, the Government published the new Climate Change Programme which sets out the UK's programme to tackle climate change domestically and to secure agreement on action to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

A new support scheme for biomass heat in the industrial, commercial and community sectors will be introduced. The scheme will be worth at least £10-15 million in England over the next two years and will run for a total of 5 years.

Subject to State aid approval, a second application round of the Bio-energy Infrastructure Scheme will be launched during 2006-07.

DTI's Low Carbon Buildings Programme started in April 2006 and supersedes the previous Clear Skies Initiative and Solar PV programmes. The scheme provides grants for householders, community organisations, schools, the public sector and businesses to install microgeneration technologies.

Following the report from the Biomass Task Force, setting out their recommendations to overcome the barriers to developing biomass heat and electricity, the Government published its response in April 2006. This accepts that energy from crops, trees and waste can make a strong contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and sets out 12 key ways to make this happen. A number of the initiatives have already begun.

The 2006 revisions to the Building Regulations, together with the changes in 2002, will improve energy efficiency standards by 40 per cent. A draft Code for Sustainable Homes has been issued which sets out voluntary standards going beyond the minimum set out in the Building Regulations. The Minister for Housing has set out the Government's aim to support a long term ambitious framework for moving first to low carbon and then towards carbon neutral development.

Carbon Management Programmes

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the list of change management and other consultants undertaking carbon management programmes will be opened up to other consultants. [67846]

Ian Pearson: The Carbon Management Programme has been developed by the Carbon Trust. As the Trust is a private company, the management of contracts is a matter for its Board. Officials from the Carbon Trust will contact the hon. Member direct about this.

Children's Services

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many nursery and creche places are provided for people working in his Department; what charges are made for the provision of such services; and what other facilities are provided for the children of employees of her Department. [67362]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA is committed to childcare support both for the benefit of its staff but also as an essential element of addressing the Departmental business need DEFRA's childcare provision set out in the following table.

DEFRA employees are able to use a salary sacrifice scheme to reduce their childcare costs by up to £243 per month.

Defra childcare provision and costings 2005-06

		Full-time placement costs		
Childcare type/Location	*Places*	*To users*	*Subsidy rates*	*Cost to Defra 2005-06 (forecast)*
Defra Workplace Nurseries				
York	44	£326 1st child £372 siblings monthly	£204 1st child £158 siblings monthly	£83,568
Guildford	40	£241-£398 monthly dependent on grade	£154-£312 monthly dependent on grade	£55,463
Subsidised places in external nurseries				
London	11	Costs vary dependent on nursery location	£60 per week	£42,182
Bristol	3	Costs vary dependent on nursery location	£60 per week	£7,773
Discounted fees in external nurseries				
Newcastle London	Dependant on demand	7 per cent. discount in chain of nurseries	£0	£0
London	Dependant on demand	10 per cent. discount in chain of over 44 nurseries	£0	£0
Holiday Playschemes				
London	Dependant on demand	£16.33 daily	£8.67	£1,483

Defra childcare provision and costings 2005-06

Childcare type/Location	*Places*	*Full-time placement costs*		*Cost to Defra 2005-06 (forecast)*
		To users	*Subsidy rates*	
Guildford	Dependant on demand	£12.60 daily	£3.15-£16.90 dependent on number of children	[1]£1,676
York	Dependant on demand	£12.47 1st child	£5.61 1st child	[1]£1,179
		£11.22 sibling	£6.23 sibling	

[1] February Playscheme 2006 costs estimated

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what promotion boards have been held in his Department in each of the last five years. [70543]

Barry Gardiner: Most posts in DEFRA are filled on the basis of individual advertisements, in-house, across the civil service or as open competition, based on a competence-based selection process. The aim is to obtain precise and verifiable information about when candidates have displayed the particular behaviours and expertise at the level required for the vacancy. There have only been two general promotion boards, in 2003 and in 2004, to fill a number of vacancies and projected vacancies in the senior civil service. Selection was also through a generic competence-based process, supported by psychometric and cognitive tests, a presentation and final panel interview.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of his staff in each of the last three years; and at what total cost. [73100]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA changed its payroll provider in November 2004. It would be disproportionate cost to report on the archived data prior to 2005-06.

During the period 1 April 2005-31 March 2006, Defra paid 4362 non-pensionable bonuses at a cost of £3,356,845.67. This equates to 1.25 per cent. of the 2005-06 pay bill.

These figures, taken from the DEFRA payroll also include agency staff in the: Pesticides Safety Directorate, State Veterinary Service, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine Fisheries Agency and Government Decontamination Service.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75107]

Barry Gardiner: For 2003-04 17 staff (0.27 per cent.), and in 2004-05 18 staff (0.28 per cent.) were assessed as unacceptable. The 2005-06 annual appraisal exercise is on going.

These figures are for staff in core DEFRA, the Pesticides Safety Directorate, State Veterinary Service, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine Fisheries Agency and Government Decontamination Service.

Flooding

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to help areas which may suffer flooding in the next 12 months. [75569]

Ian Pearson: The Government invest significant sums of money each year to reduce the risk of flooding. Total central and local government funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management has nearly doubled from £307 million in 1996-97 to around £600 million in 2005-06.

Local authorities and the emergency services have contingency plans in place to cope with a range of incidents in their areas, including flooding. The Environment Agency (EA) also maintains its own local, regional and national level flood contingency plans. At the national level, DEFRA is the lead role for flood emergencies within Government, and our Lead Department Plan sets out the co-ordination arrangements needed at all levels.

The Government have set up a regional resilience team in each of the English regions to enhance the co-ordination of planning for wide impact events, such as major flooding, and to improve lines of communication between central Government and local response teams if a serious incident does occur. The EA, with other stakeholders, also carries out a regular programme of exercises to test its capability at all levels. This included a national level exercise in 2004, Exercise Triton.

Post-flooding, the recovery effort would be led by local authorities. Where they have incurred excessive expenditure as a consequence of a disaster or emergency they may be able to apply to the Department for Communities and Local Government for exceptional funding under the Bellwin Scheme.

Fox Hunting

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact on rural communities of the ban on fox hunting; and if he will consider the merits of repealing the ban. [74769]

Barry Gardiner: The Government have no plans to repeal the Hunting Act 2004. Since the ban came into effect, evidence has shown that hunts are continuing

to meet and ride within the law and that the dire consequences for rural communities predicted by opponents of the Act have not materialised.

Rural Development Programme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what matched funding will be raised in 2006-07 to permit the rural development programme in England to be adequately funded; [74872]

(2) what steps he is taking to match fund modulation for farmers. [75046]

Barry Gardiner: During 2006, the England rural development programme will continue to be funded by EU rural development money from the European agricultural guidance and guarantee fund (EAGGF) and by transfers from Pillar 1 direct payments through voluntary modulation. Receipts from both of these funding sources will continue to be co-financed on an equal basis by the UK Exchequer and the EU.

From 1 January 2007, a new rural development programming period will commence with slightly different rules. The EAGGF will be replaced by a new fund called the European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD). This will include funds transferred from the 5 per cent. compulsory modulation applied in the old EU-15 member states. Any money from this fund must be co-financed by the national exchequer. This will normally involve equal funding by the Exchequer and the EU, although new rules allow this to be set at a ratio of 45 per cent. exchequer funding to 55 per cent. EU funding for some schemes.

The December 2005 EU budget summit agreed that from 2007, member states could decide at what level to match-fund any receipts from voluntary modulation. However, final decisions have yet to be taken about the levels of voluntary modulation and co-financing which will apply during the period 2007-13.

Single Farm Payments

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms in Bridgwater constituency are entitled to single farm payments; and what total amount had been paid in single farm payments to farmers in that constituency at 1 May 2006. [68954]

Barry Gardiner: 120,367 applications were received for the single payment scheme (SPS). By the end of Tuesday 30 May 95,674 claims (79 per cent.) had been paid.

Analysis of these applications by constituency is not available but the total amount of payments for the single farm payment scheme in the Bridgwater constituency at 1 May 2006 was £2.938 million.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the delays within the Single Payment Scheme on the ability of the Rural Payments Agency to deliver each of its other programmes. [66704]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has kept Ministers and officials informed of the impact of administering the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) on all of the Agency's programmes. Given the importance of the SPS to the farming community RPA has, with ministerial agreement, sought to focus as many staff as it can on that scheme. This has meant that less effort has been deployed on some other activities at particular points over the past year and has resulted in a reduction in previous performance levels on other schemes. The Agency has kept representative organisations informed of its approach to SPS and other activities.

Water Leakage

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that the method of calculating acceptable levels of leakage by water companies takes account of the effects of leaks on *(a)* the environment and *(b)* consumers. [72853]

Ian Pearson: Leakage targets are set by the Economic Regulator, Ofwat and will be kept under review. They require water companies to compare the cost of reducing leakage and the value of the water saved, including any associated environmental and social costs and benefits. Leakage targets are set to balance the needs of consumers, against the environmental benefits associated with reduced leakage.

Woodland Grant Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications from the *(a)* private, *(b)* not-for-profit and *(c)* public sectors have been accepted under the woodland creation section of the England Woodland Grant Scheme in the last bidding round in each region; and what the (i) value of and (ii) area covered by each bid is. [74099]

Barry Gardiner: The Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grant Scheme was open for woodland creation grant applications between 18 July 2005 and 30 September 2005. In this period 596 applications were made and 448 met or exceeded the published scoring threshold and were accepted for processing. Of these 326 have resulted in signed grant scheme contracts. The remaining 122 were either withdrawn by the applicant or have outstanding technical or administrative issues to be resolved, including in some cases a final decision from the applicant as to whether they wish to proceed.

The information on the accepted (i.e. met or exceeded the published scoring threshold) and approved applications by ownership type for each region and is given in the following tables.

Private Owners (Personal and Business Occupiers)

Region	Accepted for processing			Grant Scheme contract signed		
	Area (ha)	Number	Value (£000)	Area (ha)	Number	Value (£000)
East of England	117	31	223	105	25	196
East Midlands	214	28	463	142	23	293
London	0	0	0	0	0	0
North East	154	30	338	86	19	189
North West	303	38	625	210	26	431
South East	215	35	476	172	26	391
South West	850	165	1,524	649	112	1,119
West Midlands	123	22	232	96	17	177
Yorkshire and Humber	259	37	527	198	26	405
Total	2235	386	4,408	1658	274	3,201

Not for Profit (Voluntary Organisation)

Region	Accepted for processing			Grant Scheme contract signed		
	Area (ha)	Number	Value (£000)	Area (ha)	Number	Value (£000)
East of England	48	4	124	48	4	124
East Midlands	6	3	13	6	3	13
London	0	0	0	0	0	0
North East	0	0	0	0	0	0
North West	8	2	18	8	2	18
South East	10	1	29	10	1	29
South West	210	9	355	210	9	355
West Midlands	2	1	3	2	1	3
Yorkshire and Humber	25	1	70	0	0	0
Total	309	21	612	284	20	542

Public Sector (Government Department, Crown Estates, National Forest Company, Local Authority etc.)

Region	Accepted for processing			Grant Scheme contract signed		
	Area (ha)	Number	Value (£000)	Area (ha)	Number	Value (£000)
East of England	9	4	22	4	3	9
East Midlands	25	8	60	25	8	60
London	0	0	0	0	0	0
North East	117	15	248	87	12	186
North West	5	1	15	5	1	15
South East	18	3	44	18	3	44
South West	10	4	24	2	2	4
West Midlands	17	6	46	8	3	23
Yorkshire and Humber	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	201	41	459	149	32	341

Note:
The Ownership type declared by the applicant is either: (a) Personal Occupier (b) Business Occupier (c) Voluntary Organisation (d) Government Department, Crown Estates, National Forest Company (e) Other Public e.g. Local Authority

These have been grouped into three categories in the tables.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Sales

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the negative price differential between alcoholic and soft drinks. [74612]

Mr. McNulty: None. However, we have been working with the drinks industry to raise standards of operating practice and support their principles and standards document which was published in November. This contains guidance on preventing irresponsible promotions and includes the recommendation that operators include a selection of soft drinks or low alcohol drinks at reduced prices during the happy hour. We have been working with all sectors of the trade to put this document into place.

Assets Recovery Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 508W, on the Assets Recovery Agency, if he will break down the total value of realised assets for *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06 by type of assets realised. [74686]

Mr. Coaker: The information as regards realised assets in 2004-05 is set out in the table. I regret that the total sum of realised assets in 2004-05 given in my earlier reply, 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 508W, was understated by £0.158 million. I am now advised by the Assets Recovery Agency that the correct figure is £4.3 million. The agency's annual report for 2005-06, which will set out progress in meeting last year's targets, including the value of realised assets, will be laid before Parliament shortly.

Value realised 2004-05

Asset type	*£ million*
Cash[1]	4.0
Houses	0.3
Vehicles	0.0005
Total	4.3

[1] Cash covers bank accounts, money seized by other law enforcement and money held in solicitors and other client accounts etc.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Assets Recovery Agency recovered assets equivalent to 100 per cent. of its budget in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [75313]

Mr. Coaker: The Agency did not recover assets equivalent to 100 per cent. of its budget for 2004-05 which was its second full year of operation. Civil recovery cases in the High Court can take over two years to complete litigation. This period is longer where respondents seek to use all their rights of appeal. The impact of legal challenges, although inevitable with new legislation, has delayed the progress of cases in the High Court. The Agency's Annual Report for 2005-06, which will set out progress in meeting last year's targets, will be laid before Parliament shortly.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the financial impact on voluntary organisations of their Registered Body status being removed by the Criminal Records Bureau. [74439]

Joan Ryan: Draft regulations were submitted to the Domestic Affairs Committee prior to being laid before Parliament. A full regulatory impact assessment was completed. It was acknowledged that small organisations would probably not be able to satisfy the minimum threshold and would need to approach other organisations in order to obtain checks on their employees and incur the associated costs. However, in some cases it was concluded that the costs of using such an organisation would be lower than the administrative costs of running and maintaining a small volume Registered Body.

The proposed changes arose from a key recommendation of the 2002 Independent Review of the CRB and were supported by the recent Bichard Inquiry. The intention is to make the Registered Body network more professional and more experienced in the disclosure process which will allow the CRB to ensure that the network of users is proficient in the security and policies of the CRB.

As part of the continuous consultation process, the CRB are working with the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to resolve issues about access to the disclosure service. To this end, there are several voluntary and not-for-profit Umbrella Bodies (UBs) that serve the VCS and details of these are available on an improved web page of the CRB website. Charges by these UBs are comparatively low and in some cases, services are free to volunteers. Access to the disclosure service will be maintained by this UB network. By using voluntary or not-for-profit UBs, the cost of accessing the disclosure service will be kept to an absolute minimum for voluntary organisations and, in many cases, the charges will be less than the administrative costs associated with direct registration with the CRB.

The CRB will provide advice, guidance and support to organisations on the options available to access the disclosure service before their registration is cancelled due to low volume.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many criminal record checks were carried out *(a)* for people undertaking voluntary work and *(b)* for voluntary organisations in each year since 1998; [74440]

(2) how many voluntary organisations *(a)* are registered bodies for the purposes of the Criminal Records Bureau, *(b)* lost their registered body status as a result of not meeting the minimum number of checks per annum in each year since 1998 and *(c)* applied to be registered bodies in each year. [74441]

Joan Ryan: The number of criminal record checks carried out by the Criminal Records Bureau for people undertaking voluntary work since the disclosure service was launched in 2002 is as follows:

	Number
2002	122,177
2003	386,194
2004	495,811
2005	556,935
2006	194,411

Information is not available to answer the hon. Member's question about the number of checks carried out for voluntary organisations in each year since 2002.

There are 350 registered bodies who have defined themselves as voluntary organisations which are registered for the purposes of processing disclosures. To date, the registered body status of 66 voluntary organisations is currently under review initially as a result of not meeting the minimum number of checks in any 12-month period. As part of this review there will be an appeals process. The basis of a successful appeal will be on the specific situation of each organisation and will be based on various criteria such as the services the group supplies, whether it has any sector speciality and the number of other organisations

in the area. The number of voluntary organisations which applied to be registered bodies in each year is as follows:

	Number
2002	143
2003	111
2004	48
2005	41
2006	7

Deportations

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are held as convicted prisoners in *(a)* Aylesbury Young Offenders Institution, *(b)* Grendon Prison, *(c)* Springhill Prison and *(d)* Woodhill Prison; how many such prisoners were convicted of each category of offence; in the case of how many such prisoners the trial judge recommended that deportation be considered at the end of the custodial sentence; and if he will make a statement. [67675]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested on foreign nationals being held as convicted prisoners in each of the prisons listed, by type of offence and as recorded on the Prison IT system, is provided in the table.

Information about those detained in the prisons listed who have been recommended for deportation is not held centrally. The Immigration And Nationality Directorate are in the process of introducing a system to enable this information to be routinely collated.

Foreign national convicted prisoners held in prisons in Buckinghamshire on 31 March 2006, by type of offence

	Prison		
Offence	*Aylesbury*	*Grendon/ Spring Hill*	*Woodhill*
Violence against the person	23	7	11
Sexual offences	13	2	4
Robbery	20	2	6
Burglary	5	3	5
Theft and handling	—	2	14
Fraud and forgery	1	4	22
Drug offences	14	9	13
Motoring offences	—	1	6
Other offences	7	2	7
All offences	84	32	89

Note:
Includes sentenced and convicted unsentenced prisoners.

Family Indefinite Leave to Remain Exercise

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who have been granted leave to remain under the Government's Family Indefinite Leave to Remain Exercise have had *(a)* a claim for asylum refused and *(b)* a claim for asylum refused and exhausted their rights of appeal. [73778]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Fire Sprinklers

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the policy is of his Department with regard to the fitting of fire sprinkler systems in *(a)* forensic hospitals and *(b)* prisons. [71021]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Department is responsible for fire safety policy in prisons, and the Department of Health has this responsibility for high and medium security psychiatric hospitals.

In prison cells, the usefulness of sprinklers is unproven as they pose practical and operational implementation difficulties and are costly and difficult to install, particularly in existing establishments. A policy regarding the use of sprinklers is to be determined in the context of an overall prison fire safety strategy. Sprinklers have been fitted in some prisons in high-risk areas such as kitchens and hospitals.

In the three high security psychiatric hospitals, no sprinklers have been fitted. The design guide for medium secure psychiatric units does not specifically mention sprinklers. Instead, building designs include measures such as fire compartmentation and easy horizontal evacuation to places of safety.

Foreign Prisoners

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what procedures the UK immigration service follows relevant to the handling of cases where a Scottish judge has recommended a foreign national on sentencing to be deported on release; [67584]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the Scottish Prison Service on foreign national prisoners recommended for deportation who are serving their sentence in a Scottish prison. [67589]

Mr. Byrne: I refer to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary on 23 May.

Free on Licence Prisoners

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many of the prisoners free on licence following life sentences his Department does not have addresses. [71254]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All life sentence prisoners are released on licence on the authority of the independent Parole Board. The licensee must comply with a number of specific licence conditions, including a requirement to be supervised by a probation officer and to live only at approved addresses. Although the supervision element of the licence may be removed after a minimum of four

years, the life licence remains in force for the rest of the person's life and can be revoked at any time if such action is necessary on risk grounds.

A total of 1,565 life licensees were under active supervision on 31 March 2006 and their addresses are known to the relevant probation areas. In 23 other cases where the life licence has been revoked, the life licensees are unlawfully at large pending their arrest and return to custody. The police are notified when prisoners abscond and their details are entered on the Police National Computer.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Immigration and Nationality Directorate will reply to the correspondence from the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green of 7 February 2006 regarding a constituent Mrs. Mackay (née Lema) of Victoria Road, London, Home Office Reference L1115499. [75603]

Mr. Byrne: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the hon. Member on 24 February 2006.

Immigration/Asylum

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum detainees who escaped from the Yarl's Wood detention centre on 14 February 2002 have subsequently been detained. [73924]

Mr. Byrne: Many records were burnt or destroyed on the night of the fire and, to the best of our knowledge, the following figures are correct. Of the 23 escapees 16 have been relocated. Of these, nine have been removed, four re-detained (three of whom were subsequently released), one reported to Croydon enforcement unit voluntarily and was released and two were granted temporary release. The whereabouts of seven remain unknown. Decisions on the 16 were made in line with the casework criteria as it applies to their individual circumstances.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees held at the Yarl's Wood detention centre on 14 February 2002 were unaccounted for following the fire at the centre that day. [73926]

Mr. Byrne: 23 detainees were unaccounted for in the immediate aftermath of the fire. Stephen Shaw published brief details of these people in his comprehensive report of the fire and disturbance.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of people arriving in the UK on student visas who *(a)* returned and *(b)* did not return to their country of origin upon completion of their studies in the last 5 years. [74124]

Mr. Byrne: Following withdrawal of the control for passengers travelling to continental destinations from ferry ports and small/medium-sized airports by the Government in 1994, the UK has had a diminished ability to record exit movements, and so such calculations are problematic.

The e-Borders programme will soon use biometric data to record passenger movements at UK ports.

Individual Support Orders

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment has been made of the reasons for the difference in the number of individual support orders and antisocial behaviour orders issued; [74520]

(2) what account he expects the courts to take of the mandatory nature of individual support orders when issuing antisocial behaviour orders; [74521]

(3) how much has been provided to fund individual support orders since they were introduced; [74522]

(4) how much funding for individual support orders has been allocated, broken down by local authority; and how much such funding has been spent, broken down by authority; [74875]

(5) whether there are any plans for further funding for individual support orders beyond that already allocated. [74876]

Mr. McNulty: Individual support orders (ISOs) can be attached to stand-alone antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) for 10 to 17 year-olds.

We are working with the Youth Justice Board and HM Court Service to increase the take-up of ISOs, and we are starting to see encouraging signs of wider use. This includes actively promoting their use to all interested parties at antisocial behaviour-related events and updating advice and guidance. We are implementing a Home Office/Youth Justice Board/HM Courts Service action plan and as part of this we have just completed a series of meetings with Youth Offending Teams to ascertain views on barriers to take-up and to see what needs to be done to encourage increased numbers. We are currently examining the information from these meetings but initial soundings are that ISOs are a popular measure with those people who have been consulted.

When considering making a stand-alone ISO on a young person the court must make one in every applicable case if it considers that it would help prevent further antisocial behaviour. The Judicial Studies Board is producing a new updated antisocial behaviour training programme for magistrates, which will feature ISOs, and incorporate them within practical training exercises to assist magistrates in fulfilling their statutory duty.

We provided £500,000 to YJB in June 2005 to fund ISOs. Funding for this financial year and from now on is available through the £45 million uplift given to the Youth Justice Board as part of their youth prevention budget.

The funding is allocated to Youth Offending Teams based on a formula and they have submitted plans to

the Youth Justice Board on how they plan to spend it—some have specific ISO schemes and others have looked to embed the work into Youth Inclusion Support Panels.

London Bombings

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much compensation has been *(a)* allocated for and *(b)* paid to those affected by the terrorist attacks in London on 7 July. [74516]

Mr. McNulty: Victims of the London bombings of 7 July 2005 are eligible for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, which is administered by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA). In a written ministerial statement of 17 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 78WS, my right hon. Friend the then Home Secretary (Mr. Clarke) said that he was allocating another £5 million to CICA to cover costs associated with the London bombings. We announced in May that an additional £2.5 million was being made available for the victims of the London bombings over and above their awards from the Compensation Scheme.

As at 26 May 2006, CICA had paid 319 awards totalling £2.12 million to victims of the London bombings. 189 of these awards were final awards: the others were interim awards.

The Government also contributed £1 million to the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund, which has made payments totalling around £8 million to victims of the London bombings.

National Identity Register

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines the Government have in place to regulate *(a)* which bodies will have access to the National Identity Register and *(b)* how these bodies will be able to use this information; and if he will make a statement. [75405]

Joan Ryan: The Identity Cards Act 2006 does not provide for any direct access to information on the National Identity Register (NIR) for organisations, either with or without the consent of the individual. The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) intends to provide an identity verification service. This does not provide direct access to the NIR but rather it intends to verify an individual's identity in a method appropriate to the situation, ranging from an electronic card authentication to the provision of information to an organisation based on a specific request.

The Identity Cards Act 2006 establishes a number of conditions and safeguards regarding the use of the identity verification service by organisations.

It is expected that most identity checks will be done with the consent of the individual. Section 12 covers the provision of information with the consent of the individual. It limits the information that may be provided to organisations as part of a verification check with consent and also allows for regulations to be made prescribing how the individual's authority and consent for the provision of information is to be given. Private sector companies will only be permitted to use identity services with the consent of the individual and thus are regulated under this section.

Sections 13-16 cover the use of identity services in relation to the provision of public services. These sections ensure that the use of identity services by public service providers must be approved by Parliament by affirmative order and may also be subject to consultation with the users of that service before it can commence.

Powers to provide information from the NIR without consent are strictly limited and laid out in Sections 17-21. Information may be disclosed without consent to Security and Intelligence Agencies for the purposes of carrying out their functions. The Police and the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs may also be provided with information held on the scheme but the type of information and the circumstances in which it may be provided are limited under Section 17(3) and 17(4). Furthermore, Section 18(4) limits the provision of information on when a person's record on the Register has been checked to purposes connected with the prevention and detection of serious crime alone. Under Section 17(5) and 20(1), the provision of information without consent to any other Government Department or public authority could not occur unless it had been approved by Parliament by affirmative order.

The Act also provides for the accreditation of organisations before they can be provided with information from an individual's record from the NIR. The accreditation process will establish the business need for the information and whether their internal systems and procedures are satisfactory. The process will also establish the terms and conditions under which an organisation can use the identity services offered by IPS.

With regard to the use of this information by organisations, there are also a number of safeguards.

Firstly, user organisations will continue to be subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 in how they handle any information received from a verification check. Thus, the safeguards within that Act and the independent oversight of the Information Commissioner in relation to its provisions will apply.

Secondly, the National Identity Scheme Commissioner (NISC) or, where appropriate, the Intelligence Services Commissioner will provide independent oversight as to how the National Identity Scheme operates and the uses to which ID cards are put. The NISC will publish a report every year, which will be laid before Parliament.

Thirdly, IPS will also reserve the right to audit any user organisation's processes to ensure they remain compliant with the terms and conditions of the use of the identity verification services.

Finally, Section 21 of the Identity Cards Act provides for the establishment of restrictions on how the provision of information without consent may operate, which may include stipulations that only certain ranks or postholders in an organisation are permitted to receive any information provided after a request for information from the NIR.

Opiate Products

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his Department, subject to quality and quota restrictions, will permit manufacturers of opiate products for medicinal use in acute pain relief and long-term palliative care to import the restricted raw materials they need from approved sources in the European Economic Association or from countries where a high level of institutional co-operation exists; and if he will make a statement. [75346]

Mr. Coaker: Importation policy is governed by the United Nations single convention on narcotic drugs, 1961 which calls on Governments to restrict international trade to the minimum necessary to meet countries' medical needs. The policy also takes account of the United Kingdom's obligations to the European Union and to the European Economic Association. Imports from EU and EEA countries can therefore be considered.

There is no basis for importation from any other source irrespective of levels of institutional co-operation.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many controlled drugs' raw materials are manufactured by a monopoly supplier for UK production; and if he will make a statement. [75469]

Mr. Coaker: Macfarlan Smith Ltd. is licensed to manufacture 33 opiate derivatives. Its effective monopoly position arises from the absence of any other applicant for a manufacturing licence.

Penal Policy

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has commissioned into the effect of levels of incarceration on the rate of criminal activity. [59309]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Currently no research is being carried out on the effect of levels of incarceration on the rate of criminal activity. Some work previously carried out in 2003 for the correctional services review ("Managing Offenders, Reducing Crime" by Patrick Carter) estimated that the increased use of prison in England and Wales since 1997 had reduced crime by around 5 per cent. However, international evidence shows no consistent relationship between levels of incarceration and crime.

Police

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to announce his decision on whether to restructure Hampshire Police; and if he will make a statement. [60540]

Mr. McNulty: A statement was made by the Home Secretary on 20 March indicating that Hampshire Police would stand alone as a strategic force.

The Home Secretary has made it clear that he believes that the establishment of strategic police forces through the merger of existing police areas is the basis for a reformed, fully effective police service in the future and in particular is the necessary step to enhance the stability of local neighbourhood policing, and that he wishes to carefully review the restructuring programme before making announcements on the best way forward.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors were taken into account when the decision was made that Kent police should remain a single entity. [73568]

Mr. McNulty: The decision that Kent police could remain a single entity and internally reconfigure to improve its provision of protective services took into account professional advice from Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary.

The decision further took into account: the business case submitted by Kent police which set out planned reforms to further develop its provision of protective services and neighbourhood policing; financial assessments of the case commissioned by the Home Office; and the need to establish a balanced and resilient regional and national policing landscape.

The Home Secretary has made it clear that he believes that the establishment of strategic police forces through the merger of existing police areas is the basis for a reformed, fully effective police service in the future and in particular is the necessary step to enhance the stability of local neighbourhood policing, and that he wishes to carefully review the restructuring programme before making announcements on the best way forward.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Written Statement of 20 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 6-7W, on Police Force Restructuring, (1) what reasons underlay his decision not to restructure Hampshire Police; and if he will make a statement; [61307]

(2) what reasons underlay his decision not to restructure Hampshire Police; and if he will make a statement. [62404]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Secretary's decision to allow Hampshire Police to remain as a stand-alone force was informed by the professional advice of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary that the force has the capacity, capability and resilience to provide protective services to national standards.

The decision further took into account:

the business case submitted by Hampshire Police which set out planned reforms to further develop its provision of protective services and neighbourhood policing;

financial assessments of the case commissioned by the Home Office; and

the need to establish a balanced and resilient regional and national policing landscape.

The Home Secretary has made it clear that he believes that the establishment of strategic police forces through the merger of existing police areas is the basis for a reformed, fully effective police service in the future and in particular is the necessary step to enhance the stability of local neighbourhood policing, and that he wishes to carefully review the restructuring programme before making announcements on the best way forward.

Prisons

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the 10 most common offences were for which men were sent to prison in England and Wales in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by age group. [75535]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is contained in the table.

Men sentenced to immediate custody at all courts in England and Wales in 2004—top 10 offences[1]

Offence	Number of men sentenced to immediate custody			
	Aged 10-17	Aged 18-20	Aged 21 and over	All ages
Driving whilst disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence	398	1,782	9,583	11,763
Theft from shops	169	682	10,142	10,993
Other wounding[2]	653	1,631	6,420	8,704
Burglary in a dwelling	673	1,053	4,780	6,506
Robbery	1,024	1,164	2,522	4,710
Production, supply and possession (with intent to supply) Class A drugs	115	510	3,448	4,073
Common assault	228	521	3,254	4,003
Burglary in a building other than dwelling	269	536	2,850	3,655
Failing to surrender to bail	31	385	2,530	2,946
Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	42	185	2,631	2,858

[1] Published offence categories
[2] Mostly assaults occasioning actual bodily harm and wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent
Source:
RDS-NOMS
05-Jun-06

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have absconded from each open prison in England in each year since 1997; how many have been recaptured; and if he will make a statement. [73474]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been 7,105 absconds from open prisons in England since 1 April 1997. A break down of the number of prisoners who have absconded from each open prison over the last five years is given in the following table.

Available data indicates that 356 prisoners remain unlawfully at large from those who absconded from English open prisons since one April 1997. The police are notified when prisoners abscond and their details are entered on the police national computer.

Absconds from open prisons in England between 1997-98 and 2005-06.

Absconds from open prisons in England between 1997-98 and 2005-06.

	North Sea Camp	Sudbury	Hollesley Bay	Askham Grange	East Sutton Park	Morton Hall	Ford	Standford Hill
1997-98	25	81	13	35	5	20	53	35
1998-99	32	75	25	17	3	15	40	40
1999-2000	27	63	11	20	3	23	68	43
2000-01	24	69	24	21	3	6	57	29
2001-02	36	81	8	19	3	—	57	37
2002-03	34	68	14	12	—	—	91	83
2003-04	79	75	36	31	1	—	142	89
2004-05	33	77	32	12	2	—	110	39
2005-06	49	76	16	14	4	—	96	58

	Kirkham	Thorn Cross	Leyhill	Spring Hill	Hewell Grange	Moorland	Wealstun	Total
1997-98	234	168	20	20	13	1	48	771
1998-99	202	133	25	9	25	1	70	714
1999-2000	171	147	34	14	11	—	72	707
2000-01	169	110	25	14	24	—	105	680
2001-02	163	135	19	12	8	—	79	657
2002-03	208	152	33	23	14	—	101	833
2003-04	213	130	114	60	36	68	144	1,218
2004-05	120	90	102	36	32	73	74	832
2005-06	74	105	66	34	24	49	28	693

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted of *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape and *(c)* robbery have absconded from English prisons in each year from 1997; and if he will make a statement. [73475]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Absconds can only take place from open prisons and only prisoners who are category D, the lowest security category, can be placed in open conditions. Open prisons take prisoners who are nearing completion of their sentence in preparation for their release.' As part of the categorisation process prisoners are subject to a rigorous and robust risk assessment. Only those assessed as not being a risk to the public and of low risk of escape will be categorised as D.

Available data indicate that 1,018 prisoners have absconded since 1997 who were serving sentences for murder, rape or robbery. A break down of these is given in the following table. The police are notified when prisoners abscond and their details are entered on the police national computer.

Prisoners convicted of murder, rape and robbery who absconded from English prisons between 1997 and 2006

	Number of absconders convicted of murder	Number of absconders convicted of rape	Number of absconders convicted of robbery
1997-98	5	—	46
1998-99	12	1	46
1999-00	13	1	92
2000-01	19	1	86
2001-02	17	0	85
2002-03	16	1	114
2003-04	19	1	175
2004-05	16	1	119
2005-06	17	1	114
Total	134	7	877

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners held in Ford prison while awaiting deportation or being considered for deportation *(a)* have absconded in 2006 and *(b)* absconded in each of the last five years. [75226]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* To date in 2006, 61 prisoners have absconded from Ford open prisons. 33 of these are foreign nationals, 19 were being considered for enforcement proceedings by the immigration and nationality directorate and one was going to be deported. Information about the deportation status of prisoners who absconded prior to 2006 is not held centrally by the Prison Service and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Security Industry Authority

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licence applications to the Security Industry Authority have been rejected in the last 12 months *(a)* because the form was not correctly completed, *(b)* because the accompanying documents were not adequate and *(c)* on substantive grounds because the applicant was not a person who should be licensed; and if he will make a statement. [55172]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally. However, the Security Industry Authority has worked closely with the industry to implement changes which have successfully reduced the rejection rate from 50 per cent. in January 2006 to approximately 20 per cent. at the beginning of March. There are a little over 12,000 applications recorded as rejected and awaiting re-submission from the applicant. As at 31 May, 4,042 licences had been refused on substantive grounds, namely that the applicant had a criminal history.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which posts in the Serious and Organised Crime Agency are vacant; and what grade each is. [75690]

Mr. Coaker: The Serious Organised Crime Agency was established on 1 April 2006 with a staff of around 4,300, the vast majority of whom came from the precursor agencies. SOCA has identified a shortage of up to 150 posts in some specific skills at grades 1-3, across operational and corporate services directorates, which it is now seeking to fill through external recruitment and internal promotion and staff moves.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2006, to question number 71551, how many posts the Serious Organised Crime Agency is seeking to fill. [75883]

Mr. Coaker: The Serious Organised Crime Agency's workforce plan is to fill up to 150 posts through internal promotion, external recruitment and staff moves to meet the identified skills shortages.

Shoplifting

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many shoplifting cases were brought before the courts in each of the last 10 years; how many cases in each year led to *(a)* an acquittal and *(b)* a conviction; and how many of those defendants were facing their first criminal charge. [71967]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, acquitted and found guilty at all courts for 'theft from shops' for the years 1994 to 2004 in England and Wales, are provided in the following table.

It is not possible to identify how many defendants were facing their first criminal charge from the data held on the court proceedings database. Data for 2005 will be available in the autumn.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty or acquitted at all courts of 'theft from shops'[1] England and Wales, 1994-2004

	Proceeded against[2]	Found guilty	Acquitted (magistrates' court)[3]	Acquitted (Crown Court
1994	60,019	48,863	1,444	402
1995	61,468	50,435	1,247	380
1996	65,220	54,102	1,327	384
1997	69,666	58,401	1,348	382
1998	77,915	66,690	1,507	352
1999	85,491	74,350	1,573	339
2000	89,050	77,542	1,637	316
2001	92,233	79,933	1,937	319
2002	92,664	80,167	1,964	271
2003	86,089	74,928	1,700	268
2004	78,241	69,542	1,394	225

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis
[2] The prosecution figures include cases that were discontinued or withdrawn at the magistrates' court as well as cases that were committed to the Crown Court but not tried.
[3] Offenders who were discharged or had cases dismissed at magistrates' courts
Source:
RDS-Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Stansted Hijacking

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has received evidence that the Stansted hijacking was also part of a people smuggling operation; and if he will make a statement. [74002]

Mr. Coaker: We have received no evidence that the Stansted hijacking was part of a people smuggling operation. Our current understanding is that the purpose of the hijack was to claim asylum.

UK Passports

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK passports were reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [75004]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 7 June 2006]:* It is not possible for the UK Passport Service to identify exactly how many passports were reported lost or stolen in Northern Ireland. However, the Belfast passport office, which serves the Northern Ireland area, processed the following reports of *(a)* loss and *(b)* theft of a passport for the calendar years of 2004, 2005 and 2006 to date.

	Belfast	
	Lost	*Stolen*
2004	9,496	1,959
2005	9,615	1,117
2006 (to date)	4,329	473

The total figures across the UK for the last three years are as follows:

	UK			
	Lost	*Stolen*	*Other*	*Total*
2003				184,301
2004	212,745	50,737	11,558	275,040
2005	230,011	45,709	11,268	286,988
2006 (to 6 June)	96,292	16,037	4,712	117,041

Workers Registration Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to revise the Workers Registration Scheme to *(a)* increase the level of registration and *(b)* reduce illegal working. [71901]

Mr. Byrne: In developing and implementing the Workers Registration Scheme (WRS) we have sought to strike the right balance between the objective of monitoring the labour market impact of enlargement and avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy. The Government believe that the WRS has worked well to date as a means of monitoring impacts and as a safeguard against illegal working and fraudulent access to benefits. However, we will continue to keep the need for the scheme under review.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on progress made in training Afghan police in Helmand province. [74967]

Dr. Howells: The Government of Afghanistan's National Police Reform Programme has not, up to now, reached the southern provinces and training of the National Afghan Police (ANP) in Helmand province has been slow. This has been largely due to the difficult security situation in southern Afghanistan which has hampered the International Community's efforts to provide training and follow-up support. Since the establishment of the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in Helmand on 1 May 2006, the UK has been working closely with the provincial government and the Ministry of Interior to accelerate progress. At the beginning of this year there were around 1,700 ANP in Helmand, of varying levels of expertise. Many will need additional training. Approximately 200 additional trained ANP officers have since been redeployed from elsewhere in Afghanistan to reinforce the current force levels while new recruits are trained and equipped under the German/US police training programme. The pay and rank review currently underway will determine the final shape of the police structure in Helmand.

Eritrea

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions the British Embassy in Eritrea has had with the Eritrean Government about the imprisonment of Eritrean citizens for belonging to Christian churches not recognised by the Government. [75943]

Mr. Hoon: We remain concerned by reports of state interference in religious affairs and lack of freedom of worship in Eritrea. We monitor closely action taken by the authorities against members of minority religious groups not recognised by the Government of Eritrea.

Officials from our Embassy in Asmara continue to raise these issues with the Eritrean Government. As local EU presidency, the UK also conveys the EU's concerns, including through the EU-Eritrea Political Dialogue on Constitutional and Human Rights. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, wrote to President Isaias on 6 October expressing our concern and has raised this with the Eritrean Ambassador.

India

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Indian Government on the enactment of the Rajasthan Dharma Swatantrata Act in Rajasthan which prohibits religious conversion. [76037]

Dr. Howells: It is for the Indian authorities to decide how to deal with this issue. However we have raised this in response to legitimate UK public and parliamentary interest.

Officials from our High Commission in New Delhi raised this when they called on the Chair of the National Commission for Minorities in April.

Although the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly approved this Act in April, we understand that the State Governor of Rajasthan refused to sign the bill when it was presented to her on 19 May.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Palestine

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the temporary international mechanism envisaged by the Middle East Quartet will channel humanitarian aid to the Palestinians; and how many public employees' salaries will be paid through that mechanism. [75580]

Dr. Howells: The European Commission is continuing to discuss how the Temporary International Mechanism will operate with international donors, Quartet members and International Financial Institutions. The Mechanism seeks to provide support without funds passing through the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority.

The payment of allowances to individual Palestinians is one of the areas under discussion. But we must be clear that the Mechanism cannot and does not seek to replace the role of the Palestinian Authority. It is the responsibility of the Palestinian government to pay its employees' salaries. The Government fully supports the Quartet statement of 9 May which said that donors were willing to restart direct support to the Palestinian Authority as soon as the Palestinian Authority government meets and implements the three Quartet principles. The full text of the 9 May statement can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1145894914790.

United Nations

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on UN Security Council expansion. [76201]

Dr. Howells: The Government supports expansion of both permanent and non-permanent membership of the Security Council. This is essential to ensure that the Council remains representative of today's world. We continue to support the candidatures of Germany, Japan, India and Brazil for permanent seats on an enlarged Council, and for permanent African representation.

As my right. hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in his Georgetown speech on 26 May, we want renewed momentum in the debate on Security Council enlargement.

PRIME MINISTER

32 (The Royal) Squadron

Dr. Cable: To ask the Prime Minister in respect of which official duties he used 32 (The Royal) Squadron for flights on *(a)* 11 and 12 April 2002, *(b)* 3 and 4 July 2003, *(c)* 30 July 2003, *(d)* 16 September 2004, *(e)* 29 September 2003, *(f)* 24 July 1998 and *(g)* 26 June 1998; what the approximate take-off and landing times were of each flight; whether the carbon emissions were offset in respect of each flight; what other transport options were considered on each occasion; why other transport options were not used; and if he will make a statement. [66163]

The Prime Minister: I travel making the most efficient and cost-effective arrangements. My travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the Ministerial Code, and the accompanying guidance document "Travel by Ministers". My visits cover a range of matters including health, education, criminal justice and the economy.

Details of the approximate take-off and landing times are as follows:

(a) 11 April 2002 the flight departed at approximately 3 pm and returned at approximately 5.30 pm; on 12 April 2002 the flight departed at approximately 9 am and returned at approximately 12.30 pm

(b) 3-4 July 2003, the flight departed at approximately 1 pm and returned at approximately 1 pm.

(c) 30 July 2003, 32 (The Royal) Squadron flight was not used.

(d) 16 September 2004, 32 (The Royal) Squadron flight was not used.

(e) 29 September 2003, 32 (The Royal) Squadron flight was not used.

(f) 24 July 1998, the flight departed at approximately 8.30 am and returned at approximately 8.30 pm.

(g) 26 June 1998, the flight departed at approximately 8.30 am and returned at approximately 11am.

Carbon emissions arising from 32 squadron flights are now included in the Government's carbon emissions offsetting commitment. My air travel has been offset for the last year.

Constituency Visits

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the constituencies he visited between 5 May 2005 and 5 May 2006. [75538]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 2 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1385-87W.

Departmental Budget

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister how much of the budget allocated to his Office remained unspent in each of the last 3 financial years for which figures are available; what use was subsequently made of each amount unspent; and if he will make a statement. [75646]

The Prime Minister: For accounting purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I have therefore asked my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) to reply. A copy of the reply will be placed in the Library of the House.

Dorneywood

Mr. Laws: To ask the Prime Minister which Minister will be the official resident of Dorneywood from June; and if he will make a statement. [75797]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my Official spokesman on 5 June. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Hinduja Brothers

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what official meetings he has had with one or more of the Hinduja brothers since taking office. [75390]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 20 July 2001, *Official Report*, column 468W.

House of Lords

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the operation of section *(a)* 2 and *(b)* 3 of the House of Lords Act 1999; and what recent representations he has received about the operation of this Act. [70378]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the Labour party manifesto, which sets out our views on reform of the House of Lords. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. I have recently received two letters on hereditary peers in the House of Lords.

Ministerial Appointments

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister if he will ensure that the next Minister for Agriculture is a member of the House of Commons. [74766]

The Prime Minister: As with previous Administrations, I make appointments which best meet the needs of the Government.

Ministerial Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list all journeys he undertook on official business in 2005 about which he concluded on the basis of *(a)* chapter 10 of the Ministerial Code and *(b)* the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers", that travel by train was the most efficient and cost-effective arrangement. [72428]

The Prime Minister: My travel arrangements are conducted in accordance with the requirements of chapter 10 of the Ministerial Code, and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers", and on the basis of advice from the security authorities.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister who is responsible for overseeing the Travel by Ministers Guidance; what grade he or she is; what the details are of his or her career to date; who appointed him or her; whether the post was advertised; how many persons applied for the post; how many were short listed for interview; and if he will make a statement. [75637]

The Prime Minister: The covering note to "Travel by Ministers" sets out the relevant responsibilities in relation to Ministers' travel arrangements. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Official Publications

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Prime Minister what guidance is issued to Ministers on the use and disposal of official publications provided in the course of their official duties. [74644]

The Prime Minister: Advice to Ministers on using official documents is set out in Section 6 of the Ministerial Code.

The arrangements for managing Ministers' official papers, including their disposal, can be found in "Guidance on Managing Private Office Papers" published on the National Archives website (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/recordsmanagement/advice/pdf/popapersguidance.pdf) and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister when he will answer Question 70378, on the House of Lords Act 1999, tabled on 11 May by the hon. Member for Southend, West; what the reason is for the delay in replying; and if he will make a statement. [75635]

The Prime Minister: I have replied to the hon. Member today.

Resignation Honours

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to submit his resignation honours list to the House of Lords Appointments Commission for scrutiny and approval. [75937]

The Prime Minister: The House of Lords Appointments Commission will continue to scrutinise any names put to them as appropriate, in the usual way.

Russell Chambers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Prime Minister what Russell Chambers' current role is; how much he is paid; how many meetings he has held with Mr. Chambers since his appointment; and whether Mr. Chambers has declared potential conflicts of interest. [72323]

The Prime Minister: Russell Chambers has no Government appointment.

Simon Stevens

Tim Farron: To ask the Prime Minister whether Simon Stevens, President of United Health Europe, is a former health advisor to the Government. [75314]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 31 March 2003, *Official Report*, column 526W.

United States (Visit)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost was of his most recent visit to the United States; how many *(a)* officials, *(b)* advisers and *(c)* members of his family accompanied him; what the cost was in each case; where he and those who accompanied him stayed during this visit; what the cost was in each case; if he will list those (i) United States Senators, (ii) Members of Congress and (iii) others that he met during the visit; which British Government Departments provided briefing material for his use during this visit; whether he *(A)* sought and *(B)* received advice from (1) the United States Department of State and (2) other United States government departments during this visit; when he next plans to visit the United States; and if he will make a statement. [75647]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information on the number of officials accompanying Ministers on overseas visits is included in the list. All Ministers' travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the ministerial code, and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers". Information for the year 2005-06 will be published as soon as it is ready. No members of my family accompanied me on the visit.

During my recent visit to the United States I met Senators Dodd, Sunnunu, Alexander and Obama from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Briefing was provided by the relevant Government Departments. Advice was neither sought nor received from any US Government Department. For security reasons, my future engagements are announced as and when appropriate.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Compensation Bill

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions she has had with trades unions on Clause 1 of the Compensation Bill [Lords]; and if she will make a statement. [75834]

Bridget Prentice: Discussions have taken place with trades unions on all aspects of the Compensation Bill, including Clause 1.

Correspondence

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her Department's target time is for providing a substantive reply to letters from hon. Members; and why her noble and learned Friend's reply to the letter dated 6 April 2006 from the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight was not dispatched until 22 May 2006. [75706]

Vera Baird: The Department aims to reply to 90 per cent. of letters from hon. Members within 20 working days of receipt. In 2005 Ministers replied to 3,179 letters with the target met in 92 per cent. of all cases. I apologise for the administrative oversight that led to the delay in sending a response to the hon. Member's letter of 6 April 2006.

Elections

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the level of voter turnout was in local elections in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* the UK in each of the last five local elections. [70061]

Bridget Prentice: The information is as follows:

(a) Central Government do not hold the turnout information for the last five local elections in each London borough. The turnout for London as a whole at the last five local elections was as follows:

	Percentage
1990	48.1
1994	46
1998	34.6
2002	33.6
2006	35

(b) Average overall turnout for the last five local elections in the UK was as follows:

	Percentage
2002	33
2003	38
2004	[1]41
2005	[2]64
2006	37

[1] local elections combined with European Parliamentary Elections
[2] local elections combined with UK Parliamentary Election

Family Courts

Ms Keeble: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people have been sentenced to a term in prison by the family courts in each of the last five years. [74737]

Ms Harman: Numbers of how many people have been sentenced to a term in prison by the family courts in each of the last five financial years are listed below under custody. These cases under custody include those sentenced to a prison and those kept in police cells. The following table also shows the number of people on bail and the number awaiting a medical report.

Financial year	*Total*	*Bail*	*Custody*	*Medical reports*
2001-02	158	352	9	519
2002-03	203	504	16	723
2003-04	217	616	8	841
2004-05	225	565	10	800
2005-06	253	576	2	831

The figures are from the county and high courts and relate to the breach of Family Law Act 1996 orders.

Figures for family proceeding courts are not held centrally and could be produced only at disproportionate costs.

Hutton Inquiry

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what role Mr. Peter Mandelson played in the selection of Lord Hutton to investigate the death of Dr. David Kelly; and if she will make a statement. [65236]

Ms Harman: Mr. Peter Mandelson played no part.

Individual Support Order

Ann Coffey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what action is being taken to encourage magistrates to follow the mandatory obligation to impose an individual support order (ISO), attached to an antisocial behaviour order, in cases where an ISO would be desirable in the interests of preventing further antisocial behaviour. [74524]

Ms Harman: The information is as follows:

All magistrates are issued with the 'Adult Court Bench Book' that contains a checklist of factors to consider when imposing antisocial behaviour orders (ASBO) and ISOs. This guidance sets out the approach courts should take in respect of ISOs.

All magistrates sit in court with a qualified legal adviser who is able to provide advice on relevant legislation, caselaw and guidance relating to ISOs.

An article on ISOs featured in the March edition of 'The Magistrate' magazine.

The judicial studies board is producing a new updated antisocial behaviour training programme for magistrates, which will feature ISOs, incorporating them within practical training exercises. We aim for this to be available by the end of the year.

Legal Services Commission

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people with a medical or scientific background are employed by the Legal Services Commission to assess the validity of claims. [73865]

Vera Baird *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not seek to recruit people with a medical or scientific background to assess the validity of claims to Legal Aid. However, the LSC has the power to obtain reports from independent experts to inform decision making.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to question 61500 tabled by the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds on 22 March 2006, on the pension credit helpline. [71698]

James Purnell: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 2036W.

Publicity Initiatives

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the annual cost has been to his Department of *(a)* publicity initiatives and *(b)* administration for the (i) minimum income guarantee and (ii) pension credit in each year since they were introduced; [73789]

(2) what funding his Department has allocated to publicity initiatives by local government to increase take-up of the *(a)* minimum income guarantee and *(b)* pension credit for each year since each was introduced. [73718]

James Purnell: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in 2001. Information on cost for activity prior to 2001 for minimum income guarantee can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Pension Service continues to develop its activity-based information to better understand the cost of processing pension credit and other benefits. A modern resource management system is being rolled out across the Department in 2006. This new system includes costing functionality. Until this work is complete we cannot provide the cost of processing pension credit. Administration costs for minimum income guarantee will not be available under the new system.

The pension service is the only agency responsible, with allocated funding for the publicity initiatives for pension credit.

The available information is in the following table.

	Amount (£)
Publicity cost for minimum income guarantee	
2000-01	[1]3,510,000
Publicity for pension credit cost	
2002-03	600,000
2003-04	14,800,000
2004-05	7,500,000
2005-06	2,500,000

[1] Figure includes costs for advertising media and production and elements of 'other' publicity costs. This excludes costs incurred for customer research into MIG claim form.

Notes:

1. Allocated funding for pension credit publicity was equivalent to the total spent in each year.
2. Pension credit costs include advertising media and production, direct marketing, other publicity and fees, excluding VAT.

State Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the total state pension entitlement in real terms using 2005-06 prices for a person on median earnings who works from age 25, based upon *(a)* the existing pensions system and *(b)* the reformed pension system set out in the White Paper Cm 6841. [75511]

James Purnell: The information requested is in the following table.

	Total weekly state pension (basic and state second pension) (£)	
	In 2005-06 prices	*In 2005-06 earnings terms*
Under current scheme on reaching state pension age in 2050	245	100
Under proposed reformed system on reaching state pension age in 2053	360	139

Notes:

1. Estimates are for a male median earner (earning around £23,000 per annum) working from age 25 to state pension age (so reaching state pension age at age 65 in 2050 under the current scheme and at age 68 in 2053 under the proposed reformed scheme).
2. Estimates expressed in 2005-06 prices reflect the "real terms" value of pension entitlement in 2050 or 2053 relative to expected changes in the level of average prices over time.
3. Estimates expressed in 2005-06 earnings terms reflect the value of pension entitlement in 2050 or 2053 relative to expected changes in the level of average earnings over time.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Dorneywood

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1664W whether the terms of the charitable trust for Dorneywood cover the issuing of invitations by the occupants. [74483]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The original trust deed of 9 November 1942 allows that Dorneywood shall be made available to the Prime Minister or a Minister of the Crown who is the nominated resident so that they "may be able to entertain their guests from overseas and other official and personal guests."

The hon. Member will be aware of my announcement on Wednesday 31 May that I no longer wish to be the official resident of Dorneywood. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister will nominate a new resident in due course.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the visitors who have stayed overnight at Dorneywood on his invitation in each year since it became his official residence. [74484]

The Deputy Prime Minister: This information is not collected centrally.

I announced on Wednesday 31 May my personal decision that I no longer wish to be the official resident of Dorneywood. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has accepted that decision.

Dorneywood is operated by a charitable Trust, and there was not any cost to the public purse arising from my use of it. By arrangement with the Trust, I paid my own expenses, such as food and the delivery of newspapers.

Engagements

Norman Baker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list his official engagements for each day since 4 May; [70236]

Mrs. May: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the meetings he will be *(a)* chairing and *(b)* attending in the week commencing Monday 15 May as part of his official duties; [71067]

(2) if he will list his official engagements for the week commencing 15 May; [71072]

Mr. Bone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if he will list his engagements relating to his responsibilities for overseeing the efficient development of Government policy in the week beginning 15 May. [71404]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have had a number of official engagements since 4 May, including meetings with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, other members of Cabinet and a range of Government officials, as is usual in the discharge of my official duties. I have also been present in the House for a range of Government business.

In addition, I have been on an official visit to Finland in preparation for their forthcoming presidency of the European Union, where I met the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Minister of Trade and Industry amongst other dignitaries.

On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, I have chaired a meeting of the British Irish Council and very recently been on an official visit to Canada and the U.S.

Private Office Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what percentage of his private office staff is *(a)* male, *(b)* female and *(c)* disabled. [69057]

The Deputy Prime Minister: 50 per cent, of my private office staff are male and 50 per cent, are female. None have declared that they consider themselves to have a disability. However, the hon. Member will be aware that any such declaration on the part of staff is entirely voluntary.

Sovereign Strategy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on what dates over the last 12 months he met a representative of Sovereign Strategy. [72343]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The information requested is not collected.

All such contacts are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the ministerial code.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the latest abortion rate per 1,000 women was to those aged *(a)* 19, *(b)* 18, *(c)* 17, *(d)* 16, *(e)* 15, *(f)* 14 and *(g)* under 14 years in the UK; and what forecast she has made for each of the next 20 years. [75625]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is contained within the 2004 abortion statistics for England and Wales which can be found in the Department's statistical bulletin on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/75/74/04117574.pdf

No future forecast on abortion rates has been made but rates have been mainly stable over the past five years.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* postcards she has received from (i) members of the public, (ii) hon. Members and (iii) Members of the House of Lords about abortion; how many and what percentage (A) supported and (B) opposed abortion; and if she will make a statement. [75645]

Caroline Flint: The Department's Ministers have received 499 letters or postcards from members of the public, 60 letters from hon. Members, and no letters from Members of the House of Lords since 1 June 2005.

The Department has also received a 1,226-postcard campaign from members of the public opposing abortion.

As we do not collect information on whether specific letters about abortion support or oppose this or specify between letters and postcards, unless they concern a specific, high-volume campaign, this information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* feticide interventions, *(b)* urea injections and *(c)* lethal injections into the fetal heart have been performed during abortions in each year since 1997. [74157]

Caroline Flint: The information available is shown in the following table.

Number of feticide interventions for abortions in 2003 and 2004, England and Wales residents

Feticide method used	*2003*	*2004*
Total feticide interventions	2,043	1,833
Urea injections	217	227
Lethal injections into the heart	395	369
Other (including cordotomy)	1,431	1,237

Note:
This information was not collected prior to 2003.

Avian Influenza

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) of 27 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 779W, on avian influenza, where the influenza vaccine under the contract awarded to Baxter and Chiron will be manufactured. [75476]

Caroline Flint: Chiron manufactures the H5N1 vaccine in Italy. Baxter ferments the H5N1 vaccine in the Czech Republic and final packaging takes place in Austria.

Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when each organisation within Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority was informed that it would have to contribute towards cost improvements; what discussions took place; and who decided the contribution each organisation would make; [76089]

(2) when each organisation within Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority is expected to have made its full contribution towards cost improvements in identifying cuts in pension to the full value of its contribution; [76090]

(3) what negotiations have taken place on the use of the primary care trust and NHS trust pool of savings in Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority; and what appeal mechanism exists against the amounts recommended. [76091]

Caroline Flint: The role of the Department is to ensure that strategic health authorities comply with the operating framework guidance published on 26 January 2006. It is for individual strategic health authorities to agree with their local health economy the details of the cost improvements required for that local health economy.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what directions she has given to *(a)* the Gloucestershire, Avon and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority, *(b)* the primary care trusts in Gloucestershire and *(c)* the Hospital Trust in Gloucestershire on the requirement for those organisations to balance their annual budgets during the 2006-07 financial year; and if she will make a statement. [74262]

Caroline Flint: The Department has issued the following guidance to the NHS:

"The NHS in England: the Operating Framework for 2006-07" was published 26 January 2006;

Duncan Selbie's letter of 6 February 2006, "Implementing the Operating Framework for 2006-07", and

Ian Carruthers' letter of 10 May 2006, "The Operating Framework for 2006-07".

Departmental officials are working with transitional strategic health authority leads to finalise the 2006-07 financial plans.

Care Record Service

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost to local NHS bodies of implementing the care record service. [73231]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1114W.

Community Nursing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of Agenda for Change on *(a)* community nurses and *(b)* community nursing posts. [72265]

Ms Rosie Winterton: From the available evidence, where job evaluation outcomes and headcount of staff are both considered community nursing posts have proportionately higher outcomes than nurses working in the acute sector. This is likely to be due to the added level of autonomy required. NHS employers are supporting organisations, via strategic health authorities, to assess properly the impact of Agenda for Change.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to reply to the letter of 26 April 2006 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on avian influenza. [75954]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A reply to this letter was sent on 8 June 2006.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to reply to the letter of 25 April 2006 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire regarding a constituent. [75955]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This letter was replied to on 25 May 2006.

Cottage Hospitals

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cottage hospitals have closed in England since 2001. [74270]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not centrally available.

Counterfeit Lipitor

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 580W, on counterfeit Lipitor, what recent assessment she has made of whether *(a)* the UK has a system of monitoring pharmaceutical products sufficient to provide confidence that no quantifiable percentage of counterfeit medicines is entering the UK distribution system and *(b)* the system of pharmaceutical product recall reaches all those involved in the distribution and provision of medicines. [75187]

Andy Burnham: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), as the United Kingdom (UK) competent authority responsible for the regulation of medicines, has in place comprehensive systems of surveillance, including medicines testing, reporting of adverse reactions, inspections, product recall and intelligence gathering, based on an ongoing assesament of risk. The MHRA also operates a comprehensive anti-counterfeiting strategy, advising the Government and working with partners and stakeholders to ensure that current safeguards work effectively and that vigilance against counterfeit medicines entering the legitimate UK supply chain is maintained.

The prime responsibility for product recall is with the marketing authorisation (MA) holder and not with the MHRA. The MHRA advises the MA holder as to the classification of recall, recipients who should be informed, wording of notifications, investigations and it reviews proposals for corrective actions. In many cases, the MHRA issues a drug alert to inform possible recipients and support action being taken by the MA holder.

When drug alerts are issued by the MHRA, the extent of distribution is decided from a risk analysis of the known facts. If there is a significant concern about potential patient harm, the MHRA may advise contact to patient level. In cases of lower risk, the distribution may be limited to pharmacy or wholesaler level.

Dentistry

Mr. Ronnie Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in South East Northumberland have *(a)* not signed up to new contracts, *(b)* signed only partial contracts and *(c)* closed their lists to new NHS patients. [70866]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of dentists or dental practices who have signed the new contract and the number who have not signed is not available centrally. We do however have some provisional information that covers contracts. A contract may be for more than one dentist and so cannot be broken down further to individual dentist level.

The number of new dental contracts signed and rejected in the Northumberland Care Trust area is shown in the table.

	Number/percentage
Contracts signed	
Number	44
Approximate units of dental activity (UDA) value	557,503
Contracts still in discussion	
Number	0
Approximate UDA value	0
Contracts rejected	
Number	4
Approximate UDA value	31,552
Percentage UDAs	5.4
Contracts signed	
Number signed without dispute	37
Number signed in dispute	7
Percentage disputes	15.9

Notes:
1. The information provided is not validated.
2. It represents a snapshot of the position in early April.

Source:
Department of Health

Departmental Credit Card

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what facility is available for senior civil servants in her Department to use credit cards supplied by the Department. [72860]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has adopted the Office of Government Commerce buying solutions pre-tendered national framework for the Government procurement card (GPC). Under this framework GPC credit cards are held by authorised cardholders throughout the Department and are available for use for properly approved purchases under £2,000 per transaction for all departmental staff.

Departmental Report

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the consultations undertaken by her Department covering the period of the Departmental Report 2006; what steps she is *(a)* taking and *(b)* plans to take to meet the 12-week minimum period; and if she will make a statement. [71980]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Consultations launched between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006 are shown in the table.

The Department seeks through guidance to staff and through a gateway process covering communications with the national health service to ensure that consultations meet the 12-week minimum period. In the coming year, the Department plans to update its guidance on consultations and promote good practice through communications with staff.

Department of Health public consultations—launched between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006

Title	*Launch date*	*Closing date*	*Consultation period (weeks)*
Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians order 2006: A paper for consultation	27 March 2006	19 June 2006	12
Science and innovation investment framework 2004-2014: next steps—A consultation	22 March 2006	16 June 2006	12
Department of Health draft simplification plan	21 March 2006	20 June 2006	13
Code of Practice for the Mental Capacity Act 2005: A consultation	9 March 2006	4 June 2006	12
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE): Selection of topics: A consultation paper	6 March 2006	9 June 2006	13
Informing healthier choices: Information and intelligence for healthy populations—A consultation	3 March 2006	5 May 2006	9
European Commission Green Paper—Improving the mental health of the population: towards a strategy on mental health for the European Union	1 February 2006	30 April 2006	12
Proposed changes to residential care charges from April 2006	24 January 2006	7 March 2006	6
United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on HIV/AIDS—UK Report on progress	10 January 2006	11 April 2006	13
Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) (Amendment) Regulations 2006: A consultation	9 January 2006	10 April 2006	13
Care homes: Provision of information about prices/fees	19 December 2005	10 February 2006	8
Configuration of NHS Ambulance Trusts in England	14 December 2005	22 March 2006	14
HIV related stigma and discrimination: Action plan	1 December 2005	31 March 2006	17
Consultation on obesity care pathway and resources for primary care	1 December 2005	22 December 2005	3
Proposals for amending Firecode: A consultation	28 November 2005	10 February 2006	12
Competence and curriculum framework for the medical care practitioner: a consultation	4 November 2005	10 February 2006	14
Safe management of healthcare waste: a public consultation	1 November 2005	7 February 2006	14
Medical Act 1983 (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006: A paper for consultation	31 October 2005	31 January 2006	13
Draft cancer research network measures for the Manual for Cancer Services 2004: consultation	28 October 2005	27 January 2006	13
Arrangements for the Provision of Dressings, Incontinence Appliances, Stoma Appliances, Chemical Reagents and Other Appliances to Primary and Secondary Care	24 October 2005	23 January 2006	13
Proposed changes to the regulatory framework for adult social care services	14 October 2005	14 January 2006	13
UK consultation on European Commission proposal for a programme of community action in the field of health and consumer protection 2007-13	10 October 2005	6 January 2006	12
Consultation on the future governance arrangements for the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC)	10 October 2005	31 December 2005	12
Draft Revised Colorectal Measures for the Manual for Cancer Services 2004	30 September 2005	30 December 2005	13
Your health, your care, your say	14 September 2005	4 November 2005	8
Reimbursement of 'standard' branded generic medicines: A further consultation launch date 12 September 2005 close date 24 October 2005	12 September 2005	24 October 2005	6
Proposals to simplify the reimbursement arrangements for NHS dispensing contractors: A consultation	7 September 2005	30 November 2005	12
Review of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act: A public consultation	16 August 2005	25 November 2005	15
The acutely or critically sick or injured child in the District General Hospital: A team response	15 August 2005	31 December 2005	19
Code of Conduct for Payment by Results: Draft for consultation	4 August 2005	4 November 2005	12
Draft advice on Permanent Seed Implant Brachytherapy Services for localised prostate cancer in England: A consultation	4 August 2005	28 October 2005	12

Department of Health public consultations—launched between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006

Title	Launch date	Closing date	Consultation period (weeks)
Best research for best health: A new National Health Research Strategy—the NHS contribution to health research in England: A consultation	29 July 2005	21 October 2005	12
Chief Nursing Officer's review of mental health nursing: A consultation	28 July 2005	21 October 2005	12
Proposals to reform and modernise pharmaceutical services legislation in England closed 20 September 2005 (launch 26 July)	26 July 2005	20 September 2005	9
Action on health care associated infection (HCAI) in England	15 July 2005	23 September 2005	10
Human Tissue Act 2004: Draft Regulations for consultation	12 July 2005	4 October 2005	12
Consultation on the draft National Health Service (Dental Charges) Regulation 2006	7 July 2005	30 September 2005	12
Consultation on the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) service	5 July 2005	30 September 2005	12
Draft cancer registry measures for the Manual for Cancer Services 2004: consultation	4 July 2005	7 October 2005	13
Draft Head and Neck Measures for the Manual for Cancer Services 2004: consultation	4 July 2005	7 October 2005	13
Safer management of controlled drugs: Draft guidance on strengthened governance arrangements	4 July 2005	30 September 2005	12
Records Management: NHS Code of Practice consultation closed	30 June 2005	30 September 2005	13
Consultation on the smokefree elements of the Health Improvement and Protection Bill	20 June 2005	5 September 2005	12
NHS Emergency Planning Guidance 2005	9 June 2005	8 September 2005	12

Total consultations: 44

Number of consultations 12 weeks or over: 36

Percentage of consultations 12 weeks or over: 82

Note:

The information for Cm 6814, "The Department of Health Annual Report and Accounts 2006", was prepared before the end of March 2006. Consequently, information on two consultations listed above was not available.

Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) why her Department has ended its contract for the Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin; [75796]

(2) what research was undertaken in advance of the cancellation of the distribution of the Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin to NHS doctors. [76395]

Andy Burnham: The decision not to renew the Department's national contract for distribution of the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin was informed by our policy to devolve as much responsibility as possible to the national health service and to look very critically at central spending. It is our policy that central spending should be kept to an absolute minimum in order to maximise the resources available for the NHS to manage at local level. The decision also took account of the availability of other sources of medicines information.

E-coli 0157

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the location and suspected causes of reported outbreaks of E-coli 0157 in the UK over the last 12 months. [73760]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Escherichia coli 0157 reported outbreaks—England and Wales 2005[1]

Health protection unit	Foodborne outbreaks	Non-foodborne outbreaks
West Yorkshire—Bradford	—	2
Cambridgeshire	—	1
Cumbria	1	1
East Midlands South	—	1
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, North of Tyne	1	—
Wales (Bridgend)	1	—
Wales (Powys)	—	1
National	1	—
Total	4	6

[1] Provisional data.

Source:

Health Protection Agency

Escherichia coli 0157 reported outbreaks—Scotland 2005[1]

NHS board	Foodborne outbreaks	Non-foodborne outbreaks	Unknown[2]
Argyll and Clyde	—	—	1
Ayrshire and Arran	1	—	2
Borders	—	1	—
Dumfries and Galloway	—	2	—
Grampian	—	—	2
Greater Glasgow	—	1	—
Highland	—	1	—
Tayside	—	1	—
National	—	—	1
Total	1	6	6

[1] Provisional data.

[2] No summary report forms completed locally and returned to Health Protection Scotland.

Source:

Health Protection Scotland

Escherichia coli 0157 reported outbreaks—Northern Ireland 2005[1]

Location	Foodborne outbreaks	Non-foodborne outbreaks	Unknown
Northern Health and Social Services Board	—	1	1
Total	0	1	1

[1] Provisional data.

Source:
Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre Northern Ireland

Fairford Hospital

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to reply to Gloucestershire county council regarding the referral of Fairford Hospital in March. [75662]

Caroline Flint: The referral from Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Cotswold and Vale Primary Care Trust's decision to close inpatient facilities at Tetbury and Fairford community hospitals is currently under consideration, and a decision will be made once the information has been considered.

General Practitioners

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there were per head of population in the Carlisle primary care trust area in each year since 1996. [67328]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the format requested. However, data for the Carlisle primary care trust (PCT) dating back to 2001 is shown in the following table.

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population, for Carlisle and district PCT, 2001-05

	All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population
2001	71	62.2
2002	72	62.9
2003	74	64.2
2004	75	64.1
2005	80	68.4

"." denotes data not applicable.

[1] General medical practitioners, excluding retainers and registrars, includes contracted general practitioners (GPs), general medical service (GMS) others and personal medical service (PMS) others. Prior to September 2004, this group included GMS unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, salaried doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.

Notes:
1. 2004 population figures from the 2001 Office for National Statistics (ONS) resident estimates have been used for 2005 calculations, as population figures for 2005 at organisation level are not yet available, this figure is therefore subject to change.
2. GP figures given for September 2005, but as yet ONS have not published an up to date 2005 population figure by organisation. Therefore, the calculation for 2005 is based on the 2004 population figures and is therefore subject to change.
3. Data as at 1 October 1996 to 1999 and 30 September 2000 to 2005.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care, general and personal medical services statistics 2001 ONS Population Census

Head Injuries

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she has taken to ensure that progress is made against the quality requirements of the National Service Framework for Long-Term Neurological Conditions published in March 2005; and what steps she is taking to ensure that *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* NHS Trusts are implementing the national service framework. [76152]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since publication of the national service framework (NSF) for long-term conditions, the Department has co-ordinated a range of activity to help local authority social care organisations and national health service bodies take forward implementation of the NSF. This includes:

working with key NHS, social care, voluntary and independent sector stakeholders, as well as service users and carers, to identify and address key issues in neurological services and the stakeholders' role in implementation;

ensuring that other key delivery programmes, most especially the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" and the long-term conditions strategy help deliver key NSF objectives; and

work with the Care Services Improvement Partnership to promote implementation of the NSF through a co-ordinated work programme, including regional workshops, a web-based getting started pack and self-assessment tool for services.

Progress on implementation will be measured in a number of ways, including:

research studies commissioned as part of a national research initiative to underpin implementation of the NSF, to provide baseline data needed to measure the subsequent impact of the NSF;

work to develop a national minimum dataset for long-term neurological conditions; and

implementation of clinical indicators developed as part of the Better Metrics programme.

Health Funding (Gloucestershire)

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to reduce the gap in health funding between Gloucestershire and the national average; and if she will make a statement. [74271]

Caroline Flint: The aim of the weighted-capitation formula, which informs revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs), is to provide equal access for equal need in all parts of the country, and to reduce health inequalities.

The components of the formula weight each PCT's crude population, according to their relative need (age, and additional need) for healthcare and the unavoidable geographical differences in the cost of providing healthcare (the market forces factor).

The weighted-capitation formula is used to set targets, it does not determine allocations. Actual allocations reflect decisions on the speed at which PCTs are brought nearer to target through the distribution of extra funds (pace of change policy).

To ensure equity in funding, the pace of change policy for the 2006-08 revenue allocations has moved more quickly towards their fair share of funds. In 2003-04, the most under-target PCT was 22 per cent. under target. By 2007-08, no PCT will be more than .5 per cent. below its fair share.

The following table shows the 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations made to PCTs in Gloucestershire.

	2006-07 allocation	*2007-08 allocation*	*Two year increase*		*2007-08 closing DFT*
PCT	*£000*	*£000*	*£000*	*Percentage*	*Percentage*
Cheltenham and Tewkesbury	181,446	198,605	32,341	19.5	-0.2
Cotswold and Vale	222,132	240,253	34,858	17.0	3.3
South Gloucestershire	250,189	275,190	45,949	20.0	-0.8
West Gloucestershire	266,091	292,350	48,551	19.9	-1.3

Health Service Budgets

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* hospital trusts showed financial deficits in 2005-06; how much those deficits were; and if she will make a statement. [74264]

Andy Burnham: The 2004-05 audited financial position and the 2005-06 unaudited position, as submitted to the Department by national health service organisations (strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts) is available on the Department website, and can be accessed at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/FreedomOfInformation/ClassesOfInformation/fs/en

Hepatitis C

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for the establishment of a compensation scheme for those infected with hepatitis C by NHS blood or blood products. [76010]

Caroline Flint: The Skipton Fund was established in 2004, to administer the ex-gratia payment scheme for people infected with hepatitis C following national health service treatment with blood or blood products. The scheme became operational on 5 July 2004.

Hospital Parking

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many hospitals in *(a)* England, *(b)* each English region and *(c)* the Tees Valley do NHS staff need to pay for parking. [73653]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not collected centrally on the number of hospitals that require staff to pay for on-site parking.

Imported Blood Products

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether individuals with haemophilia were given factor VIII imported blood products; and if she will make a statement; [64127]

(2) whether individuals with haemophilia were given imported blood products under the named patient system without *(a)* consultation and *(b)* the signed agreement of the patient; and if she will make a statement. [64129]

Caroline Flint: During the 1970s and 1980s, clinicians were able to obtain blood products domestically, from Blood Products Laboratory (BPL) or purchase imported products from other international pharmaceuticals companies.

We are aware that during the 1980s pharmaceuticals companies were developing clotting factors, using new techniques in an attempt to reduce the risk of transmitting non-A and non-B hepatitis. We understand that the preference of some haemophilia centre directors was that these products should be administered through controlled clinical trials rather than on a named patient basis. However, this did not preclude individual clinicians, in consultation with a patient, from prescribing on a named patient basis, if considered in the patient's best interest.

Medical Errors

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients underwent the wrong procedures due to medical errors in each of the last 10 years; [75029]

(2) how many patients died due to medical errors in hospitals in each of the last 10 years. [75030]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not centrally collect data on the number of patients who underwent the wrong procedures or died due to medical errors in hospitals.

The Government are, however, concerned about national health service patients affected by adverse events and that is why it established the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) in July 2001 and asked it to set up a national reporting and learning system (NRLS) for patient safety incidents. This system is now in place across the NHS and all trusts have been connected and reporting to the system from late 2005. Data collected by the NPSA are based on incidents reported by NHS staff.

From November 2003 to the end of May 2006 there were 2,575 incidents reported as wrong or inappropriate treatment or procedure in the surgical and anaesthetic specialties. In 1,918 cases (74.5 per cent.), there was no reported harm to the patient, in 437 cases (17 per cent.) low harm, 179 cases (7 per cent.) moderate harm, 35 cases (1.4 per cent.) severe harm and in six cases (0.2 per cent.) it was reported that the patient died.

Data on deaths due to medical errors in acute hospitals over the last 10 years is not available. In July 2005, the NPSA published "Building a memory: preventing harm, reducing risks and improving patient safety. The first report of the National Reporting and Learning System and the Patient Safety Observatory". At the time of publication, the NPSA estimated that the annual figures for NHS acute hospitals in England would be in the order of 840 patient safety incident-related deaths from 572,000 reported incidents from acute hospitals each year in England. The estimate was derived from 18 acute hospitals consistently reporting to the NPSA from October to December 2004 and was adjusted for variations in reporting, as well as deaths which had been incorrectly labelled as patient safety incidents. The estimates cover all patient safety incident- related deaths including those due to medical errors in acute hospitals.

The NPSA is due to publish a second report with its latest analysis of all patient safety incidents shortly.

Mental Health

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures her Department is taking to improve morale of permanent members of staff in small psychiatric centres in Leeds and West Yorkshire; and if she will make a statement. [75832]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: National health service employing organisations are responsible for the morale of their staff. NHS organisations providing mental health services across West Yorkshire have taken a range of measures to support staff. These include ensuring that staff have access to good child care facilities and support, occupational health and counselling services, flexible working and training and development opportunities.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures her Department has in place to monitor the effectiveness of care in the community for mentally ill patients in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* West Yorkshire. [75835]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department continues to monitor primary care trusts' progress on the delivery of their agreed local delivery plans which also forms part of the annual performance assessment by the Healthcare Commission.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time members of staff and *(b)* temporary members of staff are employed in small psychiatric care centres in (i) Leeds and (ii) West Yorkshire. [75836]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many multiple sclerosis patients have been *(a)* prescribed and *(b)* refused the drug Sativex by the national health service. [76287]

Andy Burnham: The drug Sativex is currently unlicensed for use in the United Kingdom. However, doctors are able to use their clinical judgement to prescribe this drug on a named patient basis for the treatment of any medical condition they feel appropriate. Prescription data would therefore not provide information on how many patients were receiving Sativex for the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

The Department does not collect information on those incidences where a doctor makes a clinical judgement not to prescribe a specific drug to an individual patient.

NHS Direct

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the implications of the announcement by NHS Direct of job cuts in London; and if she will make a statement. [75694]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: NHS Direct began a 12-week consultation period with staff and staff side representatives on 16 May 2006 on proposals to ensure that its organisational structure, estates and staffing are fit for purpose to meet future developments and demand. The consultation period is due to end on 16 August 2006. The outcomes of the consultation will be made public thereafter.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the consultation on the reorganisation of NHS Direct, on what evidence the statement *(a)* that NHS Direct moving toward larger sites will improve clinical safety and *(b)* that best practice in the wider call centre industry is better than in NHS Direct is based; [75944]

(2) what assessment was made of the impact on the employment of disabled nurses of the proposed changes to NHS Direct. [75947]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not centrally held. It may be available from the Chairman of NHS Direct Special Health Authority.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the basis is for the forecast that NHS Direct will need fewer nurses. [75945]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS Direct reviewed forecast demand for their services and the impact of introducing call streaming. These two factors combined mean that they will need fewer nurses.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether health advisers may do the work of nurses in NHS Direct. [75946]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No. Health advisers are trained to use standardised protocols to assess the need for referral for face-to-face care or advice from an NHS Direct nurse.

NHS Finance

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on NHS funding in Wirral. [71701]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department allocates funding to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. The 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations represent £135 billion investment in the national health service, £64 billion to PCTs in 2006-07 and £70 billion in 2007-08. Over the two years covered by this allocation, PCTs will receive an average increase of 19.5 per cent. The table shows allocations for Bebington and West Wirral PCT and Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT.

PCT	2006-07 allocation (£000)	2007-08 allocation (£000)	Two year increase	
			£000	Percentage
Bebington and West Wirral PCT	138,522	149,618	21,738	17
Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT	321,016	350,999	57,453	20

The Department does not allocate funding to NHS trusts. NHS trusts, as providers of services, receive the bulk of their revenue funding from commissioning by PCTs. They also receive revenue funding from the Department for medical staff education services and for research and development. In addition, trusts can charge staff, visitors or patients for services provided, such as catering or provision of private patient facilities.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Statement of 12 April, whether she expects that *(a)* turnaround organisations and *(b)* all primary care trusts and NHS trusts which are overspending (i) will show improvement during 2006-07 and (ii) by the end of the year should have monthly income covering monthly expenditure. [76049]

Andy Burnham: The aim is for the national health service as a whole to return to net financial balance by the end of 2006-07.

We are aiming for all NHS organisations with deficits to have monthly balance of income over expenditure by April 2007. There will be some exceptional cases where an organisation needs longer to make the necessary changes, while still maintaining patient care. However, because over-spending by one organisation has to be balanced by under-spending elsewhere, we will continue to challenge and expect organisations to return to monthly balance as quickly as possible.

NHS Pension Scheme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS Pension Scheme is funded; and what the contribution level of the scheme is. [71606]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The NHS Pension Scheme is an unfunded scheme. Employers pay 14 per cent. of the pensionable pay into the scheme and employees pay 6 per cent., apart from manual staff who pay 5 per cent.

North-West Lancashire Strategic Health Authority

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what considerations she took into account when approving the appointment of the chair of the new North West Lancashire strategic health authority; and if she will make a statement. [69846]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Responsibility for the appointment of chairs and non-executive members of national health service boards has been delegated to the NHS Appointments Commission. As a national body, it follows national procedures for all appointments to ensure consistency across the NHS, while also taking into account specific local circumstances.

The selection of candidates for the strategic health authority posts was undertaken by a panel which included an independent assessor. Candidates were only appointed if they met all of the criteria for these posts and after successfully completing a process of selection and interview.

Notifiable Diseases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what factors were taken into account when deciding not to include the *(a)* HIV and *(b)* H5N1 viruses on the list of notifiable diseases; [75018]

(2) which sexually transmitted diseases *(a)* are and *(b)* are not on the list of notifiable diseases; and what criteria are used when deciding which diseases to include. [75017]

Caroline Flint: Under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, there is a requirement to notify local authorities of cases of certain infectious diseases so

that they can consider whether to use the measures to control disease that the Act provides. Section 11 of the Act sets out the procedure for notifying the relevant local authority of cases of cholera, plague, relapsing fever, smallpox, typhus and food poisoning. Regulations made under the Act (the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988) apply section 11 to certain other infectious diseases[1].

However, statutory notification of specified infectious diseases is only one of a range of methods by which epidemiological surveillance and control of infectious diseases are carried out. HIV, sexually transmitted infections and H5N1 are not notifiable diseases[2].

For HIV, local and national data are collected from several sources including reporting of diagnosed cases by clinicians and laboratories and by unlinked anonymous surveys of HIV prevalence in population sub-groups, such as genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinic attendees and injecting drug users in contact with specialist services. Similarly, for other sexually transmitted infections, there are other surveillance methods used including returns from GUM clinics of episodes of sexually transmitted infections and the national chlamydia screening programme.

Making HIV and other sexually transmitted infections notifiable might raise concerns about patient confidentiality and could deter individuals at risk of infection from seeking advice, testing and specialist care.

H5N1 infection does not readily pass from birds to humans and there is currently no evidence that this pathogen is capable of spreading from person-to-person efficiently or of sustaining such transmission. This infection can only be diagnosed by laboratory confirmation of the pathogen as the clinical illness has similarities with several other infections. H5N1 infection in birds or poultry, which comes within the definition of avian influenza, is notifiable as a disease of animals and as an animal disease that may transmit to humans. This allows measures to be put in place to reduce the risk of spread to other birds or poultry and to humans.

[1] Acute encephalitis, acute poliomyelitis, anthrax, diphtheria, dysentery (amoebic or bacillary), leprosy, leptospirosis, malaria, measles, meningitis, meningococcal septicaemia (without meningitis), mumps, ophthalmia neonatorum, paratyphoid fever, rabies, rubella, scarlet fever, tetanus, tuberculosis (where the opinion of the registered medical practitioner that the person is suffering from tuberculosis is formed from evidence not solely derived from tuberculin tests) typhoid fever, viral haemorrhagic fever, viral hepatitis, whooping cough, and yellow fever.

[2] Viral hepatitis is statutorily notifiable and can be transmitted sexually. However, apart from hepatitis B virus, sexual transmission is not the most important mode of infection.

Obesity (North Somerset)

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the percentage of schoolchildren in North Somerset who are obese. [73983]

Caroline Flint: Following the Department's guidance on weighing and measuring all primary school children issued in January 2006, primary care trusts will be required to return data on obesity prevalence among reception year and year six pupils to the Department's performance management system by end of September 2006.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will answer questions *(a)* 51633, *(b)* 51635, *(c)* 52749, *(d)* 52765, *(e)* 52767, *(f)* 53030, *(g)* 53840, *(h)* 55583, *(i)* 55601, *(j)* 55743 and *(k)* 56246 tabled by the hon. Member for Forest of Dean. [58658]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 14 March 2006]:* Replies to all the questions listed have been given.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to questions *(a)* 65773 on the choose and book system, *(b)* 65781 on waiting times and *(c)* 70972 on the care record spine tabled by the hon. Member for St. Ives (Andrew George) [72739]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* Answers were given on 24 and 25 May.

Sexual Health

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what evidential basis her Department used for the estimate of the number of young people who are sexually active before they reach 16 years in Best Practice Guidance for Doctors and Other Health Professionals on the Provision of Advice and Treatment to Young People Under 16 on Contraception, Sexual and Reproductive Health; whom she consulted while drafting this guidance; if she will list the *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations who submitted advice; and if she will make a statement; [75530]

(2) if she will list the *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations she consulted while preparing Best Practice Guidance for Doctors and Other Health Professionals on the Provision of Advice and Treatment to Young People Under 16 on Contraception, Sexual and Reproductive Health; if she will place in the Library copies of any responses; and if she will make a statement. [75622]

Caroline Flint: Evidence for estimating the number of young people who are sexually active before they reach 16 years old is contained in the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal 2000): "Sexual behaviour in Britain: early heterosexual experience". Lancet. 2001Dec 1;358(9296): 1843-50. Further evidence is contained in the "Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) Report on Teenage Pregnancy" which is available in the Library.

The Department worked with the relevant professional bodies including the British Medical Association, Royal College of Nursing, and Faculty of Family Planning in producing the final draft.

The revised best practice guidance, which replaced and cancelled HC (86)1/HC (FP) (86)1/LAC (86)3 was issued on 30 July 2004. This guidance was recently subject to a judicial review and was upheld to be lawful.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action the Government have taken to improve sexual health by providing strongly focused prevention messages as identified in the Government's response to the Health Select Committee Report on New Developments in Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Policy (Cm 6649). [50565]

Caroline Flint: To inform the new safer sex campaign the Department has undertaken market research on what messages are most effective in promoting safer sex to sexually active young adults in addition to consultations with sexual health professionals, potential commercial partners and voluntary sector organisations who will have a role to play in the campaign's successful delivery. Other action to improve sexual health includes investment to improve and modernise sexual health services and the prioritisation of sexual health and access to genito-urinary services as one of the six key actions for national health service for 2006-07.

SHAs (Senior Staff)

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* chairs and *(b)* chief executives of strategic health authorities (i) are from an ethnic minority background and (ii) have prior experience of work in the health sector. [72416]

Ms Rosie Winterton: None of the nine chairs and 10 chief executives appointed to the strategic health authorities is from an ethnic minority background. Of the nine chairs, six have prior experience of work in the health sector. All 10 of the chief executives have previously worked in the health sector. Two of the chief executive appointments are interim, pending a further round of recruitment.

TB Immunisation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what opportunities there are for children to obtain necessary immunisation against tuberculosis; and whether a charge is made. [76081]

Caroline Flint: The changes to the Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) programme announced by the Chief Medical Officer in July 2006 have involved replacing the universal BCG immunisation with a programme targeted on higher risk groups within the general population.

BCG immunisation is available free of charge to the following groups:

all infants aged 0 to 12 months living in areas of the United Kingdom where the annual incidence of tuberculosis (TB) is 40/100,000 or greater;

all infants aged 0 to 12 months with a parent or grandparent who was born in a country where the annual incidence of TB is 40/100,000 or greater;

previously unvaccinated children aged one to five years with a parent or grandparent who was born in a country where the annual incidence of TB is 40/100,000 or greater. These children should be identified at suitable opportunities, and can normally be vaccinated without tuberculin testing;

previously unvaccinated, tuberculin-negative children aged from six to under 16 years of age with a parent or grandparent who was born in a country where the annual incidence of TB is 40/100,000 or greater. These children should be identified at suitable opportunities, tuberculin tested and vaccinated if negative;

previously unvaccinated tuberculin-negative contacts of cases of respiratory TB (following recommended contact management advice); and

previously unvaccinated, tuberculin-negative new entrants under 16 years of age who were born in or who have lived for a prolonged period (at least three months) in a country with an annual TB incidence of 40/100,000 or greater.

Therapeutic Services

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what publicly funded therapeutic services are available for victims of sexual abuse; and if she will make a statement. [71695]

Caroline Flint: There are a very substantial number of voluntary sector organisations providing therapeutic services for victims of sexual violence and abuse in receipt of recent, current and newly allocated public funding. Some of these have been or are in receipt of Section 64 funding from the Department. These number 10 and are shown in the table which includes the name of the organisation, the purpose of the grant, the year and the amount of the funding provided.

A larger number of voluntary sector organisations have been in receipt of funding from the Home Office's victims fund grant. The total Home Office provision for victims of sexual offending was 46 organisations in 2004-05, 62 organisations in 2005-06, and 45 organisations in 2006-07. Tables providing the name of the organisation, the year and the amount of funding have been placed in the Library.

The Department and Home Office work closely together on improving services for victims of sexual crime and the Department contributes to the decisions taken by the Home Office on the allocation of the victims fund grant.

Current/recent awards from Department of Health Section 64 general scheme of grants for mental health voluntary and community sector organisations providing therapeutic services for victims of abuse

							Funding (£)
Name of organisation/Name of grant	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Asian Family Counselling Service							
Aastha project	—	—	—	31,000	53,000	43,000	—
Core funding	—	30,000	28,000	26,000	—	—	—

Current/recent awards from Department of Health Section 64 general scheme of grants for mental health voluntary and community sector organisations providing therapeutic services for victims of abuse

Name of organisation/Name of grant	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
					Funding (£)		
Bristol Crisis Service for Women							
Self-injury information service project	27,750	35,000	35,000	9,250	—	—	—
Evaluation of self-injury information service project	—	—	—	35,000	—	—	—
Eating Disorders Association							
Network capacity -building project	—	—	38,000	35,000	35,000	—	—
New core grant	—	—	—	27,000	25,000	23,000	—
Pathways to recovery project	—	—	—	—	38,062	44,982	48,242
Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture							
Training co-ordinator project	—	—	30,000	30,000	30,000	—	—
National Association for People Abused in Childhood							
NAPAC	50,000	50,000	50,000	—	—	—	—
InfoLine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southall Black Sisters							
Black and minority ethnic women and girls, domestic violence and mental health project	—	—	—	50,000	50,000	—	—
The Ivors Trust							
Core grant	—	—	—	28,000	—	—	—
Survivors UK							
Core	—	—	28,000	—	—	—	—
Survivors UK							
Male survivors mental health project	15,225	40,000	40,000	31,775	—	—	—
WISH (Women in Special Hospitals)							
New core	—	—	46,000	40,000	30,000	—	—
Women moving on project	—	—	—	30,000	33,000	—	—
WITNESS (formerly POPAN)							
Practice advice and support line project	15,954	60,000	60,000	48,046	—	—	—
Advocacy and support project	—	45,000	43,000	41,000	—	—	—
Core	—	—	60,000	55,000	50,000	—	—

TREASURY

Coastal Monitoring

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs staff were allocated to the monitoring of the coasts of *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the South West in each year since 2001. [75295]

Dawn Primarolo: At present HM Revenue and Customs has some 1,200 Intelligence and 4,500 frontline Detection staff whose role includes monitoring movements across all UK frontiers.

Previous years' figures are shown in the table.

	Detection	*Intelligence*
2002-2003	3,790	1,323
2003-2004	3,754	1,312
2004-2005	3,910	1,295
2005-2006	4,256	1,226

HM Revenue and Customs does not specifically allocate staff to any particular coastline.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 24 April 2006 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire regarding a constituent (PO Ref: 1/43132/2006). [75952]

Ed Balls: I replied to the hon. Member on 23 May 2006 and again on 7 June 2006.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 29 March 2006 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire regarding a constituent (PO Ref: 1/42692/2006). [75953]

Dawn Primarolo: I expect to be in a position to write to the hon. Gentleman in about a fortnight's time in the light of the forthcoming debate in the Finance Bill standing committee on inheritance tax provisions to which your letter refers.

Drug Seizures

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many drug seizures from pleasure craft were carried out by HM Revenue and Customs in each *(a)* region and *(b)* county in each year since 2000. [75244]

Dawn Primarolo: The national information for drugs seizures made by HM Revenue and Customs since 2000 is contained in the Annual Reports for HM Customs and Excise and HM Revenue and Customs. The figures for the year ending 31 March 2006 will be published in the next Annual Report.

Information of drug seizures by location cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

HM Revenue and Customs does not centrally record drug seizures from pleasure craft.

EU Funding

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of European Union funding allocated to Cornwall in each of the last five years. [72727]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the Structural Funds allocations to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly for the current 2000-06 funding period.

The United Kingdom will receive a total of approximately 9.4 billion euros (in 2004 prices) in Structural Funds receipts from 2007-13, in comparison with 16.6 billion euros (in 1999 prices) in the current Financial Perspective. This will include a total of approximately 2.6 billion euros in Convergence funding for its poorest regions, including Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. We estimate that Cornwall's allocation for 2007-13 will be approximately a third higher than its current receipts.

Further background and details of the United Kingdom's future Structural Funds receipts were provided in my right hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff South and Penarth's written statement of 20 December 2005.

Annual Structural Funds allocations to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

	2004 prices	
	€ million	*£ million*[1]
2000	80.2	55.3
2001	78.8	54.4
2002	77.3	53.3
2003	75.8	52.3
2004	75.9	52.3
2005	81.3	56.1
2006	80.6	55.6
2000-06	550.0	379.3

[1] Using the exchange rate £1= 1.45 euro.

HM Revenue and Customs Staff

Dr. Pugh: To ask The Chancellor of the Exchequer how the number of people employed as HM Revenue and Customs officers has changed in the last five years. [75678]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs became a legal entity on 18 April 2005. Before then its business had been conducted by the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise.

The numbers of staff employed in Civil Service departments and agencies, including the Inland Revenue, HM Customs and Excise and HM Revenue and Customs are available on the Cabinet Office's "Civil Service Statistics" website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/index.asp

The effects of changes in departmental responsibilities on staff numbers are also available on the website.

Lease Lend and War Loans

Anne Moffat: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid to the US Administration by the UK Government in respect of interest and capital reduction on lease lend and war loans incurred as a result of the second world war in each of the last five years; what total sum has been paid to date; and what capital balance is outstanding. [75620]

Ed Balls: The following table shows capital and interest payments for world war two loans for the last five years.

December	*$ million*
2001	152
2002	150
2003	148
2004	145
2005	142

Final repayment of $83 million in interest is due to be made in December 2006, subject to the UK choosing not to exercise its option to defer payment. Information on the total interest and capital payments to date for world war two loans is not currently in a readily available format. However, work is currently in

progress to tidy the data and the United Kingdom Government intend to release detailed figures on completion of the loan.

Listed Buildings (VAT)

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons are for the differing VAT treatment of repairs to listed buildings and alterations to listed buildings made with listed building consent. [75547]

Dawn Primarolo: When VAT was introduced in 1973, zero-rating applied to the construction and alteration of all buildings. The repair and maintenance of buildings has, however, always been standard-rated. Due to difficulties in administering the borderline between 'repairs' and 'alterations', the zero rate for alterations was largely withdrawn in 1984 by the then Government, although the zero rate for work carried out in the course of an approved alteration to a listed building was retained.

Under agreements with our European partners we can keep our existing zero rates of VAT but we are not able to extend them or introduce any new ones. The VAT treatment of repairs and approved alterations to listed buildings could therefore only be levelled if the Government were to withdraw the existing zero rate for approved alterations. The Government have no plans to do so.

Online Goods Declaration

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1723W, on the online goods declaration, whether paragraph 6.15 of the Carter Report has been considered in relation to the HM Revenue and Customs free declaration service. [75428]

Dawn Primarolo: Lord Carter was asked to advise Ministers on measures to further increase the use of HMRC's self-assessment, VAT, corporation tax and PAYE online services. Lord Carter's report was published on Budget day alongside the Government response. These can be found at: www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2006/carter-review.htm

HMRC is now consulting with businesses, taxpayers, agents and software developers on the implementation of Lord Carter's recommendations.

Online goods declarations were not within the remit of Lord Carter's review. However, HMRC are committed to reducing the customer's compliance burden, and to help us do that we provide a range of electronic communications channels so that the customer can make an informed choice. Typically, this might include email, web interface and XML. HMRC will keep under active review whether or not they need to provide their own free online software or whether the software industry is able to sufficiently provide for the market while keeping customer compliance costs to a minimum.

Pensioners (Income)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of pensioners with pension income in excess of £50,000 in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [75326]

Dawn Primarolo: There are an estimated 60,000 people with pension income in excess of £50,000 in 2006-07, of whom an estimated 40,000 are above state pension age.

Pension income includes pensions and annuities paid under occupational and personal pensions schemes and state retirement pensions.

The information is based upon the 2003-04 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward to 2006-07 in line with March 2006 Budget assumptions.

Points of Entry (Revenue and Customs Cover)

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many points of entry had permanent HM Revenue and Customs cover in each year since 2001. [75211]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs aims to maintain a permanent cover of all points of entry into the UK through intelligence-led and risk-based interventions by flexible and mobile teams.

More detailed information cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Public Expenditure (Wales)

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the identifiable public expenditure in Wales on enterprise and economic development by UK Government Departments was in each year since 1999-2000. [76048]

Mr. Timms: UK Government Departments' identifiable public expenditure on enterprise and economic development for Wales in 2000-01 to 2003-04 is published in additional tables of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses on the Country and Regional web pages http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/4CB/DD/PESA_2006_Chapter_7_Tables_Additionalxls

Data for 2004-05 is shown in table 7.17 of PESA 2006 (Cm 6811) http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/4CB/C6/PESA_2006_Chapter_7_Tables.xls

Data for 1999-2000 is not available on a comparable and consistent basis.

Sale of Financial Products

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will undertake a public consultation on further regulation of the sale of general insurance. [75793]

Ed Balls: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) assumed responsibility for the regulation of general insurance on 14 January 2005. The FSA's regime served to implement the EU's Insurance Mediation Directive (IMD) in the UK.

The FSA began a review of the effectiveness of the general insurance regime in April 2006. This review will include seeking feedback from firms and consumer research.

Separately, the Treasury will review early in 2007 whether travel insurance sold as part of a package should be subject to FSA regulation. The IMD only requires the regulation of travel insurance if sold on a stand-alone basis.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what regulations apply to the selling of complex financial products on a non-advised basis. [75795]

Ed Balls: Regulations applying to the sale of complex financial products are governed by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. They are implemented by conduct of business rules set by the Financial Services Authority on the principle that firms making sales on an advised or non-advised basis should treat their customers fairly and provide them with clear information. The rules are set out in the Financial Services Authority's Handbook.

Tax Credits

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what behavioural assumptions in relation to families being required to repay tax credits are used in his Department's *(a)* costings, *(b)* models and *(c)* decisions; and if he will make a statement. [75176]

Dawn Primarolo: Our assumptions are based on the expected year of recovery of overpayments for 2003-04 tax credit awards as provided in the Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report on the Accounts of the Inland Revenue 2004-05. The Department of Inland Revenue 2004-05 Accounts are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/ir-report2005.pdf.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the cost of administering the tax credits system in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [75779]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost of managing and paying the child and working tax credits in the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 will not be available until the Trust Statement's for those years are released.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his latest estimate is of the amount of tax credit overpayments in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2004-05 which will be recovered; [75790]

(2) how much of the tax credit overpayments in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2004-05 has been recovered to date; and if he will make a statement. [75816]

Dawn Primarolo: The expected year of recovery of overpayments and amounts for 2003-04 tax credit awards, including amount recovered in 2004-05, are provided in the Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report on the Accounts of the Inland Revenue 2004-05, which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/ir-report2005.pdf

Figures for 2004-05 overpayments will not be available until the publication of the Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report on the Accounts of the H M Revenue and Customs 2005-06.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were in receipt of tax credits in each year since 1997. [75914]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates for the number of recipients receiving working family tax credits and family credits between May 1998 and February 2003 appear in the quarterly published WFTC statistics. Estimates for the number of recipients receiving child and working tax credits for 2003-04 and 2004-05 awards, based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003-04 and 2004-05, appear in the HMRC statistical publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Awards 2003-04" and "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Awards 2004-05".

These publications can be found on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/menu.htm

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the Paymaster General remains the designated Treasury Minister responsible for oversight of the tax credits system; and if he will make a statement; [76190]

(2) what responsibilities the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has in relation to the tax credit system; and if he will make a statement. [76477]

Mr. Timms: The responsibilities of Treasury Ministers are set out on the Treasury website. The Paymaster General is the Minister responsible for tax credits.

Tax Returns

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact on the *(a)* staffing and *(b)* costs of accountancy firms of the change in filing deadlines for tax returns. [75878]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are currently assessing the impacts on businesses of implementing the recommendations of Lord Carter of Coles' Review of HMRC online services, and HMRC has published a Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment which invites comments and evidence to inform the final assessment. The document can be viewed at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/pria-online-services.pdf

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultation of accountancy firms was undertaken before the decision was made to change the deadline for filing tax returns from 31 January each year. [75879]

Dawn Primarolo: The proposed changes to the filing date were recommended by Lord Carter's review of HMRC online services. As part of that independent review Lord Carter and his review team consulted widely. Written submissions were also invited and over 70 were received, including several from firms of accountants. The review team included three members of the accountancy profession from different sized firms.

Unused Land and Buildings

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list Government-owned land and buildings *(a)* unused and *(b)* about to become unused in the next five years, broken down by county. [75925]

Mr. Timms: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Widowed Parents Allowance

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria underlay the decision to class the widowed parents allowance as a second income; and if he will make a statement. [75850]

Dawn Primarolo: Widowed parents allowance, which is paid by the Department for Work and Pensions, is taxable because, as a continuing benefit, it is intended to replace lost earnings. The allowance replaced widowed mothers allowance, in the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, which was also taxable.

Earnings-replacement benefits are taxable. This ensures equality of tax treatment in the same year between someone whose income is all from earnings and someone with the same level of income but which is derived partly from earnings and partly from benefit.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 June 2006

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Regional Development Agencies (Representation)

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the representation of black and ethnic minority women on the boards of regional development agencies. [75354]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

At present three RDA board members are black or ethnic minority women, which represents 2.5 per cent. of total representation.

The Department is fully committed to strengthening the diversity of the RDA boards. Each year, awareness-raising events are run and information is distributed to appropriate organisations and other interested bodies in the regions. All of the material for these posts stresses that these appointments are made on merit and that applications from women, those from ethnic minority backgrounds and the disabled would be particularly welcome.

Retirement Planning

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she is taking to encourage women to plan and save for their retirement. [75802]

Meg Munn: The Government's recent White Paper, "Security in Retirement: Towards a New Pensions System", contains proposed reforms that will enable women to make more informed choices about planning and saving for retirement, by providing simpler, fairer and more widely available state pensions as the foundation on which to save.

Proposals include:

Supported private saving by helping people to make better informed choices about their retirement, introducing a range of pension forecasts to give individuals an understanding of the income they are likely to receive in retirement.

Abolition of the minimum contribution conditions in basic state pension and awarding new credits for parenting and caring—ensure such contributions are rewarded through the state pension in the same way as paid contributions.

Measures to make it easier to save will be supported by a higher, fairer state pension linked to earnings. This will give a firm, simple-to-understand, foundation on which to build, and enable them to have confidence that their personal saving will be worthwhile.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Compensation Claims (Handling Services)

John Mann: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Treasury Solicitor's Department has negotiated with companies providing claims handling services, rather than solicitors, when dealing with compensation claims against Government Departments in connection with their role as employers since 1997. [76441]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department does not maintain a central record of claimants' representatives. Whether or not a claimant was represented by a company providing claims handling services, rather than by solicitors, can therefore only be ascertained by retrieving the relevant files and examining the correspondence in order to discover the identity of each claimant's representative. Such an exercise would be labour intensive and would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from his Department in each of the last five years. [71779]

The Solicitor-General: I am answering this question on behalf of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), the Treasury Solicitors Department (TSol) and the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO). Returns for HMCPS Inspectorate and my own office are included in the figures for the Treasury Solicitors Department.

The last five years have been taken to be the financial years from 2001-02 to 2005-06.

Payments are taken to mean disbursements (and the value of any other consideration) for goods and services provided under a contract. The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) understands that payments of grants, credits and subsidies under statutory obligations for which the department is responsible are out of scope.

CPS

2001-02

Land Securities Property Ltd
Bull Integris
Workplace by Design Ltd
Damovo UK Ltd
Ericsson Ltd
Banner Business Supplies Ltd
Jones Lang Ltd
Global Crossing Ltd
Partity Resources Ltd
Planned Maintenance Engineering Ltd

2002-03

Logica UK Ltd
Land Securities Property Ltd
Damovo UK Ltd

Ikon Office Solutions PLC
Planned Maintenance Engineering Ltd
Jones Lang Ltd
Banner Business Supplies Ltd
Xerox Business Services Ltd
Donaldsons LLP
Raytheon UK Ltd

2003-04
Logica UK Ltd
Land Securities Property Ltd
Damovo UK Ltd
Ikon Office Solutions PLC
Xerox Business Services Ltd
Planned Maintenance Engineering Ltd
Capita Business Services Ltd
Donaldsons LLP
Banner Business Supplies Ltd
Jones Lang Ltd

2004-05
Logica UK Ltd
Land Securities Property Ltd
Damovo UK Ltd
Ikon Office Solutions PLC
Planned Maintenance Engineering Ltd
Mckesson Information Solutions Ltd
Xerox (UK) Ltd
Banner Business Supplies Ltd
Donaldsons LLP
Law Society

2005-06
Logica UK Ltd
Land Securities Property Ltd
Damovo UK Ltd
Xerox (UK) Ltd
Law Society
DX Network Services Ltd
Mckesson Information Solutions
DTZ Debenham Tie Leung
Donaldsons LLP
Cofathec Heatsave Ltd

SFO
2001-02
Ballamy Woodhouse
Computercentre (UK) Ltd
Mr Charles Miskin QC
Grant Thomton
Anthony Hacking QC
Hogg Robinson (Travel) Ltd
IBM UK Ltd
Michael Page UK Ltd
RSM Robson Rhodes LLP
VBA Temple QC

2002-03
Ballamy Woodhouse
Computacentre UK Ltd
Forensic Accounting LLP
Anthony Hacking QC
IBM UK Ltd
Logica CMG UK Ltd
Oyez Legal Technologies
PKF
RSM Robson Rhodes LLP
Safestem Ltd

2003-04
Ballamy Woodhouse
Anthony Donne QC
Forensic Accounting LLP
IBM UK Ltd
Logica CMG UK Ltd
PKF
RSM Robson Rhodes LLP
RWM Data Management Ltd
Safestem Ltd
VBA Temple QC

2004-05
Ballamy Woodhouse
Computacentre (UK) Ltd
Courtyard Contracting Services
Forensic Accounting LLP
IBM United Kingdom Ltd
Logica UK Ltd
Palm Estates
PKF
RSM Robson Rhodes
RWM Data Management

2005-06
Ballamy Woodhouse
Computacentre (UK) Ltd
Forensic Accounting LLP
IBM United Kingdom Ltd
Legal Inc Ltd
Logica UK Ltd
Palm Estates
PKF
RSM Robson Rhodes LLP
RWM Data Management

TSOL
2001-02
Adecco UK Ltd
Badenoch & Clark
Denton Wilde Sapte
Staple Inn Recruitment Ltd
Hedra Ltd Cathedral Consortium
Opus Personnel (City) Ltd
Williams Lea Facilities Management Ltd
Consult Rs Ltd
Elan Computing Ltd
Computacenter (UK) Ltd

2002-03
Adecco UK Ltd

Denton Wilde Sapte
Badenoch & Clark
Hedra Ltd Cathedral Consortium
Staple Inn Recruitment Ltd
Elan Computing Ltd
Opus Personnel (City) Ltd
Consult Rs Ltd
Simmons & Simmons
National Westminster Bank Plc

2003-04
Denton Wilde Sapte
Badenoch & Clark
Adecco UK Ltd
Masons Solicitors
Solicitec Ltd
National Westminster Bank Plc
Field Fisher Waterhouse
Elan Computing Ltd
Staple Inn Recruitment Ltd
Opus Personnel (City) Ltd

2004-05
Badenoch & Clark
National Westminster Bank PLC
Adecco UK Ltd
Lexisnexis Europe/UK Ltd
Elan Computing Ltd.
Opus Personnel (City) Ltd
Staple Inn Recruitment Ltd
Field Fisher Waterhouse
Amtec Consulting Ltd
Turner & Townsend

2005-06
Herman Miller Ltd
Badenoch & Clark
Adecco UK Ltd
Lexisnexis Europe/UK Ltd
Amtec Consulting Ltd
National Westminster Bank PLC
Elan Computing Limited
Dell Computer Corporation Ltd
Angela Mortimer Plc
Staple Inn Recruitment Ltd

RCPO[1]
2005-06
Mapeley
Fujitsu
Kroll Ontrack Legal Technologies Ltd
Mr. Philip Singer QC
Mr. Peter Clarke QC
Sir Derek Spencer QC
Oliver Sells QC
Mr. Mukul Chawla QC
Mr. Michael Brompton QC
Mr. Nigel Ingram

[1] RCPO only came into existence on 18 April 2005

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Air Industry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Defence and *(b)* others on the impact of proposals in the Defence Industrial Strategy on the air industry sector. [74782]

Margaret Hodge: My right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, as Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Restructuring of the European Aerospace and Defence Industry, held meetings in October 2005 and December 2005 with the Defence Secretary, Chief Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Minister for Defence Procurement and Minister for Industry and the Regions, which included discussion on the impact of proposals in the Defence Industrial Strategy on the UK's Defence Aerospace Industrial Sector.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State also regularly meets senior industrialists of aerospace and defence companies and has discussed aspects of the Defence Industrial Strategy with them.

The Department of Trade and Industry regards the Defence Industrial Strategy as vital to the future of the UK's defence industrial base. It establishes a long-run strategy to promote a sustainable base in the UK of those industrial capabilities needed to ensure appropriate sovereignty and to provide companies with greater clarity of future equipment needs which allows them to plan UK investment effectively.

Biomass

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received on promoting biomass in his energy review. [76153]

Malcolm Wicks: The Energy Review Team is analysing the 5,300 consultation responses—a number of which included reference to biomass—and has met representatives of the biomass industry.

Biomass has been reviewed by the independent Biomass Task Force and the Carbon Trust, both of whom published their reports in October 2005. The Government published their response to the Biomass Task Force in April 2006.

The Energy Review will report in the summer.

Coal

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what projections his Department has made of the potential difference between the sale price of domestic deep-mined coal and the international Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Antwerp coal price over the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years. [74710]

Malcolm Wicks: International coal price assumptions are set out in Tables 5 and 6 of "The UK Energy and CO2 Emissions Projections", published by the DTI in February 2006. These are presented in the following table.

Projections for the market price of UK deep-mined coal are not available.

US$/GigaJoule

	Central scenario (favouring gas)	Central scenario (favouring coal)	High energy price scenario	Low energy price scenario
2010	1.50	1.50	1.70	1.30
2015	1.43	1.43	1.70	1.15

Source:
DTI.
[1]http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file26363.pdf

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his Department's most recent estimate is of the difference between the sale price of domestic deep-mined coal and the international Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Antwerp coal price. [74711]

Malcolm Wicks: The available data relate to steam coal (the coal suitable for use in steam boilers, e.g. a coal-fired power station). About 50 per cent. of UK domestic production of steam coal is deep-mined.

In Q4 2005, the domestic steam coal price paid by UK generators (who account for some 80 per cent. of total coal usage) was approximately £1.3/tonne higher than the international coal price[1], although in the past it has been up to £12.2/tonne lower.

The following table shows the evolution of the UK steam coal and international prices since 2000. As can be seen, the domestic price has been relatively more stable over the period.

[1] "Commodity Insurance Freight" price for coal with sulphur content less than 1 per cent. imported in north-west Europe; also referred to as Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp (ARA) coal price (25GJ/tonne gross calorific value).

		ARA price (£/tonne)	Prices received by UK coal producers for sales to generators
2000	Q1	18.5	28.6
	Q2	21.4	27.9
	Q3	23.2	28.2
	Q4	27.1	28.0
2001	Q1	26.9	27.6
	Q2	28.1	28.6
	Q3	25.4	28.6
	Q4	23.1	28.4
2002	Q1	22.2	28.2
	Q2	19.4	28.4
	Q3	16.9	27.5
	Q4	20.8	27.1
2003	Q1	20.8	26.7
	Q2	20.3	25.8
	Q3	25.4	25.7
	Q4	33.6	25.3
2004	Q1	35.0	25.7
	Q2	36.2	27.6
	Q3	39.6	27.4
	Q4	38.3	26.8
2005	Q1	33.5	26.8
	Q2	32.8	29.6
	Q3	31.8	30.0
	Q4	28.7	30.0

Source:
DTI.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the capacity of the existing rail network to transport an increased supply of imported coal in the future. [74709]

Derek Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

Network Rail is currently undertaking Route Utilisation Strategies (RUS). The Freight RUS will be based on forecasts by the rail freight industry. All RUSs seek to balance capacity, passenger and freight demand, operational performance and cost. The RUSs will form the basis for the development and delivery of timetables, infrastructure and renewals of the network. Network Rail expects the draft Freight RUS to be published for consultation in September this year.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 6 April. [73893]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The hon. Member's letter was transferred to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 20 April for reply.

Departmental Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what facility is available for senior civil servants in his Department to use credit cards supplied by the Department. [72905]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department makes available to appropriate staff a Government Procurement card (GPC), operated under the OGC buying solutions pre-tendered National Framework for the Government, in line with best practice.

In addition, a separate facility is available to staff who can demonstrate a need for booking hotels and associated costs.

Each of these facilities is available to senior civil servants and other staff according to need.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in each of the last five years. [67997]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information relating to inappropriate use of the internet while at work is contained in the following table.

	Number of dismissals	*Other disciplinary sanction*
2006 (to date)	1	0
2005	2	2
2004	0	3
2003	0	3
2002	0	3

There have been no cases during the past five years of disciplinary sanctions imposed, including dismissal, relating to the access via work telephone of premium rate telephone numbers.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals have been employed in his Department in each of the last five years; what vetting procedures are in place for each category of staff; and whether these include liaison with foreign law enforcement agencies. [68013]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Trade and Industry does not hold information on EU foreign nationals and non-EU foreign nationals centrally.

The Department's recruitment procedures require all candidates for employment to comply with the civil service nationality rules.

Furthermore, all staff who require security clearance for their posts in the Department are subject to the Department's procedures for security vetting and comply with the policy set out to Parliament by the then Prime Minister on 15 December 1994, which came into force on 1 January 1995.

Eid-Ul-Adha

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff from his Department attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event in London in 2005; and what the total cost was to his Department of their attendance. [73025]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has written to the hon. Member with details of the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Energy Distribution

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with energy distribution network operators on levels of investment in such networks. [74804]

Malcolm Wicks: I recently met the Energy Networks Association and a number of network operators were present. Discussion covered a range of topics, including the issue of investment in energy networks. Levels of investment are agreed between the Regulator (Ofgem) and the network businesses. These are called price controls and last for a period of five years. The most recent price control commenced in April 2004. Ofgem has to allow the networks sufficient revenue to ensure that they can meet licence conditions which include the requirement to run safe and efficient networks.

Energy Review

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent progress has been made with the energy review. [76028]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government published a consultation document on 23 January this year. The consultation document—"Our Energy Challenge, Securing clean and affordable energy for the long term"—invited responses on the important energy policy issues facing the country to be considered in the current Energy Review.

Some 5,300 responses were received from members of the public, business, academia, NGOs and others. We are assessing the enormous amount of evidence received in response to the Energy Review consultation and the review will report in the summer.

Foreign Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent on foreign travel by his Department in each of the last eight years. [76060]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The total amount spent on foreign travel by the DTI in each of the last eight years was:

	Amount (£)
1998-99	5,019,971
1999-2000	5,291,063
2001-01	5,470,024
2001-02	4,912,785
2002-03	5,583,825
2003-04	4,260,257
2004-05	5,483,903
2005-06	5,601,629

Gaming Machines

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many gaming machines manufactured in the UK were exported in each year since 2001. [77153]

Margaret Hodge: Information is not available in the form requested.

The following data give the total value of UK exports of coin or disc-operated games, other than bowling alley equipment.

	£ million Amount
2001	165.1
2002	126.5
2003	126.7
2004	131.4
2005	120.6

Source:
Overseas Trade Statistics

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by his Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature of the charges brought against them were. [73968]

Jim Fitzpatrick: To my knowledge, there have been no illegal immigrants discovered to be employed by the Department since 2001.

Light Fittings (Hazardous Substances)

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what advice he has issued to electrical *(a)* retailers and *(b)* wholesalers on the sale of existing stocks of non-electrical light fittings in advance of the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2005, S.I. 2005, No. 2748, coming into force on 1 July 2006. [76243]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI published Government Guidance Notes on the impact of these regulations in October 2005, following their issue in draft for public consultation in July 2004.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received from the European Commission on the implementation of the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2005, S.I. 2005, No. 2748, in respect of non-electrical components of light fittings; and if he will make a statement. [76244]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has not received any representations from the European Commission on these regulations.

Littlecombe/Dursley Hydroscheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what grounds the South West Regional Development Authority and its developer have withdrawn the hydroscheme from the Littlecombe/Dursley site. [73984]

Margaret Hodge: The Littlecombe site at Dursley is the subject of a development agreement between the South West of England Regional Development Agency (South West RDA) and St. Modwen (the developer). The agreement requires the developer to carry out a whole series of activities in order to obtain planning permission for the regeneration scheme and deliver that scheme on the ground, either directly or through third parties (mostly residential developers). Agreement has to be reached with South West RDA on key issues.

Among other matters, St. Modwen are required to investigate and, where appropriate, incorporate various sustainability measures in their designs. In particular they are intending to reduce the CO_2 impact of the scheme by 30 per cent. through the use of renewable energy sources. The scope for micro hydro-electric power generation (HEP) was considered by the developer in this context.

These investigations showed that the HEP scheme would not be economical—it would only produce enough electricity for two houses. In addition, the Environment Agency had concerns over the impact of the scheme and was not supportive. The South West RDA agreed with St. Modwen that HEP would not be pursued.

St. Modwen anticipate biomass district heating, ground heat loops and photovoltaic cells being incorporated into the scheme in order to achieve a 30 per cent. CO_2 reduction.

Myalgic Encephalopathy/Encephalomyelitis

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into genetic abnormalities in white blood cells of myalgic encephalopathy and encephalomyelitis sufferers; and if he will make a statement. [74418]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department supports medical and clinical research through the Medical Research Council (MRC), which welcomes high quality proposals in these areas.

The MRC is not currently supporting any research specifically into genetic abnormalities in the white blood cells of sufferers from either myalgic encephalopathy or encephalomyelitis.

Northern Way Initiative

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what role his Department plays in the delivery of the Northern Way initiative. [74038]

Margaret Hodge: DTI is represented on the Northern Way Strategic Policy Group which is responsible for policy development and stakeholder engagement.

The Northern Way is also identified as a key delivery vehicle for the Regional Economic Performance Public

Service Agreement (REPPSA) to which DTI is a joint signatory with HM Treasury and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Nuclear Power Stations

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what planning permission would be required to build new nuclear power stations on existing sites in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Scotland. [74599]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* Any new proposal over 50 MW in England and Wales would require consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and "deemed" planning permission under section 90 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 from my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. For Scotland, similar powers are exercised by Scottish Ministers.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research his Department has undertaken into the likely effects on coastally located licensed nuclear sites of *(a)* coastal erosion and *(b)* inundation due to sea-level rise. [75369]

Malcolm Wicks: The Office of Science and Technology (OST) has conducted a major study on the future of flooding and coastal erosion as part of the Foresight Programme, http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous_Projects/Flood_and_Coastal Defence/index.html.

Operators of nuclear sites such as British Nuclear Group and British Energy are responsible for flood defences and for protecting the site against coastal erosion. Nearly all of the sites are situated on the coast and rest behind sea defences, which are maintained to a very high standard. Reviews are made periodically to monitor long-term protection, and regional shoreline management plans have been developed on behalf of the coastal authorities.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many jobs the Department estimates will be created as a result of the decommissioning of and clean-up operations for Wylfa nuclear power station; and if he will make a statement. [75609]

Malcolm Wicks: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has responsibility for the decommissioning and clean-up of the UK's historic nuclear legacy—including the Magnox nuclear power station at Wylfa.

The current NDA expectation is that Wylfa will close at the end of 2010. Wylfa's plans for decommissioning and clean-up are still in preparation and job requirements have not yet been finalised. But in preparation for the defuelling and decommissioning phase of care and maintenance the NDA have prepared indicative numbers (derived from Wylfa's current plans) which indicate that at the end of operations, job numbers (both staff and subcontractors) will be about 700 by 2010, reducing to 160 by 2024. In so far as is practicable, the NDA will seek to ensure that employees who wish to stay with a site through to its next phase are able to remain in employment and receive appropriate support, development and retraining. Subcontractors currently providing site support are expected to continue to do so during the defuelling and decommissioning phases. On this basis, to be significant new opportunities for employment are unlikely.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which *(a)* nuclear power stations and *(b)* nuclear waste storage sites his Department assesses to be at risk from (i) sea-level rise, (ii) coastal erosion, (iii) seawater inundation and (iv) storm surges in the next (A) 10, (B) 20 and (C) 50 years; and if he will make a statement. [75614]

Malcolm Wicks: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) license all nuclear power stations under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965. Flood risks, which are enhanced by coastal erosion, are one category of external hazards that HSE require to be addressed in safety cases for nuclear plants.

Safety cases are prepared by the plant operator. They are routinely reviewed through the Periodic Safety Review (PSR) Process, which allows for recent and future extrapolations to be reviewed. They are scrutinised and then reviewed periodically (at intervals not greater than 10 years) by HSE. This provides an opportunity to ensure that operators are updating their predictions. The cost of HSE reviewing safety cases is recovered from the industry.

The Office of Science and Technology (OST) has conducted a major study for the Foresight programme on the future of coastal erosion:

http://www. foresight. gov.uk/Previous_Projects/Flood_and_Coastal_Defence/index.html

The study looked ahead into the next 30-100 years and considered the future risks from flooding and costal erosion. Future predicted erosion rates were found to be location specific, and are likely to be extremely variable.

The following coastal defence work is taking place, or is proposed, in the proximity of nuclear power plants:

At Berkley, Gloucestershire, a proposed sea wall repair will provide protection for 25 years. At Dungeness, Kent, a beach-feeding programme is routinely undertaken to protect the foreshore and is likely to be maintained until at least 2011 (when Dungeness B is expected to end). Long term management options for the area adjacent to the power station are under consideration.

At Hartlepool, a proposal to extend a marine cycling facility navigation channel may require that the coastal defences of the power station be reinforced. Discussions with the developer are underway.

At Sizewell B, Suffolk, the frontage of the adjacent Minsmere Bird Reserve is not secure and long tern management options are being considered.

The UK Atomic Energy Authority and British Energy have confirmed that there are no foreseeable risks to their nuclear power station or nuclear storage sites from sea-level rises, coastal erosion, seawater inundation and storm surges.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment has been made of the effects of future possible *(a)* sea-level rise and *(b)* coastal erosion at (i) existing and (ii) potential nuclear sites; and if he will make a statement. [75615]

Malcolm Wicks: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) license all nuclear power stations under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965. Flood risks, which are enhanced by coastal erosion, are one category of external hazards that HSE require to be addressed in safety cases for nuclear plants.

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The UK Atomic Energy Authority and British Energy have confirmed that there are no foreseeable risks to their nuclear power station or nuclear storage sites from sea-level rises, coastal erosion, seawater inundation and storm surges.

As regards potential nuclear sites, the role of civil nuclear power including safety, cost, decommissioning and waste, is being considered as part of the Energy Review alongside other options to ensure the UK remains on track to meet its medium and long-term energy policy goals. The Energy Review will report in the summer.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what incidents at nuclear power installations in the United Kingdom have been reported to Ministers by the Health and Safety Executive since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [75524]

Malcolm Wicks: There have been 57 incidents at nuclear power stations since 1997, which met the ministerial reporting criteria. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) publish details of these incidents in their quarterly statements.

Quarterly statements of nuclear incidents at nuclear installations from 1 October 2000 are available on the HSE website at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/quarterly-stat/index.htm

Hard copies of quarterly statements from 1 January 1997 and September 2000 have been placed in the Library of the House.

Parliamentary Ombudsman

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list those occasions when the recommendations of a report from the parliamentary ombudsman have been *(a)* rejected and *(b)* partly rejected by his Department since 1997. [76264]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been no occasions since 1997 when the recommendations of a report from the parliamentary ombudsman were rejected or partly rejected by the Department.

Pensions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will estimate the pension liability of his Department over the next 30 years. [75234]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to a technical note by HM Treasury which was placed in the Library of the House on 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-90W, following an oral statement by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual departments, they are estimated for individual pension schemes, as shown in the breakdown of liabilities per pension scheme given in Table 1 of the technical note.

Post Offices

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices there are in Scotland; and how many there were in each of the last eight years. [76916]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Post Office Ltd have provided the following figures relating to the numbers of post offices branches in Scotland since 1998:

Period: end March	*Number of post office branches*
1998	2,051
1999	2,026
2000	1,999

Period: end March	Number of post office branches
2001	1,933
2002	1,907
2003	1,887
2004	1,810
2005	1,712
2006	1,688

Information relating to post office branches for each parliamentary constituency is placed in the Library of the House on an annual basis.

Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the effect of the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive on the use of lead-free solder within the model railway hobby industry; and if he will make a statement. [75338]

Malcolm Wicks: The RoHS Directive has no effect on the use of lead-free solder within the model railway hobby industry.

Royal Commission on the Press

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list recommendations from the Royal Commission on the Press which were *(a)* accepted, *(b)* implemented in legislation and *(c)* rejected; and if he will make a statement. [71981]

Margaret Hodge: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Sickness Absence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff in his Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [73024]

Mr. Darling: The DTI's records are as follows:

Number of staff (DTI HQ, including SBS and UKTI)

Spells of absence of less than five days	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
5 or more	199	155	139
4	152	144	134
3	287	232	207
2	508	489	435

Small Business Research Initiative

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the written statement of 16 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 121WS, on the Small Business Research Initiative, what definition of research is used for the purposes of the initiative; how many of the contracts relate to science-based research; and if he will list the contracts awarded and their values. [75335]

Margaret Hodge: My right hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff, South and Penarth (Alun Michael) set out the definition of Research and Development (R and D) in guidelines placed in the Library of the House on 16 February 2006. The guidelines on the Meaning of R and D for Tax Purposes (issued by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 5 March 2004 for the purposes of section 837A Income and Corporation Taxes 1988) apply. In addition, however, policy studies and R and D directed towards the humanities and social studies will also be included.

As my right hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff, South and Penarth said in response to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) on 16 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1341W, the Government are taking steps to improve disclosure of Small Business Research Initiative performance by Departments. However, this will be at an aggregate level and on an annual basis. Information about individual contracts is a matter for the individual Departments concerned.

Uranium

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent assessment he has made of the security of future uranium supplies. [75897]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Crosby (Mrs. Curtis-Thomas) on 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 268W.

Vehicle Sharing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what incentives his Department offers to encourage staff to share vehicles when travelling to work. [73027]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's buildings are predominately in city centre locations. It therefore does not offer any specific incentives to share vehicles when travelling to and from work but instead actively encourages the use of public transport. Such incentives include interest-free loans for the purchase of season tickets and a scheme to encourage the use of bicycles to travel to work.

PRIME MINISTER

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* postcards he has received from (i) members of the public, (ii) hon. Members and (iii) Members of the House of Lords about abortion; how

many and what percentage (A) support and (B) oppose abortion; and if he will make a statement. [75636]

The Prime Minister: Since 1 January 2006 my office has received appropriately 6,000 representations about this issue. Given the volume of correspondence I receive, with thousands of letters each week covering a broad spectrum of issues, my office records letters by subject rather than by the view expressed.

Chequers (Official Appointments)

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister with which individuals, other than officials, hon. Members and staff, he had a scheduled official appointment at Chequers, other than at official dinners, between 1 July 2003 and 31 December 2003. [76311]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister what incentives are available to encourage members of his staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75092]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes, my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. McFadden) today.

Intelligence and Security Committee

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister whether positive vetting is conducted *(a)* prior to him inviting hon. Members and Peers to serve on the Intelligence and Security Committee and *(b)* after he has extended an invitation to hon. Members and Peers. [76371]

The Prime Minister: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on security matters.

Official Residences

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister (1) if he will list the official residences occupied by Members of the Government; whether each is open to the public; and what restrictions apply to public access in each case; [73880]

(2) if he will make it his policy to increase opportunities for members of the public to view the interior of Dorneywood; and if he will make a statement; [73909]

(3) if he will make arrangements for the public to view *(a)* Chequers, *(b)* Chevening and *(c)* Dorneywood at times and on dates that do not inconvenience the Ministers who have use of the properties; and if he will make a statement. [77039]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1074W and the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 16 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2394W.

Since then, my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby South (Margaret Beckett) has moved jobs, but remains in her official residences. My right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Geoff Hoon) has also moved jobs and, as has already been announced, will be vacating his Government-owned residence shortly.

My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister has announced his personal decision that he no longer wishes to have the use of Dorneywood.

There is no public access to Chequers for security reasons. There is no right of public access to the houses at Chevening and Dorneywood. The garden at Chevening is on occasion opened to the public for charitable events (this is a matter for the Trustees). The garden at Dorneywood is opened to the public under the National Gardens Scheme at various times during the year.

Surveillance Commissioner

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister what factors underlay his decision to appoint Sir Charles Mantell as a Surveillance Commissioner. [76281]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press notice issued by my Office, a copy of which is available on the Number 10 website. A copy has also been placed in the Library of the House.

Witness Statements

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Prime Minister what sanctions are available under *(a)* the Ministerial Code and *(b)* the Civil Service Code against someone who, when providing a witness statement in support of an application to the High Court by a Secretary of State, (i) withholds information which is material to the Court's consideration of the application and (ii) includes in his statement information which he knows to be false or misleading. [76307]

The Prime Minister: Section 1 of the Ministerial Code sets out the process for handling alleged breaches of the Ministerial Code. Departmental staff handbooks will set out the procedures for handling alleged breaches of the Civil Service Code.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliamentary Calendar

25. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Leader of the House what plans he has to review the parliamentary calendar. [76117]

Nigel Griffiths: My right hon. Friend remains open to representations on issues relating to the parliamentary calendar.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Bone: To ask the Leader of the House what steps he is taking to improve the speed and accuracy of answers to written parliamentary questions. [76115]

Mr. Straw: All Ministers fully understand the requirement for timeliness and accuracy in providing answers to written questions. I have discussed at Cabinet with my ministerial colleagues the importance we attach to proper accountability to Parliament. My Office helps to ensure that the standards are adhered to and Mr. Speaker knows my own commitment to this.

At the same time, the House must accept that there has been an ever-increasing number of written questions being tabled. Not all perhaps are tabled with the full involvement of the Member in whose name they are tabled and some perhaps may be inspired by outside pressure to be seen to be tabling a high number. This inevitably places the system under pressure.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine TB

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has undertaken regarding methods of badger culling; and if he will make a statement. [75583]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department undertook a desk study of possible culling methods and identified shooting, snaring and gassing as the methods most worthy of further investigation. This research is currently under way. A full report will be published when the work is completed.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary regarding the issuing of licences for authorising badger culling. [75584]

Mr. Bradshaw: This issue has not been discussed with the Home Secretary.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department expects to make its response to the public consultation on bovine tuberculosis and badger culling. [75585]

Mr. Bradshaw: At this stage we cannot give an indication on the specific timing of a response to the consultation or a decision.

However, given the seriousness of the disease situation we aim to proceed as quickly as possible while giving the issue the thorough consideration it requires.

The decision is not a simple one. We are taking into account all the evidence, including the science.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has a preferred method of culling badgers. [75586]

Mr. Bradshaw: No decisions have yet been made on whether or not it is appropriate to cull badgers in order to prevent the spread of bTB, nor by what method if a cull was considered appropriate.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will visit Shrewsbury constituency to meet a farmer who has had a recent outbreak of bovine tuberculosis to discuss the Government's plans to help farmers fight this disease. [74759]

Mr. Bradshaw: Defra Ministers receive many invitations to visit individual farmers around the country to discuss their circumstances. Unfortunately, it is not possible to accept all of them. However, Ministers and officials meet regularly with organisations representing farmers and cattle keepers to discuss a variety of important matters, including bovine TB.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made by his Department of the *(a)* movements, *(b)* relocation and *(c)* displacement of protected species, with particular reference to badgers, resulting from work by transport infrastructure companies required for (i) health and safety, (ii) environmental and (iii) other reasons; and whether badgers relocated in such circumstances are routinely tested for bovine tuberculosis. [74984]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* Defra issues licences to allow the interference with badger setts to prevent serious damage to property, and to permit agricultural, forestry or drainage operations. The majority of licences involve interference to exclude badgers from part or all of a sett, sometimes followed by sett destruction. Very few licences for translocation of badgers are granted. Some licensed activities include maintenance works undertaken by transport infrastructure companies.

Badgers typically have more than one sett which they use in their territory. Thus there is no reason to believe that the closure, or partial closure, of a sett would necessarily cause badgers to move outside their normal range. My Department has commissioned a study which involves looking at badger movements when licensed sett interference is carried out in urban situations. However it is too early to draw any conclusions from this work which is currently under way.

Defra's wildlife management advisers ensure that a proportion of licences is assessed through monitoring. The method, timing and amount of monitoring will vary depending upon a number of factors such as the species, site or activities being licensed. Defra aims to monitor around 30 per cent. of badger licences. A proportion of these will be targeted towards sensitive or complex cases such as those involving translocation or cases that have attracted a high level of public attention. The results of monitoring are recorded and if a breach of licence conditions has been identified Defra will consider an appropriate course of enforcement action.

English Nature issues licences to permit the disturbance of badgers and destruction of setts during the course of development activities, which would include some activities associated with the maintenance of transport infrastructure. English Nature does not license the translocation of animals in these cases—it licenses disturbance to setts, and where setts are to be lost as a result of the activity the licence allows animals to be excluded from the sett before it is destroyed. Where no suitable alternative setts are available nearby for the badgers to move to, an artificial sett must be constructed within the animals' existing territory, before they are excluded from their existing sett. No significant movement of badgers is likely to result from these activities.

In the very few cases where Defra has licensed the translocation of badgers to another part of the country, it has been a condition of the licence that all badgers caught must be tested for bTB.

Brixham Fish Market

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department will make available for the development of the Brixham Fish Market and Employment Space Development. [75514]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* Torbay council has submitted an application for part funding of this project under the terms of the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance scheme. My officials are currently assessing this application in accordance with normal procedures and expect to make a decision shortly.

Dairy Farmers

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to help dairy farmers to cope with changes in milk prices. [74761]

Barry Gardiner: Price negotiations are a private commercial matter in which Government cannot get involved, provided competition rules are respected. Milk prices are subject to change on a regular basis, and farmers understand that they fluctuate throughout the year as a result of supply and demand. However, the underlying price of milk is expected to fall as a result of CAP reform. Through the Dairy Premium, farmers were partially compensated for these price reductions.

The Government do recognise that the dairy industry is facing a number of challenges, not least because of farm-gate prices. Although the Dairy Supply Chain Forum does not discuss milk prices, it provides information to help the dairy industry make informed decisions about its future in a world with much freer trade and lower prices. It has also welcomed the moves in the industry towards more transparent milk contracts.

Dangerous Dogs Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the operation of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991; and what recent representations he has received about the operation of this Act. [75632]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no plans to review the Dangerous Dogs Act. The police consider that the 1991 Act is a useful tool in dealing with dangerous dogs. Most dog owners are aware that as a result of this legislation there can be serious legal consequences if they fail to keep their dog under control.

The Department receives various representations and holds regular discussions with our partners on the operation of the Act.

Departmental Budget

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of the budget for his Department remained unspent in the last financial year. [70541]

Barry Gardiner: The provisional outturn currently shows that £24 million of the total departmental budget of £6,043 million for 2005-06 was unspent at the end of the last financial year.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what incentives are available to encourage members of his staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75106]

Barry Gardiner: Defra encourages the use of public transport and cycling as an alternative to car use for business as well as personal travel. In order to help staff carry out their normal commutes to work in a sustainable way, Defra offers advances of salary for season ticket purchase (repayable in equal monthly instalments within the life of the season ticket). Advances for purchase of a bicycle are also available.

Environmental Liability Directive

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the scope of the Environmental Liability Directive, without extension of its scope in implementing

legislation, is *(a)* wider and *(b)* narrower than the (i) Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part I Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (England and Wales) 2000 and Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part II, (ii) Water Resources Act 1991, (iii) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and (iv) Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part IIA. [74281]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The question is a difficult one to respond to meaningfully. The referenced domestic legislation and the ELD are not directly or entirely comparable. The ELD, unlike the Pollution Prevention and Control or Waste legislation, is not a regulatory regime—there are no initial compliance costs; it imposes costs only when a business causes significant environmental damage. The legislation dealing with EU and domestic biodiversity provides a much more limited framework for liability for remediation than the ELD. The contaminated land (part IIA, Environmental Protection Act 1990) regime has some overlapping features with the ELD and can deal with current damage, but it is largely concerned with historic damage, which is outside the scope of the ELD.

Fallen Livestock

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the sites in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland which are licensed to incinerate fallen livestock. [75396]

Mr. Bradshaw: Defra licenses facilities to incinerate animal carcases under the Animal By-Products Regulations (ABPR). I will write to the hon. Member with a list of APBR-approved sites and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Farmers

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of farmers who have left the agricultural sector in each of the last 10 years. [74501]

Barry Gardiner: Figures from the Agricultural and Horticultural Survey indicate labour on agricultural holdings in June each year. These figures therefore show net change only in the number of farmers.

Number of farmers in England

	Full time	*Part time*	*Total*
1996	—	—	207,807
1997	—	—	206,421
1998	118,297	89,859	208,156
1999	114,068	89,294	203,362
2000	107,029	113,902	220,931
2001	106,886	126,942	233,828
2002	103,782	121,739	225,520
2003	100,468	118,655	219,123
2004	98,122	126,240	224,362
2005	97,879	125,082	222,961

Notes:
(a) Figures prior to 2000 are for main holdings only. Figures from 2000 onwards include all holdings. A minor holding has to meet all of the following conditions:
(i) the total area less than six hectares
(ii) the labour requirement is estimated to be less than 100 standard person days
(iii) there is no regular full-time farmer or worker
(iv) the glasshouse area is less than 100 square metres
(v) the occupier does not farm another holding.
(b) Number of farmers includes partners, directors and spouses (if working on the holding). Part-time and full-time split not available for 1996 and 1997.
(c) Estimates have been made for non-respondents.
Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed in *(a)* dairy farming, *(b)* beef farming, *(c)* sheep farming, *(d)* arable farming, *(e)* mixed farming and *(f)* other forms of farming in Gloucestershire in (i) 1980, (ii) 1990, (iii) 2000 and (iv) 2005. [74502]

Barry Gardiner: The number of employees on holdings by farm type in Gloucestershire are as follows:

Farm type	*1990*	*2000*	*2005*
Cereals	679	543	586
General cropping	355	223	165
Horticultiire	598	495	690
Pigs and Poultry	171	122	100
Dairy	749	401	359
Cattle and sheep (less favoured areas)	0	0	0
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	553	417	354
Mixed	636	376	364
Other types	366	342	214
All types	4,107	2,919	2,832

The number of farmers, partners, directors and spouses (if working on the holding) on holdings by farm type in Gloucestershire are as follows:

Farm type	*1990*	*2000*	*2005*
Cereals	484	625	706
General cropping	141	112	84
Horticulture	332	404	426
Pigs and Poultry	119	185	261
Dairy	870	701	587
Cattle and Sheep (less favoured areas)	0	0	0
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	1,270	1,687	1,764
Mixed	471	514	578
Other types	409	963	899
All types	4,096	5,191	5,305

Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Flood Defences

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of London's flood defences in protecting South East London. [75821]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency is the main operating authority for flood risk management in England. The tidal defences that currently protect South East London and most of the Thames Estuary are of a very high standard, and an estimated £200 million will be spent on their maintenance and operation until 2021. The Agency is also developing a long-term management plan for the Thames Estuary to tackle flood risks until 2100.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the evidential basis was for the recent alterations to the published flood risk maps for Willington, Derbyshire; what representations the Environment Agency received from *(a)* owners of the former Willington power station site and *(b)* their representatives prior to the changes being made; what account was taken of (i) the Trent Fluvial Strategy studies and (ii) planning proposals for the area when the changes were being prepared; and whether the changes have been reflected in the system for the communication to village residents of risk to their properties. [75970]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency had discussions with consultants acting on behalf of the developer about Willington power station from June 2004 until February 2006. The consultants were required to address flood risk issues in a comprehensive Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) of the site.

The findings of the consultants' FRA work were in line with the recommendations of the Trent Fluvial Strategy, which was published by the Environment Agency in March 2005.

The FRA was submitted as part of the outline planning application and was considered during our assessment of the proposals. The FRA considered all sources of risk to the site in question.

The changes have been reflected in the way in which the Environment Agency have communicated with the residents of Willington over risk to their properties.

Funding

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been allocated to Gloucestershire in each of the last five years for re-training of farmers; and what proportion of the funding came from funds allocated for foot and mouth recovery. [75042]

Mr. Bradshaw: The principal mechanism for funding the re-training of farmers is the Vocational Training Scheme (VTS), set up as part of the England Rural Development Programme and administered by DEFRA's Rural Development Service. Under this scheme, applications are accepted from either training organisers, or eligible individuals.

A small amount of funding (£6,713 in 2005 and 2006) has been awarded to individual Gloucestershire farmers, for training in plumbing, LGV driving and technical farming skills. However, the vast majority of VTS funding has been awarded to projects that operate on a wider geographical area, either focusing on general business skills, diversification opportunities, or skills development related to specific farming activities, in order to maximise returns.

Examples of the training available to Gloucestershire farmers are shown in the following table:

Project holder	*Nature of project*	*Amount funded (£)*
South West of England Land Based Colleges (SWELBC)	Region-wide programme, jointly managed by Hartpury College, Gloucestershire, and Duchy College, Cornwall. Training in business and technical skills.	746,091
UK Dairy Academy	Raising technical and business performance of dairy farmers.	349,511
Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester	Market training for the agricultural industry.	14,737
Abacus Organic Services	Various organic farming courses.	150,754
Cotswold Machinery Ring Ltd./7Y	Training for members on business development, marketing, environment and biodiversity, IT.	243,198
Alpaca Education and Training Centre	Courses on all aspects of alpaca farming.	106,538
TAG/Stonegate	Benchmarking for egg production businesses.	35,218
Rural Business Skills Ltd.	Marketing for profit.	32,071
Kite Consulting	Waitrose Select Farm Group Benchmarking Project.	45,619
Organic Milk Suppliers Co-operative (OMSCo)	Raising standards of organic milk production in the South West.	148,500
Business Link Devon and Cornwall	South West Rural Enterprise Gateway—training to improve farmers' occupational skills and competence.	212,500

Vocational Training Scheme funds are separate from those allocated for foot and mouth recovery.

Fungaflor Formulation Application

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department will reach a decision on the Fungaflor formulation application; and if he will make a statement. [73577]

Ian Pearson: The Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) is responsible for authorising uses of pesticide products.

PSD received an application, for the product Fungaflor in 2002. However, this application was rejected because it did not contain sufficient information to allow PSD to conduct a risk assessment demonstrating an acceptable risk to humans and the environment.

Since that application a new company has taken on ownership of the product Fungaflor. This company submitted a new application to PSD on 1 June 2006. This has now been considered and PSD issued an approval for Fungaflor on 6 June.

Health and Safety

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how he plans to implement the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals legislation; and if he will take steps to ensure that there is no removal of the current legislative protection for the health and safety of the UK work force as a consequence of the implementation of that legislation; [75058]

(2) what consultation he plans to undertake with the Health and Safety Executive on the *(a)* implementation and *(b)* administration of the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals regulations. [75059]

Ian Pearson: We are currently discussing the implementation of the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) legislation and a range of related issues with the agencies involved in the regulation of chemicals and with the devolved Administrations. The Health and Safety Executive is fully involved in this process and continues to work closely with Defra, in particular providing support on areas that are relevant to occupational health. REACH will not affect existing health and safety legislation.

One of the more important implementation aspects will be the appointment of a UK competent authority for REACH later this year. The competent authority will work closely with existing enforcement bodies, including the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency.

Live Fish

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* volume of and *(b)* income derived from trade in live fish was in each year since 2000 between the UK and (i) Northern Ireland, (ii) Guernsey, (iii) Spain, (iv) Italy, (v) Sweden and (vi) Denmark. [75872]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* Information is not available on the value of trade in live fish between the mainland parts of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and Guernsey. Information on the value of trade between the UK and the other countries requested is given in the table.

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Imports from: (tonnes)						
Spain	2.7	3.0	0.9	0.4	1.4	2.1
Italy	4.5	0.0	0.3	23.8	0.1	2.5
Sweden	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Denmark	0.0	0.0	[1]—	0.0	[1]—	0.0
Imports from: £000						
Spain	374	360	76	41	330	188
Italy	4	0	10	30	4	11
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denmark	0	0	[1]—	0	1	0
Exports to: (tonnes)						
Spain	0.3	1.3	8.5	4.3	7.7	11.3
Italy	0.4	[1]—	1.8	1.9	1.5	5.2
Sweden	1.8	23.9	30.3	1.9	4.3	6.8
Denmark	3.0	27.6	7.8	10.3	2.9	1.2
Exports to: £000						
Spain	4	8	70	36	72	91
Italy	1	[1]—	15	18	12	59
Sweden	75	271	318	19	263	403
Denmark	557	280	110	336	193	802

[1] Denotes greater than 0 but either less than 50Kg or less than 500. Information is on current price data, and on an overseas trade statistics basis.

Source:
Compiled by Fisheries Statistics Unit, Marine Fisheries Agency, from HM Revenue and Customs data.

Mobile Phones

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of disposing of mobile phones; [75558]

(2) what measures are being taken to encourage the *(a)* recycling and *(b)* safe disposal of mobile phones; and if he will make a statement. [75560]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 31W.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of mobile phones disposed of in England in each of the last five years. [75559]

Mr. Bradshaw: This Department does not collect information on the recycling or reuse of mobile phones. However, the mobile phone industry estimates that 18 million handsets are replaced every year and that in 2003 and 2004, about 5 million handsets were taken by mobile phone recycling and refurbishment companies in the UK. The industry estimates that about 60 per cent. of these were refurbished and the remaining 40 per cent. were sent for materials recycling.

Northern Way Initiative

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what role his

Department plays in the delivery of the Northern Way initiative. [74039]

Barry Gardiner: The Northern Way is a pan-regional growth strategy being taken forward by the three northern Regional Development Agencies and their partners. Its work has potential to play an important role in delivering Government's Regional Economic Performance PSA. The Department for Communities and Local Government co-ordinates Government involvement with the Northern Way. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs works with the Northern Way where its activities relate to our responsibilities.

Parliamentary Questions

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will answer written parliamentary questions 66755 and 66756 on single farm payments, tabled by the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale on 25 April. [74544]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* Answers to these questions were provided on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 163W.

Performance Targets

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of his Department's customer performance targets are being missed, on the basis of the latest available information; and if he will make a statement. [71693]

Barry Gardiner: The Department provides regular performance updates against its outstanding public service agreement targets through its annual Departmental Report and its Autumn Performance Report published in spring/summer and autumn respectively. The 2005 versions, which are the most recently published, are available in the Library of the House and online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/deprep/default.htm

A short summary of progress against our 2004 Spending Review targets can be found in Appendix 4 of the 2005 Autumn Performance Report, with more detailed information available in Chapter 2.

The Department also gives regular updates on its performance via HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/performance/DEFRA.cfm

Defra's 2006 Departmental Report is due for publication in spring 2006.

Recycling

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average cost per ton of recycling *(a)* wood, *(b)* glass, *(c)* plastics, *(d)* paper, *(e)* cardboard and *(f)* metal in each London borough in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [75540]

Mr. Bradshaw: Defra does not gather information on individual recycling schemes or the costs of recycling waste material. These will vary depending on a number of factors, including the collection method used by a local authority, the materials collected and the market for recycled materials.

River Severn

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what studies his Department has evaluated investigating the potential for a build-up of contaminated water in the Severn Estuary up-stream of a proposed barrage scheme; and if he will make a statement. [75606]

Ian Pearson: The environmental implications of a Severn Barrage, including water quality implications, were considered in detail during the 1980s as part of tripartite studies funded by the then Department of Energy, Central Electricity Generating Board and Severn Tidal Power Group. These studies are reported in "Energy paper 57: The Severn Barrage Project: General Studies (ISBN 0 11 412952 5) HMSO 1989" and associated reports, which can be found at:

http://www.tsoshop.co.uk/bookstore.asp?FO=1159966&Action=Book&ProductID=0114129525&From=SearchResults

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the sources of radioactive *(a)* wastewater discharged into and *(b)* runoff into the River Severn; and if he will make a statement. [75608]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency lists the organisations that are currently authorised under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 to make disposals, either directly or indirectly, to the River Severn or its estuary on its website at:

http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?extraClause=PROCESS_NAME~'RADIOACTIVE%20SUBSTANCES'

Rural and Agricultural Shows

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which rural and agricultural shows will be attended by Ministers from his Department up to 31 August. [76363]

Barry Gardiner: Defra will have a corporate presence at the following rural and agricultural shows up to 31 August. We will be attending additional shows beyond this date.

14-15 June: Cereals 2006 in Lincolnshire

28-29 June: The Royal Norfolk Show

2-5 July: The Royal Show, at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

11-13 July: The Great Yorkshire Show

26 July: Fruit Focus, East Malling, Kent

28-30 July: CLA Game Fair, Romsey, Hampshire

All five Ministers will be attending the Royal Show between 2-4 July.

With regards to the other shows on this list, we are currently putting plans in place to ensure that where

possible Ministers attend, based on relevance to their individual portfolios and availability.

Additionally, Ministers may of course choose to attend further shows where there is not a corporate presence. For example, Lord Rooker attended the Royal Cornwall Show on 9 June.

Rural Payments Agency

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of systems for paying farm subsidies to farmers in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* European Union states and *(d)* England. [71541]

Barry Gardiner: Such assessments are rarely productive as the systems and processes adopted by each paying agency in the UK and across the EU will have been tailored to the specific circumstances of the territory that it serves.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department's legal bills have been *(a)* in each year since 2001 and *(b)* in relation to the Rural Payments Agency; and if he will make a statement. [74072]

Barry Gardiner: Legal costs incurred by this Department and the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) over the past five financial years are as follows:

DEFRA

	£ million
2001-02	6.31
2002-03	9.07
2003-04	11
2004-05	10.58
2005-06	11.80

Rural Payments Agency

	£000
2001-02	704
2002-03	370
2003-04	430
2004-05	288
2005-06	315

Both sets of figures relate to running costs. However, the DEFRA figures also include payments to counsel, legal contractors and costs relating to claims and arbitration in respect of foot and mouth disease (FMD) cases that were directly attributed to the Department's Legal Directorate. Other FMD legal related costs and costs in respect of commercial contracts, estates, etc. are held elsewhere in the Department and it would not be possible to draw this information together without incurring disproportionate cost.

Sheep Dip

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to allow the reintroduction of cypermethrin as a sheep dip. [76069]

Mr. Bradshaw: Before we can consider the reintroduction of the Marketing Authorisations for cypermethrin sheep dip products, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate needs to receive and assess further information on the environmental risks presented by their use and how these can be managed. The Marketing Authorisation Holders have been asked to provide such information. Additionally, the VMD and Environment Agency have jointly commissioned an R&D project on environmental exposure to cypermethrin released to the farmyard. In particular, this will consider the impact of recently dipped animals crossing watercourses in order to enable VMD to provide more advice to farmers on how long such animals need to be kept away from watercourses. The results of this part of the project should be available by the end of the summer.

When all of this information has been received we will be able to begin to consider the reintroduction of the cypermethrin sheep dip Marketing Authorisations in conjunction with interested stakeholder groups.

Single Farm Payment

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the performance target is of the Rural Payments Agency for the time taken from receipt of an application for a claim form for the 2006-07 Single Payments Scheme to the despatch of the form to the applicant; and if he will make a statement on the progress being made by the agency towards meeting that target. [68862]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency does not have a formal performance target for the despatch of application forms as the vast majority are sent automatically to previous applicants. However, where a request is received the estimated turnaround time is 24 hours. Application forms were also available at RPA sites and could be downloaded from the RPA website.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had on compensation for farmers' creditors in relation to delayed single farm payments. [68902]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* The discussions that the Department has had with representatives of the banks and the agricultural supply trade have focused on the payment timetable for the 2005 Single Payment Scheme. Over £1.3 billion, representing 88 per cent. of the total value of those payments, has now been disbursed and the Rural Payments Agency remains focused on paying the outstanding sums as soon as possible for the benefit of all concerned.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the long-term plan is for the payment of the single farm payment. [68955]

Barry Gardiner: We are determined that the right lessons are learned from our experience this year with the Single Payment Scheme, first to prepare for the undoubted challenges that will exist in the delivery of

the 2006 scheme, and second to move to a more stable position for the 2007 scheme year. Our subsequent plans will be guided by the outcome of the fundamental review of the Rural Payments Agency that my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South announced in her written statement of 16 March 2006, *Official Report*, column104WS.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what help is given to farmers to help with problems in filling in single farm payment forms. [68956]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has used a variety of methods to help farmers complete their 2006 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) application form. These measures include:

Pre-populating application forms with as much information as possible to limit the amount of information farmers have to complete by hand.

The 2006 SPS Handbook, which was sent to all farmers along with their application form, which contained section-by-section guidance on how to complete the application form.

The Customer Service Centre (CSC) has been available for callers to contact them with queries via telephone, e-mail or letter. Owing to customer demand, during the peak period, the CSC increased its opening hours.

An annotated application form with text boxes was sent to all potential claimants and was also posted on the RPA website to help guide claimants.

A Q&A is being constantly updated and added to on the RPA website, clarifying some of the queries raised by customers when trying to complete their SPS form.

An advertising campaign has been used in the farming press, to remind customers of the most important parts of the form to complete and also point out the most common errors being made.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints have been received from farmers in the East Riding of Yorkshire regarding the single farm payment scheme; and if he will make a statement. [69319]

Barry Gardiner: Ministers and officials at the Rural Payments Agency have apologised for the delay in making payments under the Single Payment Scheme. As of 25 May over 94,000 claimants to the scheme had received £1.32 billion, representing 88 per cent. of projected payments. As the scheme is administered on a national basis the RPA does not hold statistics in respect of farmers in the East Riding.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated cost to date to the industry is of delays in payment of single farm payments. [69561]

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to farmers per month in interest payments caused by delays in single farm payments; and for what reason guidelines on set aside have *(a)* been changed and *(b)* been changed at this stage of the scheme. [70343]

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* total debt and *(b)* interest on that debt accrued by farmers as a result of the delay in single farm payments in England, broken down by county. [71513]

Barry Gardiner: The EU regulatory window for payments under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) is 1 December 2005 to 30 June 2006. The cost to the agricultural industry of these payments being made in one month rather than another depends on individual farmers' circumstances and the use to which the payments are put.

In light of the situation explained by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South in her written statement of 16 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 104WS, various managerial and procedural changes have been introduced during the past few months in order to increase the flow of SPS payments. These have contributed to the position where over £1.3 billion, representing 89 per cent. of the total value of such payments, has now been disbursed.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that the single farm payment for 2006 is paid on time. [73540]

Barry Gardiner: The payment window for the 2006 single payment scheme opens on 1 December 2006 and runs until 30 June 2007.

The Rural Payments Agency is working hard to ensure that payments are made as soon as possible within this time frame. Staff have already started basic validation checks on a proportion of the 2006 application forms.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on the impact of the late payment of claims under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme on the competitiveness of English agricultural businesses with their counterparts in other EU countries. [66705]

Barry Gardiner: The timing of payments under the decoupled Single Payment Scheme (SPS) only affects the competitiveness of agricultural businesses to the extent that SPS claimants treat those payments as though they remain coupled to production. Discussions within Government and with stakeholders has highlighted widespread recognition of the potential benefits to the English agricultural industry, relative to its counterparts in most other EU member states, that were provided by the decisions made by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) to introduce the SPS at the earliest possible date and not to take up any of the options to retain coupled EU direct payments.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grounds she has given to the EU for the basis for the extension in the timescale for single farm payments. [68652]

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures

are being taken by his Department to facilitate payments due under the Single Payment Scheme by extending the permitted time frame; and if he will make a statement. [69564]

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's application to the European Commission to delay the payment of single farm moneys to English farmers. [71834]

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on extending the window for single farm payments beyond 30th June. [74772]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* While the intention has been, and remains, for the Rural Payments Agency to make outstanding payments under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme as soon as possible, it has always been the case that some payments may be made after the end of the EU payment window on 30 June. In those cases, the claimant will still be paid in full, but EU funding of those payments could be reduced. With that in mind and to safeguard the interests of UK taxpayers, a request was made to the European Commission in April to extend the payment window. Subsequent discussions with the European Commission suggest that a formal extension is unlikely, but those discussions will continue, focused on the EU rules governing the funding of payments made after the end of the payment window.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of when all single farm payments for this year will have been completed. [72492]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* The RPA has not provided a timetable for the completion of outstanding payments, although it is endeavouring to make payment to all 2005 single payment scheme applicants by 30 June.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures he is taking *(a)* to ensure that outstanding applications under the Single Farm Payment Scheme are processed as a matter of urgency and *(b)* to improve efficiency in handling payments under the scheme. [76032]

Barry Gardiner: As of 5 June the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has paid just under £1.33 billion to nearly 96,000 customers, representing 89 per cent. of projected expenditure to 80 per cent. of eligible claimants. RPA's top priority is to pay those claims worth more than €1,000 that have not yet received any payment. The majority of these cases have been allocated to an individual member of staff to resolve any outstanding validation issues and proceed to payment as soon as possible. In a number of cases, this will require the discussion of outstanding validation issues with the claimant.

RPA is reviewing its approach to handling claims to 2006, building on lessons learned in processing 2005 scheme claims.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of single farm payments remain outstanding in *(a)* Hereford constituency, *(b)* Herefordshire and *(c)* England. [76217]

Barry Gardiner: The total number of single payment scheme customers is now approximately 120,000. As at 6 June 2006, 20 per cent. (24,000) customers had not received either a full or partial payment.

Details of payments made in England up to 30 June 2006, including by constituency and county, will be published in due course.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the merits of raising the threshold for single farm payment minimum acreage to one hectare; and if he will make a statement. [73469]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* Under EU legislation governing the single payment scheme (SPS), member states may set a minimum area for the establishment of SPS entitlements, which cannot be higher than 0.3ha. Following discussions between the Department and the devolved administrations, the UK made maximum use of this flexibility in adopting a minimum area of 0.3ha. The establishment of entitlements is, with very limited exemptions, a one-off exercise undertaken in the year the SPS is introduced. In the UK, this was 2005. Even if it were possible, therefore, for the UK to now set a higher minimum area, it would have little, if any, practical effect going forward.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to introduce a threshold below which single farm payments are deemed negligible; and if he will make a statement. [73471]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* Under EU legislation governing the single payment scheme (SPS), member states may set a minimum payment figure of 100 euros. That provision is not currently used in the UK, but is among the issues that will be considered further in preparation for the introduction of the 2007 scheme.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the costs of installing the computer system which processes the Single Payment Scheme. [74070]

Barry Gardiner: The overall cost of the Accenture contract is £53.8 million. This includes not only the development of the core SPS processing system but also a Rural Land Register, Customer Register, Customer Service (Call) Centre and Document Management Unit.

Slaughter Premiums

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many EU countries pay a slaughter premium for calves. [75361]

Mr. Bradshaw: Six member states currently pay slaughter premium on calves: Austria, Belgium (part only), France, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

Tagging (Sheep)

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* reliability and *(b)* cost-effectiveness of electronic tagging for sheep. [75362]

Mr. Bradshaw: An extensive pilot trial took place in 2004-05 to evaluate the use of electronic identification devices (EIDs) and electronic data transfer (EDT) under English sheep farming conditions. The aim of the trial was to identify issues surrounding the practical application, roll-out and implementation of EID on sheep farms in different parts of the country, in livestock markets and in slaughterhouses. Results from the trial are available on the Defra website: http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/sheep/eid/index.htm.

These results will be submitted to the European Commission to inform their forthcoming report on EID. A regulatory impact assessment for the implementation of electronic identification of sheep and goats in England is also being prepared.

Transport Resources and Waste Facilities

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on his recent conclusions relating to the setting up of fewer, larger sustainable transport resources and waste facilities. [76074]

Mr. Bradshaw: The recent consultation on the review of England's Waste Strategy put forward proposals for the future of waste policy. These included policies with various environmental impacts, for example, on the quality of local environments and transport.

The consultation closed on 9 May 2006. All responses are being carefully considered during the development of a revised waste strategy, which is due to be published later this year.

The procurement of waste services by local authorities is key to delivery, and it is clear that further facilities will be required in order to deal with the commercial and industrial wastes diverted from landfill or requiring treatment to meet landfill controls. The recently created Waste Infrastructure Development Programme will consider how to encourage local authorities to allow, where appropriate, for larger facilities that can serve the non-municipal sector and provide recycling collection services for businesses.

Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what contingency plans his Department has put in place to deal with outbreaks of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia in live fish in the UK; [75871]

(2) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* causes and *(b)* sources of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia in farmed trout in the UK; [75873]

(3) what discussions his Department has had with key stakeholders on compensating fish farmers for the compulsory slaughter of stock in the event of an outbreak of *(a)* viral haemorrhagic septicaemia and *(b)* other fatal diseases amongst farmed fish. [75875]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* On 26 May, Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS) was confirmed in samples of fish taken from a trout farm in the River Ouse catchment area of North Yorkshire. VHS is a notifiable disease and the Department has a contingency plan in place for dealing with outbreaks of VHS and other serious fish diseases.

In line with these arrangements, Fish Health Inspectors from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), under Defra's direction, immediately formed a National Control Centre (NCC) to co-ordinate action to manage the outbreak with other partners, including the Environment Agency. The NCC is based at the CEFAS laboratory in Weymouth.

[redacted] from the affected farm were slaughtered humanely with full co-operation from the farm owners. The fish have been disposed of in accordance with animal by-products legislation.

Defra has placed restrictions on the movement of fish into and out of the Ouse catchment area, and specifically on all farms in that area.

The cause of the VHS outbreak has not been identified, but extensive epidemiological investigations are underway to try and determine the source. A comprehensive sampling programme is also taking place, targeting fish farms and wild sites in the Ouse catchment as well as other possible contacts. Results are expected within the next 14 days. No further disease cases have been identified by recent sampling and inspections.

Stakeholders make regular representations to the Department about compensating fish farmers for the compulsory slaughter of stock due to an outbreak of a serious fish disease. We have made it clear that it is not our policy to make compensation available in these circumstances. However, EU legislation does allow fish from an infected site to be on-grown for marketing, provided they do not display any clinical signs of disease.

VHS has no implications for human health. The VHS virus cannot grow or replicate at human body temperatures.

Warden Bay Defence Scheme

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the

(a) tender documents and *(b)* construction timetable for the Warden Bay defence scheme will be made public. [75874]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* Defra has overall policy responsibility for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England, funds most of the Environment Agency's flood management activities and provides grant aid on a project by project basis to the other flood and coastal defence operating authorities (local authorities and internal drainage boards) to support their investment in capital improvement projects. Defra does not build defences, nor direct the authorities on which specific projects to undertake. The works programme to manage risk is driven by the operating authorities.

The Warden Bay project is being promoted by Swale borough council and details of the tender process and construction timetable are matters for them. A scheme was approved for grant aid by Defra in July 2005 for start of construction in 2007-08, based on the council's assessment of costs at that time.

Waste Incineration Directive

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which EU member states have designated tallow as a waste product under the Waste Incineration Directive. [73485]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* For the purposes of the Waste Incineration Directive (WID), "waste" means any solid or liquid waste as defined in Article 1(a) of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD). Whether or not a substance is "waste" within the meaning of Article 1(a) of the WFD is a matter that must be determined on the facts of the case and the interpretation of the law is a matter for the courts.

In addition the EU Animal By-Products Regulation (ABPR) ((EC) No. 1774/2002) requires a range of animal by-products, and substances derived from them (for example, tallow), to be disposed of as waste. Where the method of disposal is incineration or co-incineration (that is, use as a fuel), the ABPR requires it to be carried out in compliance with the WID. The ABPR is directly applicable in all EU member states.

We understand that other member states are at various stages in discussing the implications of the regulations on burning tallow in their own countries. However, in response to representations by the UK Government, the European Commission has set up a study to help establish whether such controls are proportionate and necessary to the protection of the environment. The study is expected to report by the autumn, and the Government are pressing the Commission for the study to be completed as soon as possible.

Waste Management

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government plan to take to deal with litter over the next five years. [75573]

Mr. Bradshaw: A number of improvements to existing legislation dealing with litter were made under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, including the introduction of greater powers for local authorities in issuing fixed penalty notices and litter clearing notices. This was complemented by new guidance on the legislation and revision of the statutory "Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse".

Improving the toolkit of powers and guidance available to local authorities will help them tackle local environmental quality issues more effectively. In addition, ENCAMS (Environmental Campaigns), which is grant-funded by DEFRA, runs the "Keep Britain Tidy" campaign and carries out a number of public awareness campaigns aimed at changing behaviour. Recent campaigns have focused on youth littering and smoking-related litter.

In addition to increasing the range and flexibility of enforcement options for local authorities, work is being taken forward on improving the provision of skills in relation to street cleansing and related services. A Local Environmental Management training and skills framework is being developed which will ensure that specific, tailored training and qualifications are available to the industry from operational level to senior management and play a key role in enabling local authorities to increase the effectiveness of their litter clearance, as well as other services they provide.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what controls exist to regulate the practice of disposing of waste in landfill sites. [75575]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002 (as amended) regulate the disposal of waste in landfill sites. The Regulations transpose the requirements of the Landfill Directive, reducing the negative effects of landfilling on the environment and any resultant risk to human health. A copy of the 2002 Regulations (SI No. 1559) and its subsequent amendment Regulations (SI Nos.1375 and 1640) can be obtained from the Office of Public Sector Information at http://www.opsi.gov.uk/.

Water Shortages/Supplies

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has issued to the water companies on the categories of public sector vehicles to be exempt from the provisions of any hosepipe ban. [74454]

Ian Pearson: Hosepipe bans are imposed by water companies using the powers available to them under section 76 of the Water Industry Act 1991. In line with the definitions within the Act, these powers will apply to private motor cars but exclude public service vehicles and goods vehicles. No additional guidance has been given.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with Thames Water on the seeking of a drought order by the company; and if he will make a statement. [74781]

Ian Pearson: I met with representatives of Thames Water on 25 May to discuss a range of water issues, including the company's water resource position in light of the Environment Agency's report "Drought prospects 2006—spring update".

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the projected change in mains water usage over the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 20 years. [75375]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency is the statutory body with a duty to manage water resources in England and Wales. As part of the agency's management role, it has both national and regional water resource strategies which set out the pressures over the next 25 years. Information about these strategies is available on the Environment Agency's website: www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

Water companies have statutory duties to maintain adequate supplies of water. They have 25-year water resource plans which complement the agency strategies and seek to reconcile supply with anticipated demand. This forward planning framework exists to take account of factors such as the water supply and disposal infrastructure required to service significant new housing developments and the implications of climate change.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans are in place in *(a)* London and *(b)* England to provide (i) bottled and (ii) other sources of water to (A) schools, (B) hospitals, (C) nursing homes and (D) elderly and disabled people during a water shortage or drought; and if he will make a statement. [75700]

Ian Pearson: Any projected shortage in supply this year will be addressed through the relevant water company's drought plan. These plans set out how the company will continue to meet its duties to supply adequate quantities of wholesome water during drought periods with as little recourse as possible to drought orders and permits.

No water company is expecting to rely on bottled water supplies, which would require authorisation under an emergency drought order. Water companies would deploy their existing emergency plans to provide alternative supplies of water to customers in vulnerable sectors in the event of emergency drought order measures being put in place.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Line of Route (Saturday Opening)

26. **Martin Linton:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what progress has been made in implementing the Modernisation Committee's recommendation for Saturday opening of the Line of Route. [76118]

Nick Harvey: Further studies of the practicalities of implementing this recommendation are being carried out by the Visitor Route Steering Group with a view to presenting detailed proposals to the Administration Committee later this year. If the proposals are in due course approved by the authorities of both Houses, Saturday opening could start from the autumn of 2007.

Access to Parliament (Young People)

27. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what steps the Commission plans to take to improve access to Parliament for young people. [76119]

Nick Harvey: A planned expansion of the Educational Visits Programme is under way, with the aim of increasing the annual number of students involved from 8,000 to 25,000 over the next two years. The Parliamentary Education Unit (PEU) now has the use of a room in 1 Parliament Street for educational visits as well as the MacMillan Room, and consideration is being given to how the House might make more effective provision for school students with special educational needs. Plans are also in place to improve the provision of specific educational content for young people who visit the House through routes other than the educational programme, including the summer opening and tours organised by individual Members. The development of new content for the educational website www.explore-parliament.uk continues.

In the longer term, plans for a Parliamentary Visitor and Information Centre, currently being considered by the Administration Committee in conjunction with the House of Lords Information Committee, would aim to provide purpose-built facilities for educational visits as part of a major improvement to Parliament's engagement with the public.

Postage Costs

Mr. Dismore: To ask the honourable Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to his answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 967W, on postage costs, if the Commission will issue guidance to House departments that second class mail should be routinely used for non-urgent items; and if he will make a statement. [74392]

Nick Harvey: All departments of the House are reminding their staff that second class mail should be routinely used for non-urgent items and monitoring of mail issued from House departments began from 1 April 2006. Results from the first quarter of the present financial year will identify those areas where further savings can be made. E-mail is used where possible to save on postage costs.

WORK AND PENSIONS

National Insurance Numbers (Illegal Immigrants)

17. **Mr. Bacon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the allocation of national insurance numbers to illegal workers; and if he will make a statement. [76109]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Blaby (Mr. Robathan) today, at column 516.

Benefits

18. **Chris Mole:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress is being made in improving processing times for housing benefit claims. [76110]

Mr. Plaskitt: My Department is working closely with local authorities, and as a result the average time taken to process new housing benefit and council tax benefit claims has been cut by over two weeks. There have been further improvements in the first three quarters of 2005-06, with the national average improving to 36 days.

We continue to target the poorest performing local authorities and as a result this is where we are seeing the most significant improvements.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rate of council tax benefit was in each year since 1996-97; and how many pensioners *(a)* were entitled to and *(b)* received council tax benefit in each such year. [70300]

Mr. Plaskitt: The latest available estimates for council tax benefit take-up is in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take Up in 2003/2004", a copy of which is in the Library.

Estimates of the number of pensioners entitled to council tax benefit in each year and the number of pensioner households in receipt of council tax benefit in May each year are in the following tables. As the information in the different tables is not on a consistent basis, they should not be used in conjunction to derive an estimate of the take-up of council tax benefit.

	Number of pensioners entitled to CTB in each year
1996-97	3,370,000 to 3,920,000
1997-98	3,240,000 to 3,790,000
1998-99	3,500,000 to 3,800,000
1999-2000	3,520,000 to 3,870,000
2000-01	3,460,000 to 3,800,000
2001-02	3,770,000 to 4,130,000
2002-03	3,810,000 to 4,170,000
2003-04	4,060,000 to 4,460,000

Notes:
1. Estimates of the numbers entitled are given as ranges in order to account for possible biases inherent in estimates from data that is less than perfect. They also take account of the effects of sampling variation.
2. Estimates cover all those aged 60 and over in the private household population of Great Britain. The data source is the Family Resources Survey.
3. For the purposes of this analysis, the unit of analysis is the benefit unit. This is either a single person aged at least 60 years old or, if a couple, both will be termed pensioners if one is aged at least 60 years old. This is consistent with the definition used in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-up" publications.
4. Estimates have been rounded to the nearest 10 thousand.
5. Comparing estimates over time is not straightforward. Our estimates allow for biases which can change from year to year; but we cannot be sure of the extent or effects of changes. Therefore, any analysis of changes over time should be made with caution.

Council tax benefit recipients aged 60 and over: Great Britain

As at May each year	*Number*
1996	2,717,000
1997	2,646,000
1998	2,614,000
1999	2,542,000
2000	2,419,000
2001	2,403,000
2002	2,362,000
2003	2,357,000

Notes:
1. The figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. Caseloads have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
4. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
5. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
6. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.
7. "Aged 60 and over" is defined as benefit units where the claimant and/or partner are aged 60 and over. Therefore figures will contain some claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged over 60 years.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 1996 to 2003.

Council tax benefit recipients aged 60 and over: Great Britain

As at May each year	*Number*
2004	2,406,780
2005	2,444,470

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Caseloads have been rounded to the nearest ten.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases
5. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.
6. "Aged 60 and over" is defined as benefit units where the claimant and/or partner are aged 60 and over. Therefore figures will contain some claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged over 60 years.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in May 2004 and 2005.

Pathways-to-work Pilots

19. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to publish a full cost-benefit analysis in relation to Pathways-to-Work pilots. [76111]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We intend to publish a cost-benefit analysis of Pathways next year. This analysis will be based on new and repeat customers in the first seven Path-ways areas.

However, Pathways to Work is an acknowledged success story. For the fourth quarter in a row, the number of people claiming incapacity benefits has shown a significant year-on-year fall-down 61,000 to stand at 2.71 million.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there are mechanisms in place to ensure that eligible people who are close to retirement are supported efficiently through the financial assistance scheme. [76108]

James Purnell: We have said we need to do more to ensure that eligible members who reach 65, the payment age for the financial assistance scheme, are paid as quickly as possible. That is why we are reviewing the administration of the scheme. The review will look at what we need to do to provide the best administration and management support. It will also consider how we can ensure the most cost-efficient operation and examine a full range of options for the appropriate organisational location of the operations. It will report before the summer recess.

New Deal

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of the new deal training budget was spent on those aged *(a)* 25 and under, *(b)* 26 to 40, *(c)* 40 to 55 and *(d)* 55 and over in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06; and what his forecasts are for spending on these categories for the next two years. [66150]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on new deal training spend is not collected by the specified age ranges.

Information on new deal training spend is only available for: the new deal for young people (NDYP) full time education and training (FTET) option; the new deal 25 plus (ND25 plus) employment and training opportunities (ETO); training undertaken during the ND25 plus intensive activity period (IAP); and expenditure on the new deal 50 plus training grant.

Forecast expenditure for the next two years is only available by total new deal spend, not broken down by specific training elements.

The available information is in the following table.

New deal training spend

	2003-04	2004-05	£ million 2005-06[1]
New deal for young people[2]	30	36	29
New deal 25 plus[3]	29	26	—
New deal 50 plus training grant[4]	1	0	0

[1] Data for 2005-06 are forecast expenditure and are not available for the ND25 ETO and those who have undertaken training during the ND25 plus IAP.
[2] Expenditure is for people aged 18-24 who have participated on the NDYP FTET Option.
[3] Information is for people aged 25 and over who have participated on the ND25 plus ETO and for those who have undertaken training during the ND25 plus IAP.
[4] Information is for people aged 50 and over who have claimed the new deal 50 plus training grant. Once in work, new deal 50 plus customers can claim a training grant of up to £1,200 for training and development related to the job, and a further £300 for life-long learning.

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest million and will be shown as nil if spend is less than half a million.
2. Figures exclude: allowances paid to participants; some ancillary costs associated with new deal 25 plus such as child care and travel costs; the cost of training provided as part of the private sector led new deals and the cost of training provided as part of the other NDYP options eg training provided through the environmental task force or voluntary sector options.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Financial Strategy Division

Average Income Statistics

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income was for *(a)* the lowest earning 40 per cent. and *(b)* the highest earning 40 per cent. of the population in (i) Swindon and (ii) England in (A) 1997 and (B) 2005. [69136]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The data source does not allow us to provide robust income estimates below regional level.

Information is presented in the following tables for England as a whole and the South West region in particular. This is consistent with the latest publication of the "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2004-05".

Money values for the median of the bottom 40 per cent. of income distribution in average 2004-05 prices: England and South West

	1996-97 to 1998-99	£ per week equivalised 2002-03 to 2004-05
Before housing costs		
England	186	222
South West	187	229
After housing costs		
England	135	177
South West	137	185

Money values for the median of the top 40 per cent. of income distribution in average 2004-05 prices: England and South West

	£ per week equivalised	
	1996-97 to 1998-99	*2002-03 to 2004-05*
Before housing costs		
England	483	550
South West	453	517
After housing costs		
England	410	489
South West	385	465

Notes:
1. Figures are provided using a three-year moving averages, as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. Hence, figures are not consistent with previously published single-year estimates and there may be differences in changes over time.
2. Figures refer to income not earnings.

Source:
Family Resource Survey.

Benefit Helplines

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff on average answered calls on each of the benefit helplines run by his Department in each month, in each of the last seven years. [64501]

Mrs. McGuire: For most DWP helplines, data are not collected in the format requested. The helplines that can provide data are in the following tables.

Data figures are WTE (whole time equivalent) staff answering calls

1999-2000

	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Child Support Agency												
CSA National Helpline[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disability Carers Service												
Benefit Inquiry Line	86	81	76	71	82	87	84	88	88	97	95	99
Disability Living Allowance/ Attendance[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jobcentre Plus												
Jobcentre Plus Direct—Jobseeker Direct[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jobcentre Plus Direct—First Contact[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

2000-01

	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Child Support Agency												
CSA National Helpline	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disability Carers Service												
Benefit Inquiry Line	88	88	87	76	77	74	74	75	75	76	77	75
Disability Living Allowance/ Attendance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jobcentre Plus												
Jobcentre Plus Direct—Jobseeker Direct	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jobcentre Plus Direct—First Contact	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

2001-02

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Child Support Agency												
CSA National Helpline	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disability Carers Service												
Benefit Inquiry Line	77	75	72	81	76	73	77	76	72	71	69	67
Disability Living Allowance/Attendance	—	—	—	—	—	—	292	289	286	289	280	290
Jobcentre Plus												
Jobcentre Plus Direct—Jobseeker Direct	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jobcentre Plus Direct—First Contact	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

2002-03

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Child Support Agency												
CSA National Helpline	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disability Carers Service												
Benefit Inquiry Line	60	69	72	65	64	61	67	62	67	69	66	67
Disability Living Allowance/Attendance	305	314	322	324	313	330	336	324	312	300	296	291
Jobcentre Plus												
Jobcentre Plus Direct—Jobseeker Direct	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jobcentre Plus Direct—First Contact	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

2003-04

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Child Support Agency												
CSA National Helpline	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	374	348
Disability Carers Service												
Benefit Inquiry Line	66	63	67	67	66	67	68	58	62	58	58	58
Disability Living Allowance/Attendance	298	298	283	280	283	278	270	285	282	292	288	290
Jobcentre Plus												
Jobcentre Plus Direct—Jobseeker Direct	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jobcentre Plus Direct—First Contact	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

2004-05

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Child Support Agency												
CSA National Helpline	358	356	344	367	358	357	350	342	356	341	341	352

	2004-05											
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Disability Carers Service												
Benefit Inquiry Line	59	57	57	57	59	54	58	54	52	55	54	51
Disability Living Allowance/ Attendance	291	292	293	300	302	298	309	336	334	335	332	344
Jobcentre Plus												
Jobcentre Plus Direct—Jobseeker Direct	572	608	604	579	634	678	730	709	674	696	682	641
Jobcentre Plus Direct—First Contact	1,293	1,316	1,402	1,438	1,465	1,364	1,482	1,495	1,513	1,519	1,602	1,747

	2005-06											
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Child Support Agency												
CSA National Helpline	362	360	351	350	339	332	334	369	364	389	450	454
Disability Carers Service												
Benefit Inquiry Line	55	53	52	50	51	58	57	60	60	60	64	70
Disability Living Allowance/ Attendance	351	351	355	354	343	329	347	340	334	327	321	316
Jobcentre Plus												
Jobcentre Plus Direct—Jobseeker Direct	887	830	812	850	875	879	810	690	669	625	582	527
Jobcentre Plus Direct—First Contact	1,683	1,808	1,850	2,001	2,080	2,311	2,600	2,847	3,100	3,426	3,475	3,607

[1] Data not available until February 2004 because the Child Support Agency had no resourced helplines set up to deal with customer inquiries. Client calls were dealt with by caseworkers during this period.
[2] Data not available for DLA/AA Helpline until October 2001 as although collected, data has not been retained.
[3] The Directorate Performance team was set up in April 2004, and the team has no access to data prior to this.

Benefits Simplification Unit

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people work in the Benefits Simplification Unit, broken down by civil service grade; [73248]

(2) how many people have worked in the Benefits Simplification Unit in each year since it was introduced; [73249]

(3) what targets have been set for the Benefits Simplification Unit; [73250]

(4) when the Benefits Simplification Unit will report to Ministers; and whether this information will be made public. [73251]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Benefits Simplification Unit was set up in December 2005. When fully staffed, the unit will have five full-time staff (one SEO and four HEOs) with additional input from a senior civil servant (Grade 5) and a Grade 7.

The unit's role is to act as a catalyst in driving forward simplification across the benefits system, and as a first step published "Simplification: Guide to Best Practice" on 4 May 2006. Copies have been placed in the Library. The unit is now working to raise awareness of the simplification agenda across DWP and to embed best practice, so that the need to move towards a simpler, more transparent system is at the heart of future benefit design and delivery.

The unit reports regularly to Ministers and progress will be reported on annually in the departmental report.

Child Support Agency

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date the Child Support Agency will bring the case of Ms L. Leech of Great Northern Road, Dunstable, to court. [71923]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, on what date the Child Support Agency will bring the case of Ms L. Leech of Great Northern Road Dunstable to court.

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Departmental Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what facility is available for senior civil servants in his Department to use credit cards supplied by the Department. [72866]

Mrs. McGuire: A facility is available to my senior civil servants and some other specified staff to use a credit card acquired by the Department from one of the major UK banks. The cards are issued to named individuals, they are not transferable and are not interchangeable between cardholders or other colleagues.

The cards are authorised for use to cover immediate expenses when time prevents the purchase of travel and other similar services, for official purposes, through the Department's normal purchasing arrangements.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of staff reductions in his Department and its agencies on performance in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [35707]

Mrs. McGuire: The departmental report, published in June 2005, set out an initial assessment of the progress made against the efficiency challenge and delivery of the Department's SR2004 public service agreement targets. The autumn performance report, published on 15 December 2005, provided an update on delivery of these public service agreement targets, in the context of the efficiency agenda. Copies are available in the Library.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff are employed by his Department in each departmental region; and how many staff he expects to be employed by his Department in each such region in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [68752]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on the number of staff employed by the Department for Work and Pensions as at 31 March 2006 by each Government office region is set out in the following table.

Data on the total number of staff expected to be employed in the Department at 31 March 2007 and 31 March 2008 are not available by Government office region as detailed plans are currently being developed.

Number

Government office region/country	*Actual staff*	*Planned staff 2007*	*Planned staff 2008*
East Midlands	5,700	—	—
East of England	5,537	—	—
London	11,687	—	—
North East	12,304	—	—
North West	23,341	—	—
Scotland	12,718	—	—
South East	7,229	—	—
South West	7,438	—	—
Wales	6,630	—	—
West Midlands	9,818	—	—
Yorkshire and the Humber	12,366	—	—
Departmental total	114,767	109,950	101,900

Notes:
1. Figures are point in time at dates stated and comply with Office for National Statistics definitions.
2. Figures are FTE and include temporary staff.
3. Planned figures are rounded to nearest 50 FTE and are subject to change.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the reporting of the effectiveness of his Department's spending on staff learning and development. [72253]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has introduced an effective learning and development evaluation strategy across all business areas. Our strategy and processes are linked to maintaining the Investors in People accreditation. Each business area has identified its priorities for learning investment and these are formally evaluated to measure the efficiency of the learning that has taken place. All departmental expenditure on learning and development is collated centrally and is reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Jobcentres (Race Relations)

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance has been given to jobcentres, including Jobcentre Plus Partnerships, on the restricting of references to a geographical area to meet the requirements of race relations legislation. [64824]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what guidance has been given to jobcentres including Jobcentre Plus Partnerships on the restricting of references to a geographical area to meet the requirements of race relations legislation. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus guidance states that employers are permitted to set out requirements in job advertisements, such as the arrangement of transport from an allocated location to take employees to and from a place of work. Where an employer

wishes to state that potential applicants must reside in a particular town or city this cannot be accepted, as it may exclude some groups of people.

Jobcentre Plus must ensure that it meets its obligations under equal opportunities legislation. Where Jobcentre Plus staff have concerns that an employer is placing restrictions that may exclude potential applicants, they advise the employer of this and suggest alternative wording.

Overnight Stays

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions *(a)* civil servants in his Department and *(b)* special advisers have stayed overnight in (i) five star, (ii) four star and (iii) three star hotels in each of the last three years. [68989]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions cannot provide the information on the star rating of accommodation used by civil servants and special advisers as it is the cost of the hotel and not the star rating which will have influenced the choice of the hotel.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in each of the last three years. [68990]

Mrs. McGuire: Total costs for overnight accommodation are as follows:

£

Financial year	*UK accommodation costs*	*Foreign accommodation costs*
2003-04	12,143,283.41	97,567.64
2004-05	11,110,131.31	119,239.39
2005-06	10,762,515.58	141,214.36

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide information relating to specific countries of travel as this is not collected by the supplier. The totals given in the table include all travellers within DWP including special advisers. Unfortunately, we are unable to identify separate costs relating to individual groups of travellers.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discounts are available in relation to hotel accommodation used by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department. [68991]

Mrs. McGuire: All staff within the Department for Work and Pensions currently benefit from a 5.45 per cent. discount for hotel bookings when made through the Department's hotel accommodation supplier in relation to official business. All bookings made for special advisers share the same discounts.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions Ministers of State in his Department stayed overnight in *(a)* five star, *(b)* four star and *(c)* three star hotels on foreign visits in each of the last three years. [68998]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested could be supplied only at disproportionate cost. Under the terms of the Ministerial Code on Travel by Ministers, when travelling on official business Ministers are expected to make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Since 1999, the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. This information includes accommodation costs. Copies are available in the Library.

Parental Support

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the potential cost savings which would result from reducing the level of income support for women aged over 25 years pregnant with their first child to the level of income support for pregnant women with their first child aged 18 to 24 years. [75430]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information needed to make such an estimate is not available.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to retain the Post Office card account beyond 2010 as an option for those who wish to continue using it; and if he will make a statement. [63316]

Mr. Plaskitt: No.

The Post Office card account will be funded by the Government until 2010 as always planned. Every customer who currently collects their benefits from the Post Office will still be able to do so if they wish—around 25 different bank accounts can be accessed at Post Office branches now, and we hope that there could be more in the future.

We are working with Post Office Ltd. to develop a joint strategy to move customers from the Post Office card account with the best interests of our joint customers in mind. Post Office Ltd. has already introduced one new savings account, and is developing other savings and banking products, which are likely to be more attractive to many of their customers than the current Post Office card account.

TREASURY

Birth Rates

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the latest birth rate per 1,000 women was to those aged *(a)* 19, *(b)* 18, *(c)* 17, *(d)* 16, *(e)* 15, *(f)* 14 and *(g)* under 14 years in the UK; and what forecast he has made for each of the next 20 years. [75628]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 June 2006:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about the latest birth rate per 1,000 women to those aged (a) 19, (b) 18, (c) 17, (d) 16, (e) 15, (f) 14 and (g) under 14 years in the UK; and what forecast has been made for each of the next 20 years. (75628)

Birth rates by age for females aged under 20 are shown in Table 1. Figures relate to births that occurred in 2005. The birth rates are provisional, as they are calculated using the 2004-based population projections for 2005.

Because of the relatively small numbers of births to girls aged 14 and under, ONS only routinely reports birth rates for the age-group '15 and under'. In 2005, there were 1,092 births to girls aged 15, 210 births to girls aged 14, and 26 births to girls aged under 14.

Table 1: Births per 1,000 females at each single year of age below age 20,[1] United Kingdom, 2005

Age	*Births per 1,000 females*
19	52.7
18	39.2
17	25.3
16	10.4
15 and under	3.5

[1] Provisional

Assumptions about future birth rates are made as part of the national population projections. Birth rate assumptions for females are shown in Table 2, by single year of age for those aged 16 to 19 and for those aged 15 and under. Figures are for each year, from mid-2004 to mid-2005 (the first year of the projection), and for the next 20 years.

Table 2: Assumed mid-year to mid-year birth rates per 1,000 females at each age under 20, United Kingdom, 2004-05 to 2026-27

	Age				
	19	*18*	*17*	*16*	*15 and under*
2004-05	53.0	41.2	25.7	10.6	3.6
2005-06	52.7	40.3	24.2	10.3	3.4
2006-07	51.6	39.3	22.9	10.1	3.3
2007-08	51.0	38.9	22.3	9.9	3.3
2008-09	50.9	38.7	22.0	9.9	3.2
2009-10	50.9	38.7	21.9	9.9	3.2
2010-11	50.8	38.7	21.9	9.8	3.2
2011-12	50.8	38.7	21.9	9.8	3.2
2012-13	50.8	38.7	21.8	9.8	3.2
2013-14	50.8	38.6	21.8	9.8	3.2
2014-15	50.8	38.6	21.8	9.8	3.2
2015-16	50.8	38.6	21.8	9.8	3.2
2016-17	50.8	38.6	21.8	9.8	3.2
2017-18	50.7	38.6	21.8	9.8	3.2
2018-19	50.7	38.6	21.8	9.8	3.2
2019-20	50.8	38.6	21.8	9.8	3.2
2020-21	50.8	38.6	21.7	9.8	3.2
2021-22	50.8	38.6	21.7	9.8	3.2
2022-23	50.8	38.6	21.7	9.8	3.2
2023-24	50.8	38.6	21.7	9.8	3.2
2024-25	50.8	38.6	21.7	9.8	3.2
2025-26	50.8	38.6	21.7	9.8	3.2
2026-27	50.8	38.6	21.7	9.8	3.2

Census

Ms Abbott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if his Department will include a question identifying sexuality in the next census. [75967]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell dated 12 June 2006:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking if the Office for National Statistics will include a question identifying sexuality in the next Census. (75967)

There are concerns about the quality and usefulness of the data that can be collected with a self-completion questionnaire such as is used in the Census. ONS recognise the strong user demand for information on sexual orientation and the need for information to be collected however.

Confirmation of the questions that are to be included in the 2011 Census will follow the consultation and testing programme, and formal approval is given by Parliament in 2010. A White Paper setting out the Government's proposals is scheduled to be published in autumn 2008.

Constituency Visits

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the constituencies he visited between 5 May 2005 and 5 May 2006. [75699]

Mr. Gordon Brown: As part of my official duties, I have made a number of visits to the regions and nations of the United Kingdom and will be continuing to do so over the coming months.

Crack Cocaine Deaths

Mark Tami: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths resulted from the use of crack cocaine in each of the last five years, broken down by age. [75565]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 June 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths resulted from the use of crack cocaine in each of the last five years, broken down by age. (75565)

Available figures relate to deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning, not the total number where use of crack cocaine was a contributory factor. ONS routinely carries out special monitoring of deaths from drug-related poisoning and publishes a combined figure for deaths mentioning cocaine on the death certificate. It is not possible to provide separate figures on deaths related to crack cocaine and cocaine from routine mortality data, as it is not possible to separately identify crack cocaine from other forms of cocaine at post mortem and other evidence to distinguish the form of cocaine taken is rarely provided at death certification.

The most recent year for which figures are available is 2004. The following table shows the number of deaths where the underlying cause of death was drug-related poisoning and cocaine was mentioned on the death certificate in England and Wales for the calendar years 2000 to 2004.

Number of deaths from drug-related poisoning[1] where cocaine was mentioned on group, England and Wales, 2000 to 2004[2]

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Under 20	2	4	4	2	3
20-29	27	38	55	48	53
30-39	34	28	63	44	64
40-49	15	15	14	14	22
50-69	2	11	3	4	5
70 and over	0	0	0	1	0

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 292, 304, 305.2-305.9, E850-E858, E950.0-E950.5, E962.0 and E980.0-E980.5 for the year 2000, and the Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y14from 2001 onwards.
[2] Data are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Family Statistics

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families there were in each region in England and Wales with *(a)* one child, *(b)* two children, *(c)* three children, *(d)* four children, *(e)* five children, *(f)* six to eight children, *(g)* eight to 10 children and *(h)* more than 10 children in each year since 1997. [75627]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 June 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request for how many families there were in each region in England and Wales with (a) one child, (b) two children, (c) three children, (d) four children, (e) five children, (f) six to eight children, (g) eight to 10 children and (h) more than 10 children in each year since 1997. (75627)

Reliable estimates of larger families at regional level are only available from the census. The attached table shows the number of families in the 2001 Census by number of dependent children (this excludes children aged over 18 and those who are aged 16-18 who were married or were not in full-time education). As there were few families with more than 10 dependent children (59 in all of England and Wales) these figures cannot be released by region for reasons of confidentiality.

Families with dependent children: by number of dependent children and region: England and Wales, 2001

	Families with the following number of dependent children:							
Region	*One*	*Two*	*Three*	*Four*	*Five*	*Six or seven*	*Eight or more*	*All families with dependent children*
North East	147,154	122,378	36,188	8,854	1,961	578	85	317,198
North West	375,465	329,321	111,323	29,764	6,699	2,369	260	855,201
Yorkshire and the Humber	266,156	244,522	78,401	21,324	5,123	1,707	181	617,414
East Midlands	216,851	209,169	66,527	15,860	3,117	1,023	76	512,623
West Midlands	283,861	256,546	87,715	25,452	5,727	2,107	220	661,628
East	263,605	272,585	90,248	21,298	4,012	1,250	99	653,097
London	380,469	319,336	122,287	35,432	7,897	2,932	450	868,803
South East	387,922	398.913	131,558	131,772	5,789	1,749	138	957,841
South West	233,842	235,969	75,430	18,528	3,374	989	85	568,217
Wales/Cymru	159,913	141,835	47,786	12,059	2,355	675	54	364,677
England and Wales	2,715,238	2,530,574	847,463	22,0343	46,054	15,379	1,648	6,376,699

Notes:
1. A family consists of a couple (married or cohabiting) with or without children, or a lone-parent and their children.
2. A dependent child is a person in a household aged 0 to 15 (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16 to 18 who is not married and is a full-time student in a family with parent(s).
Source:
Census, April 2001, Office for National Statistics

Foreign Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on foreign travel by his Department in each of the last eight years. [76067]

John Healey: I refer to the answer I gave on 15 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2272W to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess). In 2005-06, the cost of foreign travel, including subsistence, for the Treasury was £1,741,000. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the "Ministerial Code", the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers".

HMRC Staff

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs officers are employed *(a)* at ports and airports and *(b)* elsewhere. [75677]

Dawn Primarolo: At 1 April 2006, the number of full-time equivalent HM Revenue and Customs staff officially based within dock or airport areas was approximately 4,090 and 88,798 were officially based elsewhere. Most staff who are employed at ports and airports are part of the detection directorate. Some 4,500 of them are employed on frontline operational duties at ports and airports, although many of them will not be based at those locations. Other HM

Revenue and Customs staff will also attend airports and ports as part of their official duties.

Home Insulation (Pensioners)

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his pre-Budget statement of 5 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 613W, by what means pensioners not in receipt of pension credit can gain access to financial assistance with the costs of home insulation; how much he has allocated to this scheme; who is responsible for administering the scheme; how many pensioners have so far taken up this entitlement; and if he will make a statement. [69612]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

In the pre-Budget announcement of 5 December 2005, the Chancellor announced a significant financial boost to help tackle the issue of fuel poverty in the UK. As part of this announcement, the Chancellor pledged £300 towards the cost of a new central heating system for any pensioner household not eligible for Warm Front assistance. Detailed arrangements for the delivery of this element of the Scheme, which will be delivered by the Warm Front Scheme Manager Eaga Partnership, are being finalised ready for implementation this summer.

While these payments will only support the provision of central heating, a range of assistance is also available for homeowners wishing to insulate their homes. Information is available from Energy Efficiency Advice Centres or via the Energy Saving Trust Website at: http://www.est.org.uk/

Household Incomes

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average gross disposable household income was in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each region and county in each year since 2001. [75485]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 June 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) for the UK and each region and county in each year since 2001. (75485)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produce estimates for GDHI in Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) regions. Estimates are not produced separately at the county level. GDHI figures up to and including 2004 (the latest year for which estimates are available) were published in May 2006. Estimates for UK and NUTS1, 2 and 3 GDHI can be accessed in table 3.1 through the following link: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/Results_Tables_Values.xls

Housing Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the percentage of disposable income spent on housing by each income decile for each year from 1995 to 2005; and if he will make a statement. [75913]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 June 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the latest estimate is of the percentage of disposable income spent on housing by each income decile, for each year from 1995 to 2005. (75913)

Estimates of expenditure on housing are based on the Expenditure and Food Survey (EPS), an annual sample survey of approximately 6,000 to 7,000 households in the UK. Family Spending, the annual report on the EPS, recently introduced a more comprehensive treatment of housing expenditure, and for this reason comparable figures are only available from 2002/03 onwards.

The table below shows the percentage of disposable household income spent on housing for each gross income decile group since 2002/03. All housing expenditure is included: rent; mortgage payments; costs associated with second dwellings; charges such as council tax and water charges; costs associated with moving house; maintenance and repair; alterations and improvements; and household insurance.

Housing expenditure as a proportion of disposable income is highest for households in the bottom decile. The bottom decile in particular does contain some households whose total expenditure including that on housing, greatly exceeds their income. Some of these households have, or report, very little income (for example, self-employed people starting a business or someone who has just been made redundant). These households may finance their expenditure by drawing on their savings, borrowing, or other kinds of receipts which are not treated as regular income in the EPS e.g. inheritance and severance payments.

A more detailed breakdown of housing expenditure by income decile is available in Table 2.3 on page 14 of Family Spending 2004/05, albeit expressed as average weekly household expenditures, rather than as proportions of disposable income. Family Spending is available on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=961&Pos=14&ColRank=1&Rank=272.

Percentage of disposable income spent on housing[1] by income decile[2], 2002-03—2004-05

	Decile groups of all households ranked by gross income										
	Bottom	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*	*All households*
2002-03	30	24	22	25	24	24	22	23	22	22	23
2003-04	34	26	25	27	26	28	26	25	23	23	25
2004-05	32	25	27	28	26	31	27	27	25	23	26

[1] Includes: rent; mortgage payments; costs associated with second dwellings; charges such as council tax and water charges; costs associated with moving house; maintenance and repair; alterations and improvements; and household insurance.
[2] Households are ranked by unadjusted gross income.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on how many occasions since 1 June 2005 he met the General Secretary of *(a)* the Trades Union Congress, *(b)* UNISON, *(c)* the GMB, *(d)* Amicus and (e) the Transport and General Workers Union; [76313]

(2) how many times he has met *(a)* the Head of the Sustainable Development Commission, *(b)* the Government Chief Scientist, *(c)* the Executive Director of Friends of the Earth, *(d)* the Chief Executive of the World Wildlife Fund (UK) and *(e)* the Executive Director of Greenpeace in the last 12 months; [76814]

(3) how many times he has met *(a)* the Chairman of the British Medical Association, *(b)* the General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, *(c)* the Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation and *(d)* the Chief Executive of the King's Fund in the last 12 months; [76815]

(4) how many times he has met the *(a)* Metropolitan Police Commissioner, *(b)* Director-General of the Serious Organised Crime Agency, *(c)* Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police for Specialist Operations, *(d)* Director General of the Security Service (MI5), *(e)* Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6), *(f)* Chief of the Defence Staff, *(g)* First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, *(h)* Chief of the General Staff and *(i)* Chief of the Air Staff in the last 12 months. [76816]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Missing Trader Fraud

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of missing trader fraud for each quarter since 1997 *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* cost adjusted for inflation. [75931]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC's latest annual estimates of total MTIC fraud were published in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses-2005", which is available from the House of Commons Library. A quarterly breakdown of these estimates is shown in Table 1, along with the corresponding constant price time series based on 1999 Q1 prices.

Measuring the size of MTIC fraud is inherently difficult. Therefore, the figures are presented as a range.

Due to lags in data becoming available, the annual estimate for 2005-06 cannot be published until PBR 2006. The associated quarterly figures will not be available until this time as their release could compromise the pre-announced publication.

Table 1: Quarterly estimates of MTIC fraud at current prices and constant prices (1999 Q1 base)[1]

£ billion

		Current price		Constant prices	
		Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit
1998	Q4	0.52	0.24	0.52	0.24
1999	Q1	0.52	0.21	0.52	0.21
	Q2	0.59	0.23	0.58	0.23
	Q3	0.55	0.26	0.54	0.26
	Q4	0.58	0.29	0.57	0.28
2000	Q1	0.87	0.38	0.85	0.37
	Q2	0.82	0.28	0.79	0.27
	Q3	0.73	0.34	0.70	0.33
	Q4	0.61	0.33	0.58	0.31
2001	Q1	0.63	0.36	0.60	0.34
	Q2	0.58	0.35	0.55	0.33
	Q3	0.69	0.40	0.65	0.38
	Q4	0.77	0.45	0.73	0.42
2002	Q1	0.82	0.54	0.77	0.51
	Q2	0.81	0.57	0.75	0.53
	Q3	0.74	0.35	0.69	0.32
	Q4	0.55	0.31	0.51	0.28
2003	Q1	0.56	0.31	0.51	0.28
	Q2	0.51	0.27	0.46	0.24
	Q3	0.40	0.22	0.36	0.20
	Q4	0.56	0.28	0.50	0.25
2004	Q1	0.52	0.27	0.46	0.24
	Q2	0.54	0.27	0.47	0.24
	Q3	0.55	0.29	0.48	0.25
	Q4	0.63	0.29	0.55	0.25
2005	Q1	0.58	0.29	0.50	0.25

[1] The complexities of the methodology used to estimate MTIC fraud are such that there will be minor discrepancies between these quarterly figures and the published annual estimates.

Pensions

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the detailed assumptions underlying the estimate of future expenditure on public service pension benefits set out in table 5.1 of the long-term public finance report of December 2005. [44830]

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions underlay the estimate of future expenditure on public service pension benefits contained in table 5.1 of the long-term public finance report of December 2005. [54516]

Mr. Timms: The projections of payments by unfunded public service pension schemes published in the long-term public finance report were based on work done for the Treasury by the Government

Actuary's Department, using assumptions which so far as possible are in key respects consistent with those used in other work on valuation of scheme liabilities. I am placing a technical note explaining the key actuarial assumptions to which the results are materially sensitive, in the House of Commons Library.

The pension projections are, of course, also sensitive to the key economic assumptions made by the Treasury underlying the long-term public finance report and these are explained in the report itself.

Planning Gain Supplement

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department plans to exempt developers of affordable housing from the Planning Gain Supplement. [76666]

John Healey: The Government's consultation on the proposed Planning Gain Supplement (PGS) ended on 27 February 2006. In Chapter 4 of the document, the Government specifically consulted on the scope, including, exemptions. The Government are now analysing responses received, and will make further announcements by the end of the year.

Population Statistics

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the population was of *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* England and Wales in each year between 1995 and 2005. [75411]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 June 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about what the population was of (a) Milton Keynes and (b) England and Wales in each year between 1995 and 2005. (75411)

The data for mid-1995 to mid-2004 are shown in the attached table. Data for mid-2005 are not yet available; population estimates for mid-2005 will be published on 24 August 2006.

Mid-year population estimates from 1995 to 2004 for England and Wales and Milton Keynes

	England and Wales	*Thousand* *Milton Keynes*
1995	51,272.0	192.4
1996	51,410.4	196.6
1997	51,559.6	199.7
1998	51,720.1	202.9
1999	51,933.5	206.7
2000	52,140.2	209.8
2001	52,360.0	212.7
2002	52,570.2	214.1
2003	52,793.7	215.7
2004	53,045.6	216.7

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* single parent households with children under the age of 16 years and *(b)* single-person households there were in Houghton and Washington, East constituency in each of the last 15 years; and what estimate he has made of the number of cohabiting couples living in Houghton and Washington, East constituency in each of the last 15 years. [76332]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 June 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for the following figures for the Houghton and Washington East Constituency in each of the last 15 years: the number of single parent households with children under the age of 16 years, the number of single-person households and the number of cohabiting couples. (76332)

Estimates of these figures are not produced on an annual basis for local areas. Available figures are from the censuses of 1991 and 2001. These are shown in the table below.

Numbers of (1) lone parent households with dependent children aged under 16, (2) one person households and (3) cohabiting couples in households: Houghton and Washington East, 1991 and 2001

	1991	*2001*
1. Lone-parent households with dependent children aged under 16	1,734	2,574
2. One-person households	8,193	10,025
3. Cohabiting couple households	[1]782	3,347

[1] In 1991 responses to relationship questions were only processed for approximately 10% of the population. The figure in this table has been grossed up by a factor of 10.16 to account for this.

Sources:
1. 1991 Census Local Base Statistics Table 32 & 2001 Census data.
2. Table F in the Census 1991 New Parliamentary Constituency Monitor North East & Table KS20 in the Census 2001 Report for Parliamentary Constituencies.
3. 1991 & Table KS03 in the Census 2001 Report for Parliamentary Constituencies.

Private Medical Schemes

Peter Viggers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent changes have been made to the taxation of payments by companies to former employees in respect of private medical schemes; what the estimated tax yield is resulting from these changes; and what estimate has been made of the additional burden of extra taxation on individual taxpayers as a result of the changes. [76374]

Ed Balls: From 6 April 2006, legislation, introduced in the Finance Act 2004 as part of pension simplification, made changes to the taxation of retirement benefits that are provided by employer financed retirement benefit schemes (EFRBS). An arrangement under which an employer pays private medical insurance premiums for a former employee after they have retired qualifies as an EFRBS.

The changes ensure that both cash and non-cash retirement benefits paid from EFRBS to pensioners are taxable as employment income. Before 6 April 2006, it was possible to avoid paying tax on such retirement benefits by paying them solely in non-cash form.

A Regulatory Impact Assessment ("Regulatory Impact Assessment for Simplifying the taxation of pensions—Update") was published on 22 March 2006. This sets out the Government's assessment of the impact of pension simplification and is available at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/ria-pensions-simplification.pdf. The Government estimate that pensions tax simplification will have an overall cost to the Exchequer building up to £250 million per year.

Tax Credits

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what procedures his Department has in place to adjust the level of tax credits payable to recipients who are required to repay overpayments; [75517]

(2) whether a family repaying over-paid tax credits can have their 2006 tax credits withheld to contribute to repayment of earlier over-payments; [76877]

(3) what measures are in place to ensure that families repaying over-paid tax credits do not experience hardship; and whether repayments are adapted for individual circumstances. [76879]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Custom's Code of Practice 26 "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?" explains how overpayments are recovered and what happens if claimants have difficulty repaying an overpayment.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his latest estimate is of the tax credit take-up rates for each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement; [75785]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the number of people entitled to but not receiving all forms of tax credits. [75825]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of take-up rates for child and working tax credits in 2003-04 are given on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm. Tax credit take-up rates reached an unprecedented level in their first year of operation. Some 79 per cent. of eligible families with children claimed child tax credit in 2003-04, while for those earning under £10,000 a year, take-up was 93 per cent. Take-up for low income working families with children is higher than for any previous system of in-work support.

Teenage Pregnancies

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many girls under the age of 16 years *(a)* became pregnant and *(b)* gave birth in the Lewes constituency in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age. [76280]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mogul, dated 12 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many girls under the age of 16 years (a) became pregnant and (b) gave birth in the Lewes constituency in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age. I am replying in her absence. (76280)

Numbers of conceptions and livebirths in Lewes county district for the years 1995-2004 are shown in the table below. Figures for 2004 are provisional.

Information on conceptions is routinely published for local authorities and strategic health authorities. Figures cannot be provided by Parliamentary Constituency because of the risk of disclosing individual's information due to small differences with local authority boundaries.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not publish figures by single year of age below the age of 16 by either local or health authority and also does not release figures for individual years because of the risk of disclosing individual's information.

The total number of births to girls aged under 16 in each year is too small to be released because of the risk of disclosing individual's information. Therefore total number of births in the 10 year period (1995-2004) is given in the table. Figures cannot be broken down by single year of age, for the same reason.

Birth figures cannot be provided for Lewes Parliamentary Constituency for the same reason as provided for conceptions.

1995-2004[1]

Lewes CD	*Number*
Number of conceptions	93
Number of livebirths	17

[1] Conceptions for 2004 are provisional.

Thrombo-embolism Deaths

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many women died of thrombo-embolism in each year since 1990. [75623]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 June 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary Question asking how many women died of thrombo-embolism in each year since 1990. (75623)

It is not possible to tabulate mortality data that exactly fits the cause of death category requested. The Office for National Statistics routinely publishes mortality data by underlying cause of death, using the International Classification of Diseases, in Mortality Statistics: Cause, Series DH2 which can be found on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=618.

You should be able to find the conditions you are interested in from the tables in these volumes.

Clarification of the question stated that you were interested in 'pulmonary induced abortions.' The Confidential Inquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH) collects information on all maternal deaths (deaths during pregnancy or up to one year after pregnancy) in the UK and publishes these data every three years. In the period 2000-2002 there were five maternal deaths following termination of pregnancy notified to the inquiry. Further information can be accessed via the CEMACH website at: http://www.cemach.org.uk/publications.htm.

Travel Perks

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total annual revenue from taxation was from season tickets and travel passes provided by employers to their staff in each of the last five years. [76333]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not available.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

2012 Olympics

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how the cost over-runs of the 2012 Olympics will be funded; and if she will make a statement. [75837]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* We are keen to control costs and are continually pressing for value for money. Our response to any net increases in cost will be considered in the light of the cost review, taking into account the circumstances at the time and the 2003 Memorandum of Understanding with the Mayor.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in which constituencies the 2012 Roadshow is planned to stop. [75960]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The Department set out in a Press Notice of 9 May (available on the DCMS website www.culture.gov.uk) the list of towns and cities the 2012 Roadshow was intended to visit. Detailed plans for the Roadshow are currently being finalised and will be made public, but until these plans are finalised it is not possible to give a definitive list of the constituencies in which the Roadshow will stop.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport why the 2012 Roadshow is not planned to stop in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* Essex. [75961]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The 2012 Roadshow will visit every region of England, as well as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, spending at least a day in each, and schedules are being developed in partnership with regional and national representatives. Owing to time constraints it is simply not possible for the Roadshow to visit every county in the UK.

As part of the day in the east of England region, the Roadshow will visit Weald Country Park in Essex on 13 July, as set out in the Press Notice released by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the London Organising Committee (LOCOG) on 9 May. A stop at Weald Country Park, the venue for the mountain biking at the 2012 Games, has always been an integral part of plans for the Roadshow.

As part of the day in the south-east region, the Roadshow will visit Eton Dorney, a 2012 venue and Stoke Mandeville, the birthplace of the Paralympic movement, as well as Brighton and Milton Keynes.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 640W, on the 2012 Olympics, if she will break down by individual project the planned expenditure on *(a)* Olympic venues and infrastructure and *(b)* infrastructure works planned and budgeted as part of the general regeneration of the Lower Lea Valley. [75962]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The review of the cost of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games is still ongoing. Any revised estimates will be reported only when they have been agreed.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1792W, on the London Olympics, what inflation rates were applied to each element of the 2012 Olympics infrastructure budget. [75963]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The inflation rate applied to venue costs was 3.5 per cent. per annum from 2003-06 and 6.5 per cent. per annum from 2006 onwards. The inflation rate applied to other infrastructure costs was 5 per cent. per annum.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what additional funding will be available to meet the commitments to mass participation sport made during the 2012 Olympic bid. [75964]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* Funding will be available as part of the Government's overall drive to strengthen community sport and drive up participation levels in sport across the UK.

Over £1 billion is being invested in grassroots sport through Exchequer and Lottery funding over this spending review period. For example, the Government are committing £34.5 million over the next two years to the National Sports Foundation to fund a range of projects to benefit grassroots sport, and we will be encouraging the private sector to match this funding.

We are also putting more than £1.5 billion into transforming PE and school sport in the five years leading up to 2008, to encourage children and young people to be more active.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what provision has been made for planting during and leading up to the London Olympics to ensure the provision of sustainable green sites. [75676]

Mr. Caborn: The Government are committed to ensuring not only that we deliver the most successful games, but also that they are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. Sustainable landscaping and planting for the Olympic Park is an important issue, both in terms of hosting the games and for the longer term legacy.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), recently set up by my Department to deliver the venues and infrastructure for the games, has responsibility for the design and delivery of the Olympic Park, including its landscaping and planting, and recognises that the park will need extensive landscaping to create a sustainable redevelopment of the local environment. The ODA has recently employed park-wide designers to work on an overall design concept for the park, including landscaping and planting.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what costs were incurred by her Department in relation to the 2012 Olympic bid. [75829]

Tessa Jowell: The Department spent £9.3 million from a budget of £10 million on London 2012 Ltd., the company established to take forward the bid, and spent a further £4.6 million from its £5 million bid support budget on supporting the bid including feasibility studies and master planning.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps will be taken to improve hotel and tourist facilities outside London in the run-up to the 2012 Olympic Games. [75830]

Mr. Woodward: The consistent high quality of hotel and tourism facilities in the English regions, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland will be vital to the success of the tourism industry in making the most of the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, and of their legacy.

My Department, in partnership with VisitBritain and Visit London, will shortly be consulting on the DCMS Tourism 2012 Strategy. The tourism accommodation grading schemes across the UK will be prominent in that consultation, as will the quality of the wider destination welcome.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the potential benefits to non-London tourist centres of the 2012 Olympics. [75831]

Mr. Woodward: The economic benefits to the tourism sector of hosting the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games are projected at between £1.4 billion and £2 billion nationally. Although London's visitor economy will account for a significant proportion of that total, substantial benefits are expected across the country—not least because 50 per cent. of inbound tourists to London visit other parts of the UK during their stays.

My Department's forthcoming consultation on the DCMS Tourism 2012 Strategy will seek views on maximising the benefits of hosting the games for the English regions, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the percentage of hotel rooms planned to be available in London by the time of the 2012 Olympics which will be of an inspected standard. [76027]

Mr. Woodward: Consistent high quality in the standards of visitor accommodation in London and the rest of the country will be important to the success of the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, and to the tourism industry's making the most of their legacy. The percentage of hotel rooms in the capital which are currently subject to inspection under the grading schemes operated by VisitBritain and the Automobile Association is not available to my Department. However, it is generally accepted in the industry that the London percentage is significantly less than the average of 53 per cent. in membership of quality schemes across Great Britain.

My Department will shortly be consulting on the DCMS 2012 Tourism Strategy, in partnership with VisitBritain and Visit London. Product quality, in London and the rest of Britain, will be prominent in that consultation.

Act (Royal Assent)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list those *(a)* Acts and *(b)* parts of Acts which received Royal Assent between 1976 and 2006 and for which her Department has policy responsibility which remain in force. [68847]

Mr. Lammy: The list of relevant Acts for which the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport is responsible is as follows. The Acts listed are as amended. No separate references are given for purely amending legislation.

Theatres Trust Act 1976 (c. 27)
Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976 (c. 32)
Public Lending Right Act 1979 (c. 10)
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (c. 46)
National Heritage Act 1980 (c. 17)
Licensed Premises (Exclusion of Certain Persons) Act 1980 (c. 32)
Licensing (Alcohol Education and Research) Act 1981 (c. 28)
Horserace Betting Levy Act 1981 (c. 30)
National Heritage Act 1983 (c. 47)
Video Recordings Act 1984 (c. 39)
Films Act 1985 (c. 21)
Gaming (Bingo) Act 1985 (c. 35)
Museum of London Act 1986 (c. 8)
National Maritime Museum Act 1989 (c. 8)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (c. 9)
Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42)
Museums and Galleries Act 1992 (c. 44)
National Lottery etc Act 1993 (c. 39)
Olympic Symbol etc. (Protection) Act 1995 (c. 32)
Treasure Act 1996 (c. 24)
Broadcasting Act 1996 (c. 55)
National Heritage Act 1997 (c. 14)
Wireless Telegraphy Act 1998 (c. 6)
National Lottery Act 1998 (c. 22)
Royal Parks (Trading) Act 2000 (c. 13)
Television Licences (Disclosure of Information) Act 2000 (c. 15)
Office of Communications Act 2002 (c. 11)
National Heritage Act 2002 (c. 14)
Licensing Act 2003 (c. 17)
Communications Act 2003 (c. 21)
National Lottery (Funding of Endowments) Act 2003 (c. 23)
Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003 (c. 27)
Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 (c. 28)
Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004 (c. 25)
Gambling Act 2005 (c. 19)
London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006 (c. 12)

Advertising Standards

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to ensure that the Advertising Standards Authority fulfils its duty to ban advertisements containing *(a)* knives and *(b)* other weapons. [76174]

Mr. Woodward: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport supports the Advertising Standards Authority's role (ASA) as the independent regulator of advertising content. There is not a ban on the depiction of all knives and weapons in advertising, although the Advertising Codes require that advertisements are responsible and do not condone violence. All advertisments are considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the medium used, the product being advertised, the likely audience and whether a threat of violence is being depicted or condoned. The ASA will continue to take action against irresponsible advertisements.

Care Homes (TV Licences)

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will direct the Television Licensing Authority to exempt residents of short-stay respite care homes from the requirement for individual television licences. [76447]

Mr. Woodward: The BBC, as television licensing authority, is responsible for administering the licensing system and determining licensing requirements in individual cases. The Secretary of State has no power to direct the BBC, or its agent TV Licensing, on the licensing requirements in individual cases or classes of case.

As part of BBC Charter Review, the Government have looked carefully at the existing concessionary arrangements, with a special focus on the Accommodation for Residential Care scheme. As indicated in the White Paper published in March this year, the scheme gives rise to a number of apparent anomalies to which there is no simple solution. However, it helps a significant number of very vulnerable individuals. We therefore have no plans to amend the scheme.

Commonwealth Institute Building

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the future of the Commonwealth Institute Building. [75824]

Mr. Lammy: The Government recognise the importance of the Commonwealth Institute's work to support educational programmes to benefit young people in all 53 Commonwealth countries, and understand that the building is no longer appropriate for that work. It would be inappropriate for me to comment further on this matter while discussions are still to be concluded.

Croquet

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her policy is on promoting the sport of croquet; and if she will make a statement. [75753]

Mr. Caborn: Croquet is a sport recognised by Sport England, the Government's lead body on promoting grassroots sport, but it is not a priority or development sport that can seek direct funding through a "Whole Sport" plan. However, individual croquet clubs are eligible to apply for funding from Sport England's lottery community programmes, although no funding has been awarded since 1998.

Croquet continues to be promoted through its national governing body, the Croquet Association.

Digital Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment she has made of access to the digital signal in Coventry South. [75801]

Mr. Woodward: The vast majority of households in the West Midlands can receive digital TV services via digital satellite, terrestrial or cable. Digital terrestrial television (via an aerial) is available to 74 per cent. of households. Overall take-up of digital television in the West Midlands is 66 per cent.

After switchover, which takes place in the Central region in 2011, UK digital terrestrial television coverage will match the current analogue coverage of 98.5 per cent.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many homes in Northern Ireland *(a)* are unable and *(b)* she expects to be unable after analogue switch-off in 2012 to receive digital television services. [76530]

Mr. Woodward: The vast majority of households in Northern Ireland can receive digital TV services via digital satellite, terrestrial or cable. Currently, digital terrestrial television (via an aerial) is available to 58 per cent. of households. Overall take-up of digital television in Northern Ireland is 53 per cent..

After switchover, which takes place in the Northern Ireland region in 2012, UK digital terrestrial television coverage will match the current analogue coverage of 98.5 per cent.

School Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 859W, on school sports, how much has been awarded to *(a)* Sport England, *(b)* the Youth Sports Trust, *(c)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and *(d)* other partners charged with delivering the National School Sports Strategy over the three years 2003-04 to 2005-06; and if she will list the projects included. [75352]

Mr. Caborn: Over the three years 2003-05 to 2005-06, joint DCMS/DfES funding to deliver projects and programmes within the National School Sport Strategy has been awarded as follows:

Organisation	*Amount (£)*
(a) Sport England	35,934,600
Step into Sport	
Club Links	
Coaching project	
Competition Managers	
(b) Youth Sport Trust	20,797,130
SSP support	
Sports Colleges	
Gifted and Talented	
International Links	
Playing for Success	
Sporting Playgrounds	
Living for Sport	
National Council for School Sport Secondment	
Pedometers in schools	
Step into Sport	
Club Links	
(c) Qualifications and Curriculum Authority	1,338,000
PESS investigation	
(d) Other partners	26,918,690
CPD Consortium:	
(Association for Physical Education, Sports Coach UK, and Youth Sport Trust): Professional Development	18,200,000
Momenta:	
School Sport Partnership management contract	1,194,000
Panathlon:	
Panathlon Challenge	850,000
Amateur Swimming Association:	
Swimming Charter, Top Up	280,000
UK Sport:	
Coaching project	4,015,000
Sports Leaders UK (Previously British Sports Trust):	
Step into Sport	2,131,690
National Dance Teachers Association:	
Dance Links (Club Links)	80,000
Child Protection in Sport Unit:	
For Club Links related work	168,000

Sports Facilities (Shropshire)

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will congratulate Shrewsbury borough council on its new sports facility in Sundorne, Shrewsbury. [74760]

Mr. Caborn: I am delighted that the extra investment that the Government are making in community sports facilities and the Government's creation of new, community-focused bodies like the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery Fund have enabled the people of Shrewsbury to benefit from this impressive new Sports Village.

Survey Databases

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department keeps a database of people questioned in surveys. [76219]

Mr. Lammy: No database is kept by the Department of people questioned in surveys. Where data are kept, all cases are anonymised.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total cost of Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport will be in 2006-07. [76229]

Mr. Lammy: The estimated total cost of Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport in 2006-07 is £2.7 million.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much her Department spent on surveys in each year since 1997. [76231]

Mr. Lammy: Surveys have been defined as quantitative surveys of members of the public for which the Department has provided funding.

Using this definition and based on the information available at this time, the following table shows the amount spent by the Department on surveys in each year since 1997.

	Spent[1] (£)
1997-98	—
1998-99	30,000
1999-2000	30,000
2000-01	48,000
2001-02	145,000
2002-03	66,000
2003-04	30,000
2004-05	162,000
2005-06	1,528,000
2006-07[2]	2,740,000

[1] Rounded to the nearest £1,000.
[2] Includes estimated committed funds not yet spent.

Until the launch of Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport in 2005, several of our non-departmental public bodies commissioned their own surveys. Taking Part is a collaborative,

cross-sectoral survey which can replace the need for our partner bodies to undertake their own surveys. Therefore it is improving our understanding of cross-sectoral issues, it is a more authoritative source as the sample size can be increased compared to previous, sector-specific surveys and costs overall can be reduced.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department has shared information collected from Government-funded surveys with other organisations since 1997. [76232]

Mr. Lammy: Based on the information available at this time, findings from all quantitative surveys of the public have been released publicly, as part of either a statistical release or a press notice.

Television Audio Description

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department is taking to increase availability of access to television audio description among blind and partially-sighted people; and if she will increase the television audio description targets to 20 per cent. [75426]

Mr. Woodward: The Government are committed to extending access to broadcasting services for those who are blind and partially-sighted. In relation to digital switchover, special provision will be made to help registered blind viewers to receive audio description services. My Department is currently considering with the RNIB how we might provide help for households where one person is partially-sighted.

The Department has no plans to increase audio description targets at present. However, we shall want to take account of the results of Ofcom's current review of its statutory code on Television Access Services, in which it has proposed that it would be better to review the statutory target for audio description when it is clearer how many potential beneficiaries will use it.

Tourism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which 10 tourist attractions in *(a)* Essex, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* the Metropolitan Police area of London and City of London Police area attracted the largest number of visitors in each of the last two years for which figures are available. [75653]

Mr. Woodward: My Department does not maintain central records of visitors to tourist attractions. However, VisitBritain carries out periodical surveys of regional attractions as part of its work to support and promote tourism across Britain. Estimated visitor numbers for the 10 most popular attractions in these areas for 2003 and 2004 were as follows:

(a) Essex

	2003	2004
Weald Country Park	500,000	500,000
Colchester Zoo	541,628	469,928
Hadleigh Castle Country Park	200,000	200,000
Marsh Farm Country Park	146,992	147,346
High Woods Country Park	130,000	140,000
Audley End House	116,839	108,002
Dedham Art and Craft Centre	75,000	80,000
Chelmsford Museum	38,969	44,721
Audley End Miniature Railway	42,509	42,175
Great Motley Country Park and Discovery Centre	45,000	42,000

(b) Hertfordshire

	2003	2004
Stanborough Park	500,000	500,000
Knebworth House	195,425	543,822
Willows Farm Village	198,500	220,000
Paradise Wildlife Park	217,000	209,000
St. Albans Cathedral	247,600	200,000
Aldenham Country Park	152,000	186,000
Hatfield House	99,350	112,305
Zoological Museum	80,614	96,443
Verulamium Museum	79,146	78,988
Lee Valley Boat Centre	36,000	35,235

(c) Metropolitan Police area and the City of London

	2003	2004
National Gallery	4,360,461	4,959,946
British Museum	4,584,000	4,868,127
Tate Modern	3,895,746	4,441,225
British Airways London Eye	3,700,000	3,700,000
Natural History Museum	2,857,153	3,240,344
Science Museum	2,886,850	2,154,366
Victoria and Albert Museum	2,257,325	2,010,825
Tower of London	1,972,263	2,139,366
National Portrait Gallery	1,315,402	1,516,402
Kew Gardens	1,0616,91	1,063,384

Trooping the Colour

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the nations and territories whose flags will be displayed in Horse Guards Parade and the surrounding area for Trooping the Colour 2006. [76830]

Mr. Lammy: For Trooping the Colour the flags of the Commonwealth nations including the Union Flag are flown along Horse Guards Road. Union Flags are also flown along the Mall and outside Buckingham Palace around the Queen Victoria Memorial. The Union Flag is also flown on Horse Guards Building and on Government Buildings. White Ensigns are also flown from Admiralty Arch.

Flags flown along Horse Guards Road are as follows:

United Kingdom
Canada
Australia
New Zealand
South Africa
India

Pakistan
Sri Lanka
Ghana
Malaysia
Cyprus
Nigeria
Sierra Leone
Tanzania
Jamaica
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Kenya
Malawi
Malta
Zambia
The Gambia
Maldives
Singapore
Guyana
Botswana
Lesotho
Barbados
Mauritius
Swaziland
Nauru
Tonga
Samoa
Fiji
Bangladesh
The Bahamas
Grenada
Papua New Guinea
Seychelles
Soloman Islands
Tuvalu
Dominica
Saint Lucia
Kiribati
St. Vincent and Grenadines
Vanuatu
Belize
Antigua and Barbuda
St. Kitts and Nevis
Brunei
Namibia
Cameroon
Mozambique.

Victoria and Albert Museum

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had with HM Revenue and Customs on its decision to tax cafe and shop discounts for the Friends of the Victoria and Albert Museum as a benefit in kind; and if she will make a statement. [75896]

Mr. Lammy: I have had no discussions with HM Revenue and Customs on this issue. Changes to the benefits offered to the Friends of the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) were made by the Friends organisation itself in response to the findings of an internal tax review and on the advice of an independent tax expert. Under Gift Aid rules, which apply to all charities, the Friends of the V&A is not permitted to give benefits worth more than 25 per cent. of their subscription cost to each member. The Friends scheme has made some changes to the benefits that it offers to its members to ensure it remains within this threshold.

Whole Sport Plan

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much money has been allocated to the Whole Sport Plan; how much has been spent; and whether any money from within that budget is allocated to *(a)* the 2012 Olympics and *(b)* related purposes. [73619]

Mr. Caborn: Sport England's total Whole Sport Plan budget, which covers the four years 2005-09, is £165.7 million. This is split between 34 priority and development sports. A proportion of the budget is also currently used to fund a further 12 sports, albeit at lower levels than priority and development sports. This element of funding is currently under review.

Of the above, £158.5 million has been committed[1] so far.

There is no amount within the budget allocated specifically to 2012 Olympics or related purposes. However, Whole Sport Plan investment is a key part of Sport England's overall drive to strengthen grassroots and community sport as part of achieving a lasting 2012 legacy.

[1] Figures expressed as "committed" rather than "spent" are more stable and provide a truer expression of the amount of budget still available to be allocated.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

African Countries (Medical Sector)

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to build and strengthen the capacity of the medical sector within African countries, with particular reference to measures to retain health workers. [75674]

Hilary Benn: Strengthening health services in Africa is a DFID priority and we have contributed over £650 million to this since 2000. At Gleneagles in 2005, the UK pushed for a G8 commitment to strengthening African health systems and addressing the human resources for health crisis. Providing long-term predictable financing for expanding basic health services will be a priority for 2006 and beyond.

DFID is tackling both "push" and "pull" incentives for health worker migration. In the UK, DFID has worked closely with the Department of Health to prevent the targeting of developing countries in the international recruitment of health care professionals.

A list of countries has been agreed from which the NHS does not actively recruit—including all sub-Saharan African countries. In addition, the Department of Health has brokered a groundbreaking agreement for this code to apply to major players in the UK independent health care sector.

But health worker shortages go beyond migration and international recruitment. There is also migration within countries from rural to urban areas and between countries in Africa, and health professionals also move into non-health careers.

In Africa, DFID has responded to health worker shortages through our support for health systems development. This will help countries deal with the "push" factors within their health systems such as poor pay, housing, training and career progression, job satisfaction and availability of equipment and drugs. For example, in Malawi, where the shortage of health workers is particularly severe, we have provided £100 million support to the health sector of which £55 million is earmarked for the Emergency Human Resources Programme.

DFID is also continuing to work with the Department of Health to further develop the NHS Links programme and the Tropical Health Education Trust (THET) programme of support to health workers from less developed countries practising in the UK.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help African governments abolish healthcare fees; and what recent assessment he has made of whether the targets agreed at the G8 summit in 2005 will be met. [75685]

Mr. Thomas: DFID strongly supports the removal of official user fees for health, along with other barriers to the poor accessing health services, where governments choose to do so. For example, the UK has committed £14.5 million over five years to the Government of Zambia to support abolition of health user fees in public health facilities. In addition to our ongoing health sector reform programmes, we continue to look for opportunities to support similar policies to remove barriers to the poor accessing care.

DFID publishes a monthly update to the "Gleneagles Implementation Plan for Africa", which set out the milestones to be reached this year as a step towards delivery of the Gleneagles commitments. Copies of the updated plan are placed monthly in the Libraries of both Houses. DFID also published a detailed report in March this year on the "Implementation of the Commission for Africa recommendations and G8 Gleneagles' commitment on poverty". Both the Plan and the report can be accessed from DFID's website (www.dfid.gov.uk).

At an international level, there will be a statement at the G8 St Petersburg summit on 15-17 July 2006 on progress made in delivery of the Gleneagles' commitments on Africa.

At Gleneagles, the G8 agreed that the existing Africa Partnership Forum (APF) should be strengthened to monitor commitments made by Africa, the G8 and other development partners. An APF support unit is being established and is due to publish its first progress report in October 2006.

Biodiversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to him comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74399]

Mr. Thomas: Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, all public bodies have a duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in the exercising of their functions. There is no statutory obligation on Departments to monitor the extent to which public bodies comply with this duty. However, we understand that DEFRA is working with a wide range of partners to develop guidance for public bodies to support the implementation of this duty and will involve all relevant Departments in the development of guidance.

DFID has no public bodies which report to it which are likely to be affected by the Act.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which Minister in his Department is responsible for monitoring his Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if he will make a statement. [73941]

Mr. Thomas: Under Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Ministers and Government Departments have a duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity. This has been replaced by a similar provision under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act which comes into effect on the 1 October 2006. There is no statutory duty to monitor compliance with this duty. However, DFID is committed to the biodiversity targets set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development and has taken a number of measures to benefit biodiversity (this target only applies to our East Kilbride office). These include:

An audit of the site by the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)

Biodiversity Delivery and Action plans (available on our external website).

The action plan is based on recommendations by the SWT in their audit report.

Environmental clauses form part of the facilities management contract which includes grounds maintenance.

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his Department's press office. [74354]

Mr. Thomas: There are seven staff in DFID's Press Office. Information on staff ethnic origin is voluntary. We do hold information on the ethnicity of staff in the Private Office. However, there are fewer than five ethnic minority staff in the Press Office and where the figures are less than five, it is normal practice not to divulge the number of staff in a particular category on grounds of confidentiality.

Colombia

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department provides for civil society and non-governmental organisations in Colombia; and if he will make a statement. [73491]

Mr. Thomas: Through the Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF), DFID is supporting four international NGOs who are working with civil society and NGO partners in Colombia:

i. War on Want (£214,000 over three years) is working with the Central Union of Workers in Cali in the promotion of workers and human rights in the Southwest of Colombia. The aim is to increase trade union and social organisations' capacity to defend the human rights of their constituency and to improve the Colombian Government's willingness to implement signed human rights conventions.

ii. Concern International (£322,000 over three years) with its partner the Social Pastoral of the Archdiocese of Ibague are helping marginalised groups in the district of Tolima to demand and secure their constitutional rights, including access to clean water, adequate sanitation, health care and to education.

iii. Y Care International (£46,000 over three years) with Colombian Christian Youth Associations and Youth movements are working to equip 1,200 marginalised and disadvantaged young people in Colombia with the skills, confidence and knowledge to effectively participate in local, municipal and national policy-making; implement local development and advocacy initiatives that address the needs of the most vulnerable children, young people and victims of conflict; and promote cultural heritage through participation in dance, music, drama and arts performance groups.

iv. Opportunity International UK (£343,000 over three years) is working in the district of Narino, on the border with Ecuador, to support Internally Displaced Peoples own efforts towards achieving reintegration and self-sufficiency through income and employment generation, combining the efficient delivery of financial services with social interventions such as leadership development. This initiative will serve approximately 2,100 poor micro entrepreneurs in the district of Narino.

DFID is also providing an additional £7 million a year under Partnership Programme Agreements with six international NGOs for their work in Latin America and the Caribbean. These include CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam and WWF, whose work in Colombia with local partners will benefit from these additional funds.

Country Engagement Plans

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to publish its country engagement plans locally. [74835]

Mr. Thomas: Country and Regional Assistance Plans are public documents. Printed copies are actively distributed to stakeholders, both in the UK and in-country, and they are available to all on DFID's website at www.dfid.gov.uk

Plans are translated into local language for specific in-country distribution when appropriate. Recent examples of such plans include:

Country/region	*Language(s)*
Southern Africa	French and Portuguese
Rwanda	French and Kinya-rwandan
Central Asia and South Caucasus	Russian
Iraq	Arabic
China	Mandarin

Summary and 'Plain English' versions have also been produced. These include a summary version of the Regional Plan for Latin America and a version of the Assistance Plan for Palestinians, which was awarded a Crystal Mark for Plain English. DFID Nepal produced a standard plan for key decision-makers along with one in cartoon strip format for audiences not comfortable with the written word. Whilst in Nigeria, DFID used a weblog as part of its consultation process and promoted the final Country Assistance Plan through the media in-country.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in reducing the numbers of Congolese living in poverty. [74833]

Hilary Benn: Assessing progress against the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is very difficult owing to the lack to reliable data. The most recent social sector statistics data comes from a survey undertaken in 2001, which covered the third of the country under Government control at the time. DFID is supporting the Ministry of Plan's Demographic and Health Survey in 2006 to start addressing this lack of accurate data. The United Nation's Development Programme's human development report for 2005, based on the 2001 survey, reports most recent statistics on the MDGs in the DRC as follows:

	Years	*Percentage*	*Live Births*
Life expectancy	43	—	—
Children under 5 underweight for age	—	31	—
1 year olds immunised against measles	—	54	—
Births attended by skilled health personnel	—	61	—
Population undernourished	—	71	—
Percentage of population with access to improved water source	—	46	—
Percentage of population with access to improved sanitation	—	29	—
Infant mortality rate	—	—	129/1,000

	Years	Percentage	Live Births
Under 5 mortality rate	—	—	205/1,000
Maternal mortality rate	—	—	990/100,000
HIV infection rate	—	5.4	—
Net primary enrolment	—	54	—

[1] 29 per cent. in rural areas.

The situation has worsened for much of the population since 1990—as a result of civil war, large scale population displacement and the weakness of the state. It has been estimated that an additional 3.5 million people have died as a result of the war, either as direct victims of the conflict or from associated increased levels of disease and malnutrition.

DFID's engagement in the DRC has increased rapidly over recent years in recognition of the enormous humanitarian and development needs in the country. Having spent £5.6 million in 2001-02, we have £62 million available this financial year. Our current transition programme follows the following themes:

1. Security and the Rule of Law

Support for the disarmament, demobilisation and re-integration of ex-combatants through the Multi-Country Demobilisation and Re-integration Programme (MDRP), support to army integration, reform of the police and justice sector, and local level peacebuilding and dialogue initiatives through non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

2. Functioning State

This includes support for the transition institutions (such as the Parliament, Electoral Commission and High Media Authority), the establishment of a professional and impartial media sector, and preparation for elections. The UK is the largest bilateral donor to the electoral process in the DRC.

3. Reconstruction

Support for infrastructure within the Government's reconstruction plan, especially transport links; the development of a poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP); support to the social sectors (health, education and water) largely through NGOs; and the fight against HIV/AIDS through the Joint United Nations Programme for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and NGOs.

4. Natural Resources and Enhanced Revenue Generation

We have funded research by Global Witness into the current state of natural resources management in the DRC. We are supporting the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in the DRC and developing our plans for further support for effective and transparent natural resource extraction and the re-establishment of border control systems.

5. Humanitarian

Around half of our programme is spent on humanitarian interventions either through UN agencies or NGOs, to address the complex and chronic humanitarian emergency that has faced the people of the DRC since the war. Our funding is principally channelled to the UN's Action Plan for the DRC through its pooled donor funding mechanism.

Departmental Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from his Department in each of the last five years. [71770]

Mr. Thomas: Tables below detail the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from the Department for International Development (DFID) in each of the last five years. The figures do not include grants to NGO's.

Table 1: 2005-06	*£000*
Consultant	
HLSP Ltd	19,629
ATOS Consulting Limited	14,269
British Council (UK)	14,043
Adam Smith International Ltd.	13,695
HTSPE Limited	10,169
The Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations Ltd	9,974
Maxwell Stamp PLC	7,716
WSP International Ltd	7,629
Futures Group Europe Ltd	6,780
Population Services International	6,610

Table 2: 2004-05	*£000*
Consultant	
HLSP Ltd	16,152
British Council (UK)	14,388
Natural Resources International Ltd	13,092
ATOS Consulting Limited	12,075
The Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations Ltd	11,685
HTSPE Limited	11,612
Adam Smith International Ltd.	8,786
WSP International Ltd	8,321
PricewaterhouseCoopers	7,404
ActionAid	6,865

Table 3: 2003-04	*£000*
Consultant	
British Council (UK)	15,816
Natural Resources International Ltd	14,740
HLSP Ltd	14,200
HTSPE Limited	13,040
ATOS Consulting Limited	10,618
Adam Smith International Ltd.	9,345
WSP International Ltd	7,490
Charles Kendall and Partners Limited	7,280
ActionAid	6,207
PricewaterhouseCoopers	5,700

Table 4: 2002-03	*£000*
Consultant	
British Council (UK)	19,084
Natural Resources International Ltd	18,561
HTS Consultants	12,102
PricewaterhouseCoopers	8,671
Futures Group Europe Ltd	8,549
HLSP Ltd	8,003
Adam Smith International Ltd.	7,243
WSP International Ltd	6,770
ATOS Consulting Limited	6,511
Deloitte and Touche Emerging Markets	5,960

Table 5: 2001-02	£000
Consultant	
Natural Resources International Ltd	22,425
British Council (UK)	18,965
HTS Consultants	9,834
WSP International Ltd	7,826
PricewaterhouseCoopers	7,301
Adam Smith International Ltd.	7,017
The Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations Limited	6,953
Population Services International	4,994
HLSP Ltd	4,936
Cambridge Education Consultants	4,778

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75097]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not yet have individual staff performance ratings for 2005, as a new process and reporting year has recently been implemented. DFID figures for the three years prior to 2005 were as follows:

	Unsatisfactory performance	Percentage of total staff
2002	8	0.3
2003	23	1.0
2004	8	0.3

Ethiopia/Eritrea

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of the effectiveness of financial support given by his Department to Ethiopia. [75328]

Hilary Benn: The financial support given by the UK to Ethiopia is being used effectively to reduce poverty. Since 2000 we have seen real signs of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

There has been a significant improvement in access to education. The primary school enrolment rate has risen from 37 per cent. to 74 per cent. of school age children and the adult literacy rate has increased from 26 per cent. of the population aged 15 and above, to 38 per cent. between 2000 and 2004.

Health indicators are also improving. The percentage of children under five who are underweight fell from 47 per cent. to 38 per cent. between 2000 and 2005. The infant mortality rate fell from 95 to 77 per 1,000 live births and the under five mortality rate fell from 141 to 123 per 1,000 over the same period. Childhood immunisation rates have also improved. For example, between 1996 and 2004 the proportion of children immunised against measles increased from 39 per cent. to 59 per cent. The proportion of the population with access to safe water increased from 19 per cent. in 2000 to 36 per cent. in 2004.

The Productive Safety Nets Programme delivered cash and/or food to approximately 4.9 million targeted beneficiaries last year, and represents a major step in improving the livelihoods of the poorest people.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department takes into account the amount spent by the Ethiopian Government on arms when deciding levels of aid given to Ethiopia. [75347]

Hilary Benn: Decisions on DFID's aid allocations to Ethiopia take account of the level of poverty in the country, the likely effectiveness of aid in reducing poverty, and the amount of aid which Ethiopia receives from other donors.

The Ethiopian Government have reduced the proportion of their budget spent on defence from 10.4 per cent. in 1999-2000 to 2.9 per cent. in 2005-06. The Government have maintained their defence budget in constant cash terms in spite of rising aid flows.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what UK bilateral aid to *(a)* Ethiopia and *(b)* Eritrea has been in each of the last three years; and what the planned figure is for the next three years. [74601]

Hilary Benn: UK bilateral aid to Ethiopia, excluding debt relief, was £43,308,019 in 2003-04. In 2004-05 it was £62,363,567. Final figures for 2005-06 are not yet available but are expected to be of the same order as the 2004-05 figure. In addition, DFID funding via the EC is estimated at £10.3 million and £11.3 million for 2003 and 2004 respectively, the latest years for which there are published figures. The planned figure for 2006-07 is £90 million and for 2007-08 is £130 million. I have just announced a new £94 million Protection of Basic Services grant over the next two years for financing local services such as village clinics, primary schools and water points. The World Bank is also contributing $215 million (£118 million).

UK bilateral aid to Eritrea, excluding debt relief, was £2,368,613 in 2003-04. In 2004-05 it was £1,310,157. Final figures for 2005-06 are not yet available but are expected to be about double the 2004-05 figure. In addition, DFID funding via the EC is estimated at £1.7 million and £1.1 million for 2003 and 2004 respectively, the latest years for which there are published figures. The planned figure for 2006-07 is £3.8 million and for 2007-08 it is £4.8 million.

Budget figures beyond financial year 2007-08 are not yet available.

HIV/AIDS

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department is committing to the G8 summit goals relating to the provision of treatment for HIV/AIDS. [75675]

Mr. Thomas: The UK has committed itself to spending £1.5 billion between 2005-06 and 2007-08 to support activities to tackle the spread of HIV and AIDS. This will be used for activities which support the expansion of comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support with the aim of fulfilling the Gleneagles commitment to universal access by 2010. We are working with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), which is leading the global effort of other donors, multilateral agencies, civil society and the private sector to ensure that additional resources are committed to support our efforts to achieve universal access.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure the promotion of preventative strategies for HIV/AIDS. [75680]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is playing a substantial leadership role in AIDS, and a key part of this is promoting access to HIV prevention strategies as well as to AIDS treatment and care. For example, the UK used its European Union (EU) presidency to work with the European Commission and with member states to agree a common EU position on HIV prevention—the EU statement on HIV prevention for an AIDS-free generation. The EU statement advises on the importance of comprehensive, rights and evidence-based approaches to HIV prevention. This year the UK has worked hard to ensure that this advice is reflected in the outcome of the AIDS United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting and we continue to press for such recognition in other key fora, including the forthcoming G8 meetings.

DFID provides support so that national governments in poor countries can develop and implement the policies and strategies that are necessary to ensure that the people who need them have access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, information, services and supplies including those for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health.

The UK has committed £1.5 billion to AIDS work over the period 2005-2008.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what conditions are attached to the funding his Department gives to African countries for the treatment of HIV/AIDS to ensure that the funding is directed towards the appropriate agencies and treatments. [75681]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's policy on 'Partnerships for Poverty Reduction: Rethinking Conditionally' (launched in March 2005) is that we will not make aid conditional on specific policy decisions. However, we believe that an effective aid partnership should be based on a shared commitment to three objectives: reducing poverty and achieving the millennium development goals; respecting human rights and other international obligations; and strengthening financial management and accountability, to reduce the risk of funds being misused through weak administration or corruption. We will consider reducing or interrupting aid if partner Governments deviate significantly from any of these objectives.

In supporting HIV and AIDS programmes in Africa, DFID uses a range of different funding channels to help ensure that resources are directed towards appropriate agencies and treatments. In countries with sound poverty reduction plans and public financial management, we can put poverty reduction budget support directly into a Government's treasury. We can also earmark funding for specific Government sector budgets. And we also fund projects, especially when it is not possible to work through Government budgets. In all cases, DFID officials work closely with Governments and civil society to help ensure that policy and programme choices are appropriate. We also monitor the progress and impact of programmes that we fund and take lessons into account when making future decisions.

In addition, DFID is currently undertaking an assessment of mechanisms for channelling DFID funding to the point of care for orphans and children made vulnerable by HIV (OVCs).

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage the development of new generic versions of drugs for the treatment of HIV/AIDS. [75682]

Mr. Thomas: The United Kingdom (UK) is committed to increasing access to medicines in developing countries, including the development of new generic drugs for HIV/AIDS. To this end we are working with Governments, international organisations, pharmaceutical companies, academia and private foundations. There have been some important successes over the last few years such as the doubling of UK funding to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria to £100 million in 2006-07 and £100 million in 2007-08, resulting in long-term policy and financial signals to ensure a sustainable supply of key drugs. In addition, the UK has increased its direct funding for research to develop vaccines and medicines for diseases disproportionately affecting the poor, in particular through the financing of Product Development Partnerships (PDPs).

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's strategy is for ensuring that the Gleneagles G8 summit goals in relation to rapid expansion of treatment for HIV/AIDS are achieved; and if he will make a statement. [75684]

Mr. Thomas: The UK's strategy for tackling the HIV and AIDS epidemic in the developing world is set out in the Government's strategy 'Taking Action'. We have also worked closely with the Joint United Nations Programme for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), with other Governments and multilateral agencies and through the Global Steering Committee on Scaling Up Towards Universal Access (which DFID co-chaired with UNAIDS) to set out the priorities for action in order to achieve the Gleneagles commitment to achieve universal access to prevention, treatment and care by 2010. These priorities were reflected in the Political Declaration agreed at the United Nations General Assembly on AIDS (2 June 2006), which provides a political blueprint for achieving universal access.

The UK played an active role in negotiations. It set out commitments for countries to develop, by the end of 2006, ambitious national plans to scale up towards universal access by 2010 to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support, with interim targets for 2008; to provide $20-23 billion annually by 2010 for AIDS responses; to put in place comprehensive prevention strategies; to promote the rights and reduce the vulnerability of sex workers, men who have sex with men, children, women, adolescent girls and drug users; to intensify efforts to develop new technology especially microbicides and vaccines; to ensure that no credible, sustainable national plan goes unfunded; to reaffirm the importance of countries employing the flexibilities within Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement (TRIPS) to protect public health; and to strengthen countries' capacities to do so.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures his Department is taking to encourage the pharmaceutical industry to develop paediatric drugs for children with HIV in the developing world. [75686]

Mr. Thomas: The United Kingdom (UK) is committed to increasing access to medicines in developing countries, including the development of paediatric drugs for children with HIV. To this end, DFID is working with Governments, international organisations, pharmaceutical companies, academia and private foundations. For example, the launch of the UK Government policy document 'Increasing peoples access to medicines in developing countries: a framework for good practice in pharmaceutical industry' in March 2005, encourages pharmaceutical companies to reduce prices of existing formulations, develop new products, provide voluntary licences to others to develop paediatric formulations and produce fixed dose combinations.

More recently, the UK has agreed to support the French initiative on setting up an international drugs purchase facility (IDPF). We expect this to have a positive impact on stimulating the pharmaceutical industry to develop paediatric drugs.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the likelihood of the Gleneagles G8 summit target of ensuring universal access to HIV treatment being achieved by 2010. [75687]

Mr. Thomas: The United Nations General Assembly met from 31 May to 2 June to discuss progress on the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on AIDS, which sets out the international community's commitment to halt and reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS. The UN Secretary-General presented to this meeting an assessment of progress which underlines the challenge that we face in meeting the Gleneagles commitment to provide universal access to prevention, treatment and care by 2010. The Secretary- General's report shows that only 9 per cent. of HIV-infected pregnant women are currently on anti-retrovirals, and that only 20 per cent. of people with advanced HIV are on anti-retrovirals. While this shows the scale of outstanding need, it is noteworthy that since 2001 the number of Africans on treatment has risen eight-fold. A full copy of the report can be found on the Joint United Nations Programme for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) website at: http://daccessods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?Open&DS=A/60/736&Lang=E.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is supporting campaigns and projects to educate communities about human trafficking in *(a)* Moldova, *(b)* Albania and *(c)* China. [74997]

Mr. Thomas: In China, DFID is providing £3.075 million in support of an International Labour Organisation (ILO) project which helps to reduce the vulnerability of girls and young women to trafficking. The project covers activities in Anhui, Henan and Hunan provinces, from which girls and young women are trafficked, and in Guangdong and Jiangsu provinces which receive them. The project is being implemented over four years. It started in May 2004.

DFID is not supporting such campaigns or projects in Albania. Until 2000, DFID contributed to the funding of a centre in Vlora for trafficked women and girls returned to Albania. The centre aims to educate young women about the risk of becoming victims of trafficking. In 2003, DFID contributed to the purchase of equipment for a centre in Tirana, managed by the Institute of Migration (IoM), that seeks to give employment to returned female victims of trafficking.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is providing 238,000 through the IoM, to foster safe migration and prevent human trafficking. The project aims to build the capacity of the state infrastructure in Albania to provide information to potential migrants, vulnerable groups at risk of human trafficking, the media, government officials, non-government organisations (NGOs) and the general public. The project includes a national telephone hotline to provide information on legal migration, and enable members of the public to report people-trafficking to the authorities.

In 2005, the FCO provided £500,000 for work by the IoM with returned Albanian migrants, many of whom have been trafficked. By assisting their re-integration, the project aims to reduce the risk of repeat trafficking.

In Moldova, the IoM manages an extensive, nationwide programme on trafficking which has included a feature film, TV, radio and public service announcements, established Migration Information Centres, organised seminars for local authorities, and produced hotline promotional stickers and other information material distributed at Moldovan border crossings. In partnership with the Moldovan Migration Department, IoM launched in 2004 a website and mobile information centre that distributed information on legal migration and the dangers of trafficking. Other information and education activities on trafficking in Moldova are provided by the NGO La Strada, including seminars, educational materials, a resource centre and a hot line. La Strada has received support from the FCO.

DFID's bilateral programmes, and support to multilateral agencies, aim to reduce poverty and some of the root causes leading to human trafficking. This includes creating economic opportunities, promoting pro-poor sustainable growth, conflict resolution and improving governance and the institutional environment for poverty reduction.

Palestinian Territories

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of whether British aid is reaching humanitarian projects in the Palestinian Territories to ensure the *(a)* electricity, *(b)* water, *(c)* food, *(d)* health and *(e)* educational needs of the Palestinian people are met. [75581]

Hilary Benn: The UK Government are concerned to support the basic needs of the Palestinian people. Until the Hamas-led Government renounce violence, recognise Israel's right to exist and accept previous agreements and obligations we cannot provide aid to the Palestinian Cabinet or its ministries. However, there are other ways to help Palestinians directly and we are doing all that we can to assist.

Since the Hamas Government came to power, the largest component of our assistance has been a £15 million contribution through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). UNRWA provides health, education, housing, food and jobs to approximately 40 per cent. of Palestinians who are registered refugees. This aid is getting through to people who need it most.

In addition, DFID is working closely with the European Commission and others to develop a temporary international mechanism to provide direct assistance to the Palestinian people. This will include those who are not registered as refugees and therefore do not receive help through UNRWA. Our hope is that such a mechanism will be established as soon as possible.

Public Transport (Incentives)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what incentives are available to encourage members of his staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75096]

Mr. Thomas: DFID provides interest-free loans to staff for the purchase of travel season tickets. This is the only direct incentive we provide to staff, although we also publicise public transport alternatives, engage with local authorities on the provision of public transport around our East Kilbride office, and monitor and report on trends in our Green Transport Plans.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the World Food Programme support to Sudan; how much of that aid is funded; and which regions of the country *(a)* are and *(b)* will be receiving World Food Programme supplies. [76023]

Hilary Benn: The World Food Programme (WFP) emergency operation in Sudan, which I discussed with Jim Morris of the WFP on 8 June, is the largest in the world. The UK has provided £49 million to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) this year, of which the WFP has been the largest recipient. We are also supporting the WFP in the development of its five-year strategic plan for Sudan, and have provided the WFP with £5 million for road projects in the south.

Only 49.5 per cent. of the WFP's 2006 budget has been funded to date. As a result, the WFP was forced earlier in the year to halve food rations to Darfur temporarily, though ration levels elsewhere have been maintained. Recent additional support from two key food aid donors (the EU and the US), and a contribution of 20,000 tonnes of Sorghum from the Government of Sudan, have since enabled the WFP to increase the ration level in Darfur to 84 per cent. Reinstatement of full ration may be possible by October, though this is still not certain.

This year, the WFP is providing over 730,000 MT of food aid to approximately 6.1 million people across Sudan. Of those, 2.7 million are in Darfur, 2 million are in the south, 1 million in the three states of South Kordofan, Abyei and Blue Nile, around 250,000 in eastern Sudan, and smaller numbers in other parts of the country.

Traditional Knowledge

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the Government's policy is on the *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* extraction of value from the exploitation of traditional knowledge for indigenous communities in developing countries. [74559]

Mr. Thomas: In its 2003 response to the report from the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights the UK Government broadly endorsed the analysis provided by the Commission on traditional knowledge (TK). In particular, the UK Government recognised the important part that traditional knowledge plays in the livelihood of many poor communities in developing countries, and thus the need to protect it.

As a signatory of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) the UK has agreed to

"respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities ... and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of such knowledge, innovations and practice".

Discussions as to how best these objectives can be achieved are ongoing in the CBD and in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Inter-Governmental-Committee on Traditional Knowledge, Folklore and Genetic Resources (IGC) and the UK is committed to achieving agreement on an international system which achieves these objectives.

The UK Patent Office is working with other members of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) on the development of

appropriate TK databases which patent examiners can consult when dealing with patent applications involving TK. This will reduce the risk of patents being granted wrongly on existing TK.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Engagements

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will list her engagements for 25 May 2006. [75827]

Hilary Armstrong: I had various engagements on 25 May 2006 including Cabinet meetings with ministerial colleagues and meetings with officials and external stakeholders.

Parliamentary Ombudsman

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will list those occasions when the recommendations of a report from the Parliamentary Ombudsman have been *(a)* rejected and *(b)* partly rejected by her Department since 1997. [76261]

Hilary Armstrong: Since 1997 the Cabinet Office has declined to give full effect on three occasions to recommendations made by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in relation to the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

The ombudsman's report on these three cases is available in the Library and can also be accessed online at:

www.ombudsman.org.uk/improving-services/selected-cases/AOI/index.html

Public Transport (Incentives)

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what incentives are available to encourage members of her staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75110]

Mr. McFadden: The vast majority of Cabinet Office employees are located in central London and travel to and from work by public transport.

Permanent staff (including staff on loan to the Cabinet Office) may apply for an advance to purchase a train or bus season ticket and/or a bicycle for travel to and from work. This advance is an interest-free loan and payment is recovered from the individual's salary in up to 12 monthly deductions.

The Cabinet Office will be encouraging more sustainable travel (business and travel to and from work) among its employees depending on the nature and circumstances of particular sites, but it will not include financial incentives for participation. For example, the Cabinet Office's Environmental Policy is currently being revised and the travel policy section is being strengthened to this effect. It will also encourage employees to car share where public transport is not reasonably accessible travelling to and from work.

Further initiatives will be considered as part of any Government-wide publicity campaigns on travelling more sustainably and the Cabinet Office's membership of the Civil Service Travel Group (CSTG). The CSTG aims to improve travel sustainability across the entire civil service by developing and delivering on action plans for each Department.

TRANSPORT

A13 Junction, Sadlers Farm, Essex

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to approve the upgrade to the A13 junction at Sadlers Farm, Essex; and if he will make a statement. [76131]

Dr. Ladyman: We are carefully considering Essex county council's major scheme business case for the Thames Gateway A13/A130 Sadlers Farm Junction scheme alongside the advice received from the eastern region on the priority it attaches to this and other schemes in the region within the indicative funding allocation for major transport schemes announced last July. We hope to respond to Essex on its business case and to make an announcement before the summer recess.

Airbus 380

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1945W, on Airbus 380, whether public expenditure was incurred for seats on the Heathrow Express for ministerial and civil servants going to the event. [76819]

Gillian Merron: The Department incurred costs of £27 for return seats on the Heathrow Express for civil servants going to the event.

BAE 146 Aircraft

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether beryllium is used *(a)* in the manufacture and *(b)* as parts in the Honeywell ALF-(i) 502 and (ii) 507 engine used on the British Aerospace BAE 146 aircraft. [75743]

Gillian Merron: Both these engines are manufactured in the United States and are US type-certificated products. The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the engine manufacturer, Honeywell, have confirmed to the Civil Aviation Authority that there was no beryllium used within the parts that are of original Honeywell design. The FAA and Honeywell also advised that the only of beryllium likely to be in the type certified engine would be trace quantities possibly in aluminium castings or in some components designed and manufactured by sub-contractors.

CAA Funding

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria were used in determining Government policy on the funding of the Civil Aviation Authority; and if he will make a statement. [75742]

Gillian Merron: It has been the policy of successive Governments that the aviation industry should be independently regulated, by the Civil Aviation Authority, and that the costs of regulation should be borne by the industry and not by the taxpayer.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what revenue has been earned by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency from the provision of motorists' details in each of the last three financial years. [75515]

Dr. Ladyman: The following figures provided represent the costs recovered by DVLA for providing vehicle and driver information, based on the marginal cost of providing the data and charged to those requesting the activity.

	Costs recovered for motorists details (£000)
2003-04	4,854
2004-05	5,007
2005-06 (Provisional outturn)	6,364

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost has been of the Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency Diversity Unit since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [76315]

Dr. Ladyman: The following figures are the total expenditure incurred by DVLA's Diversity Unit since its start in August 2004.

	£
2004-05	67,000
2005-06 (Provisional outturn)	276,000

The agency's Diversity Unit is responsible for setting, agreeing and implementing the agency's diversity policies and the action plans to ensure compliance with the public sector duties in diversity legislation such as the Race Relations (Amendment) and Disability Discrimination Acts. It focuses attention within the agency on ensuring that all staff and customers can access and use agency facilities and services, and meet its business aims for road safety. The Diversity Unit was formed in August 2004 from the basis of the agency's equal opportunities team, which had been in existence for more than 10 years.

First Great Western Trains (Timetabling)

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the implications of First Great Western Train's timetabling proposals for December 2006 for commuters travelling from Bridgend to Port Talbot, Neath and Swansea. [75607]

Derek Twigg: First Great Western's proposed timetable for December 2006 will provide an extra service from Bridgend to Swansea at around 8.15 am, arriving before 9.00 am. In the return direction in the evening, the timetable shows an hourly pattern of FGW services up to 8.30 pm (there being currently no train at 7.30 pm).

Government Vehicles

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average level of emissions in grams of carbon per kilometre was of the Government's car fleet in the last period for which figures are available. [76277]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) provides transport for Ministers and senior officials in line with the Prime Minister's guidance Travel by Ministers.

In 2004-05, the last period for which figures are available, the average carbon dioxide emission from the GCDA's car fleet was 232.03 grams per kilometre. Figures for 2005-06 will become available later in the summer.

Highways Agency

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints by the general public concerning the Highways Agency have been received in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [75918]

Dr. Ladyman: Figures for written complaints by the general public to the Highways Agency are only available from 2000 following the installation of a new computerised correspondence recording system late in 1999. Figures for oral complaints to the Highways Agency's information line are only available from 2001 due to changes in recording systems.

The figures are:

	Written complaints	*Oral complaints*
2006 (January to May)	443	2,428
2005	1,406	3,527
2004	1,358	2,478
2003	1,500	3,128
2002	1,843	3,458
2001	2,622	3,037
2000	3,727	n/a

Jet Engine Oils

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what animal studies have been carried out on whether exposure to pyrolised synthetic jet

engine oils *(a)* dermally and *(b)* via inhalation produces (i) chronic neurotoxicity and (ii) brain cell death; [75739]

(2) what studies from overseas he has examined on the effects of contaminated air problems on the British Aerospace BAE 146 aircraft; [75740]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect of exposure to pyrolised synthetic jet engine oils *(a)* dermally and *(b)* via inhalation on commercial aircraft on (i) adults, (ii) children and (iii) pregnant passengers. [75741]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not want anyone travelling by air to be at risk to their health. We have commissioned the independent Committee on Toxicity (COT) to conduct a comprehensive evidence review of any such health risks in cabin air. The COT has received evidence from a wide range of sources, including BALPA. Some of this evidence has come from overseas. The formal COT meeting will be held in public on 11 July. We await the outcome of the COT process, and the Department will be guided by the COT conclusions and recommendations when they are ready.

M4 (Junction 11)

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department expects to make a decision on funding for M4 junction 11 improvements. [76959]

Dr. Ladyman: We are currently considering advice from the south-east region on the priority it attaches to this and other major transport schemes in the south-east within the regional funding allocations announced last July. We hope to announce our response to the region's advice before the summer recess.

Rail Vehicles

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on altering the system of procurement of new rail vehicles to reduce peaks and troughs in demand. [73609]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* The Department for Transport recognises the challenges faced by manufacturers and suppliers in responding to peaks and troughs in demand for new rolling stock and is committed to working with the industry to plan ahead more effectively.

Railways

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* incidents of objects thrown at or dropped on moving railway vehicles, *(b)* derailments, *(c)* incidents of livestock wandering on to the track, *(d)* collisions between moving railway vehicles and *(e)* suicides of (i) males and (ii) females, broken down by age group, were recorded on the C2C Rail Ltd line between London Fenchurch Street and Southend Central in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [72180]

Derek Twigg: The British Transport Police (BTP) have provided the following information:

(a) The number of crimes recorded by the BTP for stone throwing (no damage) and damage to rolling stock by stone throwing on the railway route between London Fenchurch Street and Southend Central is shown as follows:

Financial year	*Number of crimes*
2001-02	37
2002-03	26
2003-04	51
2004-05	75
2005-06	61

(b) The BTP have recorded no incidents of derailments on this specific route.

(c) The number of incidents recorded by the BTP where livestock have wandered on to tracks is shown in the table as follows:

Financial year	*Number of incidents*
2001-02	2
2002-03	3
2003-04	1
2004-05	1
2005-06	2

(d) The BTP have no records of collisions between moving railway vehicles during the last five financial years on this route.

(e) The number of fatalities recorded by the BTP on the route during the financial years between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2006 is shown as follows:

Year/Age group	*Male*	*Female*
2003-04		
20 to 30	2	0
80 to 90	1	0
2004-05		
20 to 30	1	0
2005-06		
20 to 30	0	1

Data prior to April 2003 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Roads

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of road schemes approved through the targeted programme of improvements and local transport plans on reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. [75930]

Dr. Ladyman: The carbon dioxide impacts of road schemes approved through the targeted programme of improvements and local transport plans form part of

the Department's normal approval processes for major transport schemes. The impact of road schemes in the Highways Agency targeted programme of improvements, consistent with the Future of Transport White Paper, is estimated to be around an additional 0.1 million tonnes of carbon (MtC), a tenth of the carbon savings expected in 2010 from the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation. The overall implications for carbon dioxide emissions of local transport plans have not been modelled, but LTPs are subject to individual Strategic Environmental Assessments which carefully consider these impacts.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Best Value Surveys

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations her Department has received on the carrying out of Best Value surveys. [75907]

Mr. Woolas: The Department conducted a consultation exercise on the 2006-07 Best Value User Satisfaction surveys between 14 December 2005 and 6 February 2006. 199 responses from 241 organisations were received (some organisations chose to respond in consortia). A feedback document analysing responses to the consultation paper will be published shortly. In addition, we have subsequently received correspondence on this subject from three local authorities and two MPs.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the different types of methodology available to carry out Best Value surveys. [75908]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has commissioned three pieces of research concerning the methodology applied in the Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) user satisfaction surveys.

The first, published in 2002, was conducted by the Office for National Statistics and reviewed local authorities' experience of the 2000-01 surveys, including the different methodologies applied.

The second, carried out by Ipsos MORI, which reported in March 2003, concerned the development of questions for the Best Value general and benefits surveys, piloting those surveys, and advising on guidance for the surveys.

The third was conducted by BMG and concerned the development of new sections of questions for the 2006-07 BVPI surveys (we anticipate the publication of this work in the autumn of 2006). The new questions formed part of the recent consultation of local authorities on the BVPI surveys.

In addition to this work, following the 2003-04 surveys, 'in-house' analysis concerning the impact of methodology on response rate, using data supplied by local authorities, has been conducted. These analyses also considered factors such as deprivation and ethnicity. This work found no evidence of a significant difference in response rate between postal and face-to-face methods even after allowing for context and respondent group.

Black/Asian Staff

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in her Department's press office. [74366]

Angela E. Smith: Twenty people are employed as press officers in the Department's Directorate of Communications. All information on ethnicity is provided voluntarily by individuals and is confidential. Only four members of the press office have provided information on ethnicity and therefore details cannot be provided in order to preserve confidentiality.

Chief Rents

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of freehold properties in Greater Manchester subject to chief rents; and if she will make a statement. [73137]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications have been made to the Government Office for the North West for the redemption of chief rents on freehold domestic properties for each of the past five years; and how many such applications were successful. [73138]

Yvette Cooper: In the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2005 the unit received a total of 2,575 applications for redemption. Of these, 29 are still under consideration; 738 were redeemed and 1,808 were not redeemed.

Applicants may withdraw their application at any time in which case the rentcharge is not redeemed. Of the 1,808 applications which were not redeemed, 525 were considered to be Estate Rentcharges which are incapable of redemption under the terms of the Rentcharges Act 1977.

In conjunction with the Department, the Rentcharge Unit reviewed and revised its own guidelines for determining estate rentcharges in October 2005 resulting in more applications being redeemed.

Correspondence

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Windsor of 7 February 2006 about D. Ashworth. [76314]

Angela E. Smith: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 8 June 2006.

Council House Sales

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2583W, on council house sales, what measures her Department takes to ensure local authorities use the 25 per cent. of retained capital receipts from the sale of council housing under the right-to-buy scheme on capital rather than revenue programmes. [73459]

Yvette Cooper: The only ways in which local authorities may use their capital receipts are set out in regulation 23 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/3146, as amended). Receipts retained from sales of council housing may be used for capital expenditure but not normally for revenue expenditure.

Council Minutes

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what limitations are placed on the publication in *(a)* local newspapers and *(b)* other media of council minutes relating to meetings held in public. [75461]

Mr. Woolas: The minutes of council meetings relating to all non-confidential matters may be released for publication. Statute sets out the categories of matters that a local authority may decide to treat as confidential.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate the pension liability of her Department over the next 30 years. [75239]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is available in the technical Note issued by HM Treasury which was placed in the Library of the House on 2 March 2006 following an oral statement in Parliament by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Columns 388-390. Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual Departments; they are estimated for individual pension schemes, as shown in the breakdown of liabilities per pension scheme given in Table 1 of the technical Note.

Deprivation Indicators (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authority wards in the Peterborough city council area are in the top 30 per cent. of wards in England by multiple deprivation indicators; and if she will make a statement. [76624]

Mr. Woolas: The Indices of Deprivation 2004 (ID 2004) were constructed at Super Output Area (SOA) level rather than ward level to overcome problems associated with frequently changing ward boundaries and lack of consistency in population size. SOAs are a better measure as they are consistent in size and overtime, and they allow better identification of small pockets of deprivation. There are 32,482 SOAs in England, each with an average population of 1,500 people.

The ID 2004 ranks areas according to their level of deprivation, relative to other areas in the country. Peterborough City has 42 per cent. of its 104 SOAs among the 30 per cent. most deprived SOAs in England. The following table lists these SOAS and identifies the wards in which they are located. There are three wards (Central, East and North) in which all the SOAs fall within the 30 per cent. most deprived in the country.

SOA code	*Ward name*	*Local authority*	*GO Region*	*Rank of IMD (where 1 = most deprived)*
E01015593	Bretton North	Peterborough	East of England	5,997
E01015596	Bretton North	Peterborough	East of England	7,967
E01015595	Bretton North	Peterborough	East of England	9,435
E01015597	Bretton South	Peterborough	East of England	7,039
E01015599	Central	Peterborough	East of England	1,880
E01015600	Central	Peterborough	East of England	1,980
E01015604	Central	Peterborough	East of England	2,389
E01015602	Central	Peterborough	East of England	4,443
E01015603	Central	Peterborough	East of England	5,211
E01015601	Central	Peterborough	East of England	5,592
E01015609	Dogsthorpe	Peterborough	East of England	857
E01015607	Dogsthorpe	Peterborough	East of England	2,740
E01015610	Dogsthorpe	Peterborough	East of England	5,113
E01015605	Dogsthorpe	Peterborough	East of England	5,953
E01015608	Dogsthorpe	Peterborough	East of England	7,849
E01015606	Dogsthorpe	Peterborough	East of England	8,715
E01015616	East	Peterborough	East of England	1,954
E01015611	East	Peterborough	East of England	2,699
E01015612	East	Peterborough	East of England	4,959

SOA code	Ward name	Local authority	GO Region	Rank of IMD (where 1 = most deprived)
E01015657	East	Peterborough	East of England	5,053
E01015613	East	Peterborough	East of England	7,078
E01015615	East	Peterborough	East of England	8,894
E01015622	Fletton	Peterborough	East of England	9,004
E01015633	North	Peterborough	East of England	6,934
E01015632	North	Peterborough	East of England	8,128
E01015634	North	Peterborough	East of England	8,834
E01015642	Orton Longueville	Peterborough	East of England	4,435
E01015639	Orton Longueville	Peterborough	East of England	4,652
E01015637	Orton Longueville	Peterborough	East of England	6,638
E01015641	Orton Longueville	Peterborough	East of England	9,023
E01015643	Orton Longueville	Peterborough	East of England	9,519
E01015647	Orton Waterville	Peterborough	East of England	4,155
E01015654	Park	Peterborough	East of England	9,246
E01015658	Paston	Peterborough	East of England	4,804
E01015660	Paston	Peterborough	East of England	8,035
E01015656	Paston	Peterborough	East of England	8,394
E01015664	Ravensthorpe	Peterborough	East of England	3,204
E01015663	Ravensthorpe	Peterborough	East of England	3,677
E01015662	Ravensthorpe	Peterborough	East of England	7,848
E01015661	Ravensthorpe	Peterborough	East of England	9,706
E01015668	Stanground Central	Peterborough	East of England	6,024
E01015666	Stanground Central	Peterborough	East of England	9,600
E01015673	Stanground East	Peterborough	East of England	8,257
E01015680	Werrington North	Peterborough	East of England	6,694

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish her Department's latest response to the European Commission setting out a timetable for implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. [74436]

Yvette Cooper: The European Commission has been notified that implementation of the technical requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive is through an amendment of the Building Regulations. These measures came into effect on 6 April 2006. A copy of the Statutory Instrument and Transposition Note that sets out how these regulations implement the directive has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

There is a three-year derogation period, to apply fully the requirements in the directive for energy certificates and plant inspections. I expect to make a further announcement and to notify the European Commission soon about implementation of these procedural requirements.

Government Office for London

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the expenditure on *(a)* staffing and *(b)* office and other overheads of the Government Office for London was in each of the last 10 years. [76252]

Angela E. Smith: Government Office for London (GOL Running Cost (admin) expenditure is as follows:

£ million

	Pay costs	Non-pay/ accommodation costs	Total
1998-99	10.3	5. 7	16.0
1999-2000	10.8	5. 2	16.0
2000-01	9.1	5.6	14.7
2001-02	8.8	4.4	13.2
2002-03	10.0	4.1	14.1
2003-04	10.5	6.2	16.7
2004-05	12.6	6.3	18.9
2005-06	12.3	6.2	18.5
2006-07	12.0	6.0	[1]18.0

[1] Budget

Hedges (North Somerset)

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many orders have been made to remove hedges in North Somerset under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. [73982]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Under the Anti-social Behaviour Act, local authorities may require remedial works to hedges but not their removal.

Home Information Packs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer

about the likely impact of home information packs on the housing market; and if she will make a statement. [72425]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have worked with Her Majesty's Treasury, the Cabinet Office, the Department for Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Trade and Industry on different aspects of the Home Information Packs (HIPs). The purpose of HIPs is to increase the efficiency of the housing market.

Hotel Tax

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received from the tourist industry in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England about a possible tax on hotel rooms; and if she will make a statement. [75654]

Mr. Woolas: I have received 16 representations from, or on behalf of, the tourist industry about the possibility of a tourist tax in England. Of these, one originated in Essex, but none from Southend-on-Sea.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if her Department will undertake a review, drawing on international research and experience, of the effect of a hotel, tourist or bed tax; and if she will make a statement. [75655]

Mr. Woolas: My Department does not have any plans to undertake such a review. Sir Michael Lyons is carrying out an independent inquiry to make recommendations for the reform of council tax, and to analyse the options for shifting the balance of funding, including the potential for other possible local taxes and charges. He will submit his final report and recommendations at the end of 2006. The Government will not take any decisions on changes to local government finance until they have had the chance to consider and reflect on Sir Michael's report.

Housing

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the supply of affordable housing in West Suffolk. [72634]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have allocated a significant increase in funding for the East of England for 2006-08, much of which will be invested in new affordable housing. In West Suffolk, the Regional Housing Board for the East of England has allocated just over £5.5 million over 2006-08, which is expected to deliver 214 new affordable units, via the Housing Corporation's National Affordable Housing Programme.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consider introducing a performance-related incentive scheme for the provision of affordable housing units by local authorities. [72718]

Yvette Cooper: Local targets for affordable housing provision are set by local authorities, based on their assessment of local housing need. The Government are considering a range of options for increasing the supply of new affordable housing.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the present composition of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. [70305]

Mr. Woolas: The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (IMD 2004) combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues into a single deprivation score for each lower layer super output area (SOA) (there are 32,482 SOAs in England), and are relative measurements between SOAs.

The Index is based on "super output area" level data and is made up of seven domains of deprivation. These are:

Income
Employment deprivation
Health and Disability deprivation
Education, skills and training deprivation
Barriers to Housing and Services
Crime
Living Environment

Each of these domains is made up of a number of indicators, which best reflect the different dimensions of deprivation. The Index is based on 37 indicators in total. The indicators and domains are weighted and brought together to form the IMD 2004.

Local Government

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for a public consultation on the future of local government; and if she will make a statement. [72589]

Mr. Woolas: Under the banner of local:vision, a debate with local government and other stakeholders began in July 2004 to determine what the future role and functions of local government should be. This debate continues and feedback from all stakeholders is welcomed. The debate will be drawn together in the form of a White Paper later this year.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* underlying factors were taken into consideration and *(b)* criteria the Government used to conclude that transitional protections on the Local Government Pension Scheme should expire 10 years after the announcements of policy changes were made. [75324]

Mr. Woolas: The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) to accompany the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2007/966), was made available in the House on 30 March. It sets out both the underlying factors and the criteria considered in providing the transitional protections in the regulations. A copy of the RIA is available in "What's New" at: www.xoq83.dial.pipex.com

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultations her Department is undertaking on local government reorganisation. [71494]

Mr. Woolas: We have been engaged in a wide-ranging debate about local governance, including the future of two-tier arrangements in the shire areas and will finalise our position at about the same time as the publication of the proposed White Paper later in the year.

Public Transport (Incentives)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what incentives are available to encourage members of her staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75108]

Angela E. Smith: The Department offers interest-free loans to enable staff to buy season tickets for use on public transport.

Regional Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the budgets for 2005-06 that the Government Offices for the regions have received from English regional chambers. [70719]

Yvette Cooper: I have arranged for the copies of each regional assembly's 2005-06 business plans to be placed in the Library of the House.

Water Supplies

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to ensure that sufficient mains water will be available in the Thames Gateway; and whether long distance waterpipes have been considered to ensure the availability of sufficient mains water. [75374]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Water companies have statutory duties with regard to water supply, and each company has a water resources plan looking ahead for the next 25 years. These plans show how they will reconcile water supply with projected demand.

A good deal of water is already transferred within water companies' areas of operation to give individual companies greater flexibility to meet local shortages. Longer distance links between water companies also exist. The Environment Agency, in consultation with Ofwat, is able to propose to a water company that it enters into a bulk supply agreement with another water company, where it is necessary to secure the proper use of water resources.

The concept of a national water grid was discussed at the Secretary of State's meeting on 1 June with representatives of water companies and the water industry regulators. It was rejected by all those present on the grounds of its disproportionate and unjustifiable cost, both for the environment and for water bills, compared with the benefits such a grid could deliver.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bowel Cancer

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the detected rate of bowel cancer was in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 1995 and *(b)* 2005. [76321]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the number of incidences of bowel cancer (ICD-10 C18 to C21) in selected years. Information for 2005 is not yet available.

	1993	*1995*	*2003*
Incidence of colorectal cancer in 1993, 1995 and 2003			
Incidence	925	983	995
Crude incidence rate[1]	56.6	59.6	58.4
Age standardised incidence rate (to 2003 NI population)[1]			
Lower[2]	57.3	59.8	—
Rate	61.2	63.8	58.4
Upper[2]	65.2	67.8	—

[1] Rates are per 100,000 of the population.
[2] The upper and lower intervals provide a range within which the true rate might lie once the age structure of the population in the earlier years has been taken into account.

This information has been provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry and is the most up-to-date currently available.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* temporary and *(b)* casual staff are employed by the Northern Ireland Child Support Agency; what proportion this figure represents of all staff employed; and if he will make a statement. [76460]

Mr. Hanson: As at 7 June 2006, there are 17 temporary administrative assistants employed by the Northern Ireland Child Support Agency. This represents 0.87 per cent. of the work force.

Four of these staff provide child support services to Northern Ireland, 11 provide child support services to Great Britain and two provide support to their colleagues who work in front line operations.

No other temporary or casual staff are employed by the Northern Ireland Child Support Agency.

Civil Service Uniform

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will review the neutrality of civil service uniform insignia used in Northern Ireland; and if he will seek the advice of the Equality Commission on the matter. [66401]

Mr. Hanson: The design of the uniform worn by security guards and certain other staff has been reviewed as the need has arisen to replace parts of the uniform, and some changes have been made. The aim has been to modernise the uniform and to make it less formal, particularly in response to the improved security situation and the greater access by the public to areas such as the Stormont Estate and Hillsborough Castle. There are plans to look at other aspects of their uniform, including insignia, and in line with normal NICS practice this would involve consultation with the Equality Commission.

Any private sector security staff working in buildings which are part of the Workplace 2010 project will not be required to wear NICS uniforms.

Correspondence

Lady Hermon. To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he will answer the letter from the hon. Member for North Down of 24 March on the impact of the restorative justice scheme. [75199]

Mr. Hanson: A response to the hon. Member was issued on 6 June 2006.

Departmental Christmas Cards

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was to each Government Department in the Province of sending Christmas cards in each of the last five years. [74633]

Mr. Hanson: The costs incurred by the 11 Departments of the NI Administration and the Northern Ireland Office on the purchase and distribution of Christmas cards in the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2006 are set out in the following table.

Department	2001	2002	2003	2004	£ 2005
DFP[1]	392	2,345	1,170	1,018	663
OFMDFM	1,657	2,253	1,067	2,558	1,178
DETI	1,929	2,125	1,570	1,357	1,276
DE	1,167	858	1,264	1,031	0
DSD	799	663	1,926	351	607
DARD[1]	1,833	1,113	629	831	1,766
DCAL[1]	2,343	726	0	0	0
DHSSPS[1]	1,878	1,808	1,712	1,844	252
DOE	686	622	686	734	561
NIO	2,939	5,341	3,922	4,355	6,121
DRD[1]	652	534	689	634	295
DEL[1]	150	308	4,527	5,334	4,457
Total	16,425	18,696	19,162	20,047	17,176

[1] Postage costs are not available for these Departments.

Note:
Costs for staff time or any notional charges are not included in these figures.

Emission Testing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* pre-testing and *(b)* other research has been carried out on the proposed diesel emission test to be introduced in Northern Ireland. [56394]

David Cairns: The Driver Vehicle Testing Agency's equipment was purchased in 2001 as part of a PFI contract for all MOT testing equipment. Prior to finalising this contract, extensive research and trials were conducted to ensure the equipment could meet the needs of the agency and conduct a quality test fully compliant with legislation. This equipment is the same as that currently used in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland.

Following procurement, further trials of the diesel test equipment took place in Cookstown DVTA test centre, and from this time Larne DVTA centre has offered the diesel emission test to customers on a voluntary basis.

DVTA is heavily committed to research and development, and liaises with many testing organisations worldwide to ensure best practice testing is being maintained in Northern Ireland. These experiences and advice received from other organisations that have been conducting this test for many years served to inform DVTA's research on this matter.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received on the new diesel emissions test to be introduced into Northern Ireland. [56395]

David Cairns: No representations have been received on the new diesel emissions test introduced by the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency (DVTA) on 1 March 2006.

However, DVTA has held meetings with representative bodies from the motor industry, including the Freight Transport Association, the Road Haulage Association and the Retail Motor Industry Federation. These meetings included demonstrations of the testing process and a chance for the industry to ask questions about the test and be given more information.

Healthcare-acquired Infections

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many deaths from healthcare-

acquired infections there were within each health trust in the Province in each month of the last three years. [74667]

Mr. Hanson: It is not possible to give reliable figures on the number of deaths involving hospital-acquired infections from routinely collected mortality data, as information on whether the infection was acquired in hospital or elsewhere may not be available to the doctor certifying the death.

Mileage Allowance

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he intends to bring the mileage allowance paid to members of the Northern Ireland Assembly into line with that paid to hon. Members of this House. [75006]

Mr. Hain: This matter is currently under consideration and I hope to make an announcement shortly. I will write to the hon. Member informing him of the outcome and will arrange for a copy of my letter to be placed in the Library of the House and sent to the Speaker of the Assembly.

Public Servants

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what has been the change in *(a)* numbers and *(b)* percentages of those employees classified as (i) Protestants, (ii) Roman Catholics and (iii) non-determined in the (A) Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, (B) Northern Ireland Housing Executive, (C) Child Support Agency in Northern Ireland and (D) general service grades of the Northern Ireland Civil Service between 1999 and 2006. [75948]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the perceived community background of staff in the specified organisations is set out in the following table. The figures are given at 1 January 1999 and 2006 (except for the Equality Commission which only came into being on 1 October 1999) and include permanent staff but exclude those on career breaks.

	1999		2006	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Equality Commission[1]				
Protestant	47	40	49	35
Roman Catholic	66	56	80	57
Non Determined	5	4	11	8
Total	118	100	140	100
NI Housing Executive				
Protestant	1,512	50.8	1,51.6	47.4
Roman Catholic	1,392	46.7	1,652	51.6
Non Determined	75	2.5	32	1.0
Total	2,979	100	3,200	100
Child Support Agency				
Protestant	502	49.6	800	44.0
Roman Catholic	471	46.5	992	54.6
Non Determined	39	3.9	25	1.4
Total	1,012	100.0	1,817	100.0
NICS General Service[2]				
Protestant	7,839	52.0	9,487	48.7
Roman Catholic	6,827	45.3	9,722	49.9
Non Determined	409	2.7	286	1.5
Total	15,075	100.0	19,495	100.0

[1] Figures given at 1 January 2000 and 1 January 2006.
[2] Includes staff in the Child Support Agency.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assistance from public funds was provided for the work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in Northern Ireland during 2005. [76326]

Mr. Hanson: No support has been provided by the Government to RNLI in Northern Ireland during 2005.

Sexual Offences (Young Persons)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Public Prosecution Service is taking to develop a protocol with *(a)* child protection agencies, *(b)* voluntary treatment providers and *(c)* the police regarding young people in treatment programmes following the commission of sexual offences; and if he will make a statement. [5526]

Mr. Hanson: The PPS has advised that it has commenced a series of meetings with representatives from PSNI, NSPCC, Barnardos and social services to deal with issues regarding young people in treatment programmes following the commission by them of sexual offences. Additionally, at present, it is open to those responsible for treatment programmes for young people who have committed sexual offences and who are undergoing treatment to provide information through the police to the PPS in relation to the treatment being provided and to the young person being treated, which information may be relevant to the PPS in reaching decisions as to prosecution, or no prosecution, as the case may be.

Sinn Fein Fundraising

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has made representations to the US Administration about the current restrictions on fundraising that have been imposed on Sinn Fein politicians visiting the United States; and if he will make a statement. [76747]

Mr. Hain: The issuing of visas and the imposition of any requirements are matters for the US Administration.

Water Service

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are employed by the Department for Regional Development's Water Service; how many will be employed by the proposed Gov-Co; what measures are planned to facilitate staff transfers within the civil service for water service employees; and what relocation packages are planned for water service employees wishing to relocate to Belfast to work for the proposed Gov-Co. [75587]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Katharine Bryan, dated 8 June 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about the number of people employed by Water Service, how many will be employed by the proposed Gov-Co, what measures are planned to facilitate staff transfers within the Civil Service for Water Service employees, and what relocation packages are planned for Water Service employees wishing to relocate to Belfast to work for the proposed Gov-Co. (75587). I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

At 30 April 2006, 920 non-Industrial and 876 industrial whole time equivalent staff were employed by Water Service. Detailed planning for the achievement of efficiencies in 2007 and beyond is proceeding but the level of efficiency required of Northern Ireland Water Ltd has not yet been finalised. It is not therefore possible, at this stage, to give definitive numbers but a further reduction in numbers is planned.

As part of a wider staff migration programme, Water Service is currently working closely with the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) to facilitate the transfer back to the NICS of the optimum number of staff as the business will allow. Since March 2005, Water Service has facilitated a total of 93 transfer requests which have resulted in staff moving back to the wider NICS and there is a commitment to continue the progress made to date.

At this point in time it is not envisaged that a significant number of staff will be required to relocate to Belfast in advance of the creation of GOCO. However, staff who are required to relocate to Belfast, or to any other location across Northern Ireland, will be entitled to the full range of relocation packages, including excess fares allowance or removal expenses, inline with the provisions of the NICS Staff Handbook.

Workplace 2010 Strategy

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what implications he expects the implementation of the Workplace 2010 Strategy to have for messengers and night security staff employed by each Department of the Northern Ireland administration. [75425]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are currently considering the Workplace 2010 contract. Final decisions will not be taken until bid proposals from potential partners have been fully evaluated. A key consideration for Government in reaching conclusions on the services to be provided by any private sector partner will be the safeguarding of terms and conditions of employment in the event of any staff transfers.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Arts Foundation Courses

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many students in England are undertaking an arts foundation course; [74815]

(2) which higher education institutions in England offer a degree course in art and design and do not require a successful completion of an art foundation course as a condition of entry. [74816]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information shows that in English higher education institutions in 2004-05, there were 300 students enrolled on foundation courses which led to a degree course in Creative Arts and Design. Comparable information for further education colleges is not held centrally.

Information on the precise entry requirements for specific degree courses is not held centrally. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) provides a list of entry requirements for the art and design courses listed on their website at www.ucas.ac.uk. This includes some degree courses which require a foundation course for entry, although in the main the entry requirements are shown in terms of the UCAS tariff points score rather than specific qualifications.

Autistic Spectrum Disorders

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many under 16-year-olds with autistic spectrum disorders were not in full-time education in each parliamentary constituency in England in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [75852]

(2) what percentage of children with autistic spectrum disorders attending mainstream schools receive full-time support in each parliamentary constituency in England; [75853]

(3) how many children with autistic spectrum disorders attend *(a)* special and *(b)* mainstream secondary schools in each parliamentary constituency in England. [75854]

Mr. Dhanda: Since 2004, the Department for Education and Skills has collected data on pupils by

type of special educational needs (SEN) as part of the annual school census. A table showing pupils with SEN supported at 'School Action Plus' or with a statement of SEN where autistic spectrum disorder is recorded as their primary need has been placed in the Library.

There are a range of factors which may affect the data recorded, including:

local interpretation of definitions;

classification of children with multiple needs; and

differences in diagnoses between education and health professionals.

The Department does not collect data on the number of children with particular types of SEN who are not in school full-time. All children of compulsory school age are expected to receive full-time education suitable to *(a)* their age, ability and aptitude and *(b)* any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

Some children may not be receiving full-time education, for example children who are out of school because of illness or children who have been excluded and not yet placed. Children with autistic spectrum disorders, who are attending school, should have additional specialist support provided according to their needs.

City Academies

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the capital cost is *(a)* of each city academy and *(b)* expected to be of each academy for which there is a firm financial commitment; how many pupils are (i) at each existing academy and (ii) planned to be at each academy for which there is a firm financial commitment; and what the age range of the pupils is in each case. [75548]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following tables. The average cost of post-16 places is higher than for pre-16 ones. The average cost of a completed academy with 1,300 pupils and a sixth form in a high-cost inner-city area has been £25 to £30 million. The average cost of a new secondary school of this size and location has similarly been £25 to £30 million. The average cost per pupil of new build voluntary aided schools which the Department is currently funding is £23,886. The average cost per pupil in an academy is £23,370.

(a) Open academies	*Current agreed capital cash limit (£)*	*Pupil number capacity*	*Age range*
The Academy at Peckham	30,169,539	1,450	11-18
The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi	20,868,385	900	11-16
The Business Academy Bexley	38,459,531	1,820	4-18
Capital City Academy	26,994,000	1,200	11-18
The City Academy, Bristol	27,666,644	1,250	11-18
The City of London Academy	33,361,132	1,200	11-18
Dixons City Academy	6,510,494	1,060	11-18
Djanogly City Academy	21,587,127	1,580	11-16
Greig City Academy	16,479,000	1,250	11-18
Haberdasher's Aske's Hatcham College Academy	7,045,000	1,340	11-18
Haberdasher's Aske's Knights Academy	40,380,591	1,350	11-18
The Harefield Academy	26,418,502	1,000	11-18
The King's Academy	22,301,104	1,250	11-18
Lambeth Academy	25,445,886	900	11-18
London Academy	31,398,939	1,425	11-18
MacMillan Academy	13,034,762	1,435	11-18
Manchester Academy	19,786,149	1,150	11-18
The Marlowe Academy	27,803,246	1,080	11-18
Mossbourne Community Academy	27,973,726	900	11-16
The Northampton Academy	27,358,929	1,420	11-18
Salford City Academy	15,052,758	750	11-18
St. Paul's Academy	31,189,300	1,200	11-16
Stockley Academy	25,809,685	1,150	11-18
Trinity Academy	25,070,483	1,470	11-18
Unity City Academy	20,590,000	1,200	11-16
Walsall Academy	17,321,463	1,200	11-18
West London Academy	31,163,389	1,150	3-18

(b) Academies in implementation (with a Funding Agreement in place)	*Current agreed capital cash limit (£)*	*Planned pupil number capacity*	*Planned age range*
Westminster	30,200,082	1,175	11-18
Petchey (Hackney)	34,214,999	1,200	11-18
John Madejski (Reading)	27,656,303	1,100	11-18
Sandwell	27,149,860	1,200	11-18
Paddington	31,175,682	1,175	11-18
North Liverpool City	33,849,163	1,750	11-18
Grace (Solihull)	31,595,149	1,350	11-18
David Young Community (Leeds)	23,577,588	1,170	11-18
Barnsley	25,506,332	1,150	11-18
Thomas Deacon (Peterborough)[1]	46,431,203	2,200	11-18
St. Matthew (Lewisham)	30,856,162	1,345	3-16
Samworth Enterprise (Leicester)	19,501,915	1,046	5-16

(b) Academies in implementation (with a Funding Agreement in place)	Current agreed capital cash limit (£)	Planned pupil number capacity	Planned age range
Harris Academy at South Norwood	34,491,000	1,300	11-18
The Bridge (Hackney)	34,688,469	1,150	11-18
Oasis (Enfield)	29,295,641	1,150	11-18
Folkestone	36,651,169	1,480	11-18
Bradford	20,471,117	1,150	11-18
Walthamstow	29,950,551	1,150	11-18
Sheffield Park	29,000,000	1,300	11-18
Leigh (Dartford)	36,590,284	1,500	11-18
Langley (Slough)	31,000,000	1,150	11-18
Sheffield Springs	27,300,000	1,300	11-18
Corby City Academy[2]	30,286,100	1,250	11-18
St. Mary Magdalene (Islington)	38,332,106	1,250	5-18

[1] Thomas Deacon Academy replaces three existing schools and will serve 2,200 pupils.
[2] The figure for Corby City Academy includes £3,177,000 provided by the local authority in addition to the provision in the Funding Agreement.

Departmental Contracts

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many contracts his Department holds with *(a)* Capita plc. and *(b)* its subsidiaries which still have a potential duration of five years or more. [75267]

Bill Rammell: A complete answer to this question could be supplied only at disproportionate cost. I can tell the hon. Gentleman, however, that the Department holds the following Capita contracts with a potential duration of five or more years:

Teachers' Pensions Administration from 2003 to 2010

Connexions Card from 2002 to 2008

National Strategies 2005 to 2010

Disability Awareness

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will *(a)* include disability awareness within the school curriculum and *(b)* take steps to encourage disability awareness in out of school hours activities; and if he will make a statement. [76373]

Jim Knight: Through the personal, social and health education (PSHE) framework, pupils are taught to identify and respect the differences between people, including disability. Pupils are taught about the effects of all types of stereotyping and discrimination, how to challenge them assertively and ways of working co-operatively with a range of people who are different from themselves. Through citizenship education pupils are taught about legal and human rights and responsibilities. They will learn how the law and concept of human rights underpin society and affect the relationship between the state and the individual.

We have also committed significant funding up to 2008 to support all schools in providing access to a range of extended services and activities. We have set out a core offer of extended services that we want all children to be able to access through schools by 2010. We have provided guidance to schools, local authorities and other providers which makes clear that children with disabilities and special educational needs must be able to access all the services

Education Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was allocated to the devolved formula capital grant in each year since 2004-05, broken down by local education authority. [76162]

Jim Knight: The allocation of the Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) grant in each year since 2004-05, broken down by local authority, also including grant to Voluntary-Aided schools, is set out in the following table. From 2006-07, a separate ICT budget has been merged with the existing DFC budget.

A full description of DFC funding can be obtained by following the link

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/resourcesfinanceandbuilding/funding/capitalinvestment/typesoffunding/nds/

DFC allocation by local authority: 2004-05 to 2006-07

£000

Local authority	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Total	763,109	782,317	968,488
North East			
Darlington	1,605	1,621	1,706
Durham	8,724	8,927	11,115
Gateshead	2,978	3,051	3,810
Hartlepool	1,509	1,538	1,907
Middlesbrough	2,034	1,963	2,567
Newcastle upon Tyne	3,368	3,441	3,258
North Tyneside	2,772	2,819	3,487
Northumberland	6,068	6,200	7,744
Redcar and Cleveland	2,328	2,351	2,898
South Tyneside	2,545	2,548	3,144
Stockton-on-Tees	2,967	3,068	3,764
Sunderland	4,433	4,484	5,516
Northwest			
Blackburn with Darwen	2,627	2,692	3,360
Blackpool	1,888	1,946	2,432
Bolton	4,539	4,735	5,945
Bury	2,920	2,924	3,649
Cheshire	10,793	11,184	13,971
Cumbria	9,224	9,491	11,900
Halton	2,133	2,205	2,748
Knowsley	2,697	2,754	2,230
Lancashire	19,652	20,277	25,258
Liverpool	6,595	6,532	8,829
Manchester	6,573	6,649	7,104

DFC allocation by local authority: 2004-05 to 2006-07

Local authority	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
			£000
Oldham	3,978	4,064	5,077
Rochdale	3,502	3,564	4,414
Salford	3,388	3,450	4,329
Sefton	4,517	4,596	5,659
St. Helens	2,800	2,858	3,493
Stockport	4,265	4,368	5,424
Tameside	3,561	3,620	4,541
Trafford	3,487	3,607	4,507
Warrington	3,148	3,247	4,058
Wigan	5,063	5,200	6,423
Wirral	5,156	5,266	5,579
Yorkshire and the Humber			
Barnsley	3,373	3,448	4,342
Bradford	7,872	8,124	9,698
Calderdale	3,196	3,286	4,086
Doncaster	4,891	4,943	6,159
East Riding of Yorkshire	5,239	5,374	6,493
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	3,767	3,826	4,799
Kirklees	6,454	6,618	7,750
Leeds	10,362	10,590	10,988
North East Lincolnshire	2,687	2,747	3,371
North Lincolnshire	2,669	2,732	3,405
North Yorkshire	10,529	10,818	13,564
Rotherham	3,684	3,767	5,845
Sheffield	7,034	7,214	7,443
Wakefield	5,166	5,266	6,567
York	2,415	2,497	3,091
East Midlands			
Derby	3,688	3,795	4,723
Derbyshire	12,598	12,936	16,212
Leicester	4,365	4,471	5,568
Leicestershire	9,750	10,104	12,620
Lincolnshire	11,154	11,618	14,745
Northamptonshire	11,109	11,330	13,777
Nottingham	3,905	3,982	4,955
Nottinghamshire	11,951	12,220	15,299
Rutland	576	596	748
West Midlands			
Birmingham	16,711	17,085	21,126
Coventry	4,616	4,774	5,722
Dudley	4,385	4,525	5,774
Herefordshire	2,857	2,944	3,696
Sandwell	4,513	4,626	5,720
Shropshire	4,625	4,766	6,029
Solihull	3,364	3,450	3,860
Staffordshire	13,631	13,996	17,306
Stoke-on-Trent	3,773	3,853	4,709
Telford and Wrekin	2,790	2,871	3,560
Walsall	4,534	4,636	5,956
Warwickshire	8,061	8,285	10,424
Wolverhampton	3,990	4,127	5,101
Worcestershire	8,653	8,916	11,132
East of England			
Bedfordshire	7,032	7,215	8,791

DFC allocation by local authority: 2004-05 to 2006-07

Local authority	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
			£000
Cambridgeshire	8,051	8,295	10,395
Essex	19,790	20,377	25,229
Hertfordshire	17,796	18,288	22,942
Luton	2,964	3,010	3,741
Norfolk	12,749	13,127	16,583
Peterborough	2,811	2,885	3,602
Southend-on-Sea	2,436	2,489	3,110
Suffolk	10,940	11,262	14,157
Thurrock	2,145	2,201	2,748
London			
Inner London			
Camden	2,039	2,113	2,737
City of London	25	26	33
Hackney	2,498	2,483	3,201
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,852	1,804	2,356
Haringey	3,033	3,139	2,918
Islington	2,242	2,321	2,879
Kensington and Chelsea	1,140	1,171	1,490
Lambeth	2,706	2,758	3,473
Lewisham	3,284	3,340	3,862
Newham	4,056	4,145	5,148
Southwark	3,427	3,441	4,017
Tower Hamlets	2,570	2,640	4,442
Wandsworth	2,782	2,876	3,622
Westminster	1,924	1,990	2,572
Outer London			
Barking and Dagenham	2,572	2,687	3,133
Barnet	4,522	4,640	5,654
Bexley	3,520	3,623	4,660
Brent	3,510	3,632	4,548
Bromley	4,247	4,385	5,475
Croydon	4,654	4,814	6,014
Ealing	3,459	3,513	4,385
Enfield	4,009	4,178	5,264
Greenwich	3,278	3,495	3,582
Harrow	2,535	2,619	3,361
Havering	3,407	3,502	4,264
Hillingdon	3,701	3,821	4,678
Hounslow	3,242	3,392	4,255
Kingston upon Thames	1,959	2,030	2,579
Merton	1,563	1,614	2,041
Redbridge	3,565	3,685	4,718
Richmond upon Thames	1,717	1,767	2,212
Sutton	2,733	2,814	3,544
Waltham Forest	3,314	3,368	4,152
South East			
Bracknell Forest	1,428	1,480	1,822
Brighton and Hove	2,453	2,511	3,443
Buckinghamshire	7,734	7,962	10,010
East Sussex	6,582	6,765	8,412
Hampshire	17,639	18,108	22,629
Isle of Wight	2,204	2,271	2,859
Kent	21,202	21,819	27,346
Medway	4,236	4,368	5,427
Milton Keynes	3,471	3,665	4,636

DFC allocation by local authority: 2004-05 to 2006-07

£000

Local authority	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Oxfordshire	9,117	9,248	11,670
Portsmouth	2,501	2,548	3,142
Reading	1,731	1,768	2,207
Slough	1,838	1,920	2,400
Southampton	2,647	2,683	3,536
Surrey	13,938	14,423	18,112
West Berkshire	2,638	2,747	3,463
West Sussex	10,480	10,820	13,206
Windsor and Maidenhead	2,071	2,141	2,699
Wokingham	2,292	2,367	2,958
South West			
Bath and North East Somerset	2,709	2,790	3,494
Bournemouth	1,837	1,875	2,337
Bristol, City of	5,104	5,173	6,076
Cornwall	8,141	6,958	10,217
Devon	10,778	11,154	14,017
Dorset	5,990	6,204	7,746
Gloucestershire	9,432	9,710	12,184
Isles of Stilly	28	29	35
North Somerset	2,764	2,856	3,582
Plymouth	3,921	4,019	5,024
Poole	1,744	1,785	2,206
Somerset	7,918	8,239	10,427
South Gloucestershire	3,943	4,041	5,033
Swindon	2,833	2,921	3,635
Torbay	1,801	1,886	2,286
Wiltshire	7,389	7,611	9,406

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Marshall-Andrews: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will take steps to allow young people in full-time education to receive the education maintenance allowance while carrying out voluntary work. [75870]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* Young people in full-time education receive EMA when they have attended all the sessions for which they are required, and will not receive a weekly payment if they fail to attend. EMA is based on a "something for something" approach. Therefore, the general principle is that if the activity, for example volunteering, forms part of the young person's learning agreement EMA may be paid, if not; EMA will not be paid.

Free Tuition

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what initial assessment he has made of the impact of the level 2 entitlement for free tuition as announced in the White Paper, "21st Century Skills" and if he will make a statement. [75965]

Phil Hope: During 2004/05 the level 2 entitlement was trialled in the north east and south east regions. The Learning and Skills Development Agency, on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), produced an early report in January 2005 entitled, 'An early assessment of the impact of the Level 2 offer.' In March 2006 the Adult Learning Inspectorate completed a short report entitled, 'Evaluation of the Level 2 entitlement.' Both documents have been used to help shape the national LSC's communication strategy with the regions prior to the national availability of the entitlement from September 2006.

Information and Communication Technology

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what aspects of information and communications technology the personalised learning review group will examine as part of its work; whether the review group will look at mobile and other wireless technology; and if he will make a statement. [76123]

Phil Hope: The Teaching and Learning in 2020 Review will consider the potential of all aspects of ICT to facilitate personalised learning including, for example, its impact on teaching and learning strategies, on access to learning, on communication with parents and on schools' use of data. The Review Group will draw on a wide range of evidence and examples of best practice, including submissions commissioned from experts in this field.

Lecturers' Dispute

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he has taken to ensure that students' *(a)* graduations and *(b)* immediate job prospects are not affected by the industrial dispute between lecturers and universities; and if he will make a statement. [76213]

Bill Rammell: Although this dispute was between universities and trade unions, I have kept closely in touch with both sides throughout its progress and consistently urged that the dispute be urgently resolved and the impact on students lifted.

I welcome the agreement reached between the HE employers and unions, on pay, and the immediate suspension of the University and College Union's industrial action. This is good news for staff and students alike. I expect that institutions and staff will work hard to ensure that all students get their marks and the opportunity to graduate in good time. The employers and UCU have agreed to work together to ensure a quick return to normal business. I can assure you that we will continue to monitor closely the situation with regard to any residual effects of the dispute.

Parental Contact

Mr. Osten: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will bring forward amendments to the Children Act 1989 to make it a requirement that there is a presumption of equal contact between separating parents. [74847]

Mr. Dhanda: Currently, there are no plans to bring forward such amendments. The Government do not believe that a legal presumption of equal contact would be in the best interests of most children. The most appropriate arrangements for contact between children and their separated parents will depend on a variety of issues particular to their individual circumstances. Where equal contact arrangements appear to be in the best interests of a child, whether agreed between the parents or determined by a court, they are already able to be, and should continue to be, put in place.

School Milk

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what advice he has issued to schools and local education authorities about the availability of milk to pupils in school. [76394]

Jim Knight: The new nutritional standards in schools, announced on 19 May 2006, stipulate that only semi-skimmed and skimmed milk should be made available in schools. Local authorities are not obliged to provide milk, but where they do so they must provide it free of charge to pupils entitled to receive a free school lunch. The School Food Trust will publish guidance on the new standards in late June.

The Rural Payments Agency, a Defra executive agency, is responsible for the administration of the EU school milk subsidy scheme in Britain. It provides advice online, in response to individual requests and via its helpline to those schools and local authorities which choose to participate in the scheme. This advice covers how to apply for the payment of subsidy on milk.

Secondary Schools (Wellingborough)

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of children of secondary school age who live in Wellingborough and do not go to a Wellingborough secondary school. [75300]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been provided in the following table.

Wellingborough local authority district

	Number/percentage
Number of resident secondary age pupils	4,595
Number of resident secondary age[1] pupils attending schools outside of Wellingborough	627
Percentage of resident secondary age[1] pupils attending schools outside of Wellingborough	13.6

[1] Includes pupils aged 11 to15.

Source:
School Census January 2006 (provisional).

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many notifications Northamptonshire county council had received of children of secondary school age who do not have a school place in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* Wellingborough on 26 May. [75303]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Northamptonshire county council. Following the hon. Member's point of order on Thursday 26 May after the Department's oral question session, I wrote to him concerning this matter and copies of the letter have been placed in the House Library.

Serious Case Reviews

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many serious case reviews for children have been carried out; and what guidance his Department issues on *(a)* the scrutiny of the full review of the review and *(b)* the single agency contributions to the review by elected representatives on the relevant social services authority. [68695]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 9 May 2006]:* The Child Protection database, maintained by the Commission for Social Care Inspection, indicates that 78 cases from 2003-04 were the subject of a Serious Case Review (SCR), while 82 cases from 2004-05 were the subject of a SCR. The data for 2005-2006 are not yet complete.

Guidance on these issues is contained in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', which includes guidance on the role and functions of local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs). One of the core functions of LSCBs is to undertake SCRs. Chapter 8 of 'Working Together' sets out how and when SCRs should be undertaken. This includes specifying how the relevant services should undertake separate management reviews, and how the LSCB should commission an overview report which brings together and analyses the findings. 'Working Together' states that the LSCB should consider carefully who might have an interest in reviews, for example, elected and appointed members of authorities, and what information should be made available to each of these interests, considering a number of factors including the need to maintain confidentiality in respect of personal information, and the accountability of public services. In all cases there is a public executive summary.

'Working Together' also states that LSCBs should have clear work programmes, including measurable objectives, and budgets. This will enable LSCBs' work to be scrutinised by local authorities, other local partners and key stakeholders as well as by the inspectorates. Elected members' role, through their membership of governance bodies such as the cabinet of the local authority or a scrutiny committee or a governance board, is to hold their organisation and its officers to account for their contribution to the effective functioning of the LSCB. The lead member for children's services within the local authority will have a particular focus on how the local authority is fulfilling its responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and will hold the director of children services to account for the work of the LSCB.

Student Fees

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students are availing themselves of the arrangements that permit them to

take a gap year in 2005-06 and be exempt from variable fees from 2006-07. [74821]

Bill Rammell: Information from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) shows that, of the 301,798 students from England who obtained a place on a full-time undergraduate course in 2005, 25,171 (or 8.3 per cent.) opted to defer entry to 2006. This is a similar proportion to the previous year, when 23,006 (or 8.3 per cent.) out of 277,079 students deferred entry from 2004 to 2005.

Student Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total cost of collecting university tuition fees from students in the London borough of Havering has been in each year since they were introduced. [75448]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not centrally available.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was raised through tuition fees from students in the London borough of Havering in *(a)* 1998, *(b)* 1999, *(c)* 2000, *(d)* 2001 and *(e)* 2002. [75449]

Bill Rammell: Students on full-time undergraduate courses and their families are expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their tuition based on household income. Students from lower income backgrounds are wholly or partially exempt from paying tuition fees.

The amount of private contributions to tuition fees by students from the London borough of Havering in academic years 1999/2000 to 2002/03, and also 2003/04 to 2004/05, is given in the table.

Contribution from students paying all or part of their tuition fees

Academic year	*£ million*
1999/2000	0.6
2000/01	1.1
2001/02	1.3
2002/03	1.4
2003/04	1.5
2004/05	1.7

Source:
Student Loans Company (SLC)

Data in the answer cover the period from 1999/2000 to 2004/05. Contributions towards tuition fees of up to £1,000 were introduced in academic year 1998/99 but, as that year was treated as a transitional year, data are not available on the same basis as subsequent years.

Academic years 1999/2000 and 2000/01 contain two and three cohorts respectively of students subject to the new student support scheme.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students from the London borough of Havering are exempt from tuition fees. [75450]

Bill Rammell: The number of students from the London borough of Havering making no contribution to their tuition fees in 2004/05 was 910[1].

Students on full-time undergraduate courses and their families are expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their tuition based on household income. Students from lower income backgrounds are wholly or partially exempt from paying tuition fees.

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10 students.

Young People in the Workplace

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will discuss with representatives of the insurance industry problems experienced by young people accessing the workplace *(a)* as apprentices, *(b)* as young workers under 18 and *(c)* on work experience from school and college in relation to (i) obtaining insurance and (ii) the level of premiums required, with particular reference to small businesses and sole traders. [75986]

Phil Hope: In March 2004 my officials discussed with the Association of British Insurers insurance issues related to school-age work experience. The ABI confirmed the continuation of the long-standing convention by which school students on placement are considered to be covered by the employers' liability policy, as if they were employees. Generally, insurers make no charge for this insurance, provided they are notified of the placement in advance or have a longer-term agreement that the employer will regularly offer work experience. There should not therefore be premiums to pay which might act as a barrier to the employer's involvement. This is also the case when employers take on apprentices. Further discussions on these questions would be welcome.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact of child protection policies on the work experience of young people and young apprentices employed by small businesses. [75987]

Phil Hope: In December 2004 the Department produced supplementary guidance for people organising work experience which reassured organisers, and through them, schools and employers, about the effective implementation of new requirements designed to ensure the protection of vulnerable young people.

We have no evidence to indicate that work experience placement offers, including those linked to the Young Apprenticeship Programme, have been reduced overall through any impact of child protection policies. Working with the Sector Skills Councils, we have provided advice and support to employers involved in work experience, including the Young Apprenticeship Programme, and we plan further efforts to reassure them about the availability of support on this and other issues which might concern them.

Pupils on work experience and young apprentices are aged 14 to 16 and do not have employed status except for insurance purposes.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what Government help is available to train young workers to NVQ Level 2. [75988]

Phil Hope: Apprenticeships are the main programme for young employed people seeking vocational qualifications at Level 2 and Level 3. Other opportunities are also being developed, including a pilot programme that started in April this year aimed at encouraging 16 to 18-year-olds in jobs without training to gain a Level 2 qualification, whether academic or vocational. For those over 19 and without either basic skills or a first Level 2 qualification we have put in place the Train to Gain service to deliver high-quality flexible qualifications in the workplace.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the incident in Helmand province, Afghanistan on 17 May. [74852]

Mr. Ingram: On 17 May, the Musa Qaleh District Centre in Northern Helmand was attacked by an estimated 150 insurgents. Afghan National Police (ANP) successfully responded to the incident and the insurgents fled further North towards the town of Tisney. The ANP pursued the insurgents, suffering 13 fatalities and approximately ten wounded; UK forces provided medical support to the injured ANP. It is thought that up to 50 insurgents were killed by the Afghan forces, 10 were wounded and some equipment (including a 4x4 vehicle) was seized.

UK forces, along with the ANP and Afghan National Army, have since established a presence in Musa Qualeh to prevent insurgents from returning there, and to help establish the rule of law and aid reconstruction efforts. This has been well received by the local population.

Armed Forces Pension Scheme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the rate of employee contribution is to the Armed Forces Pension Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [75761]

Mr. Watson: The Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) is a non-contributory pension scheme; therefore there are no employee contributions. However, the independent Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB), when making recommendations about armed forces pay, takes into account the comparative value of the AFPS. At the moment the AFPRB assess the AFPS to be 7 per cent. more valuable than comparator schemes.

Bearskins

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many bearskins have been purchased by the armed forces in each of the last five years; at what cost; and from which country they were sourced. [76167]

Mr. Ingram: The number of bearskin caps purchased for the Guards Regiments in each of the last five years are as follows:

Bearskin caps procured in the last Five years

	Number
2001	63
2002	179
2003	90
2004	111
2005	51
Total	494

The average cost of a bearskin cap is £650 each.

The bearskins used are provided by licensed fur traders under the jurisdiction of the Canadian authorities.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to use synthetic materials instead of animal fur in the construction of bearskins. [76168]

Mr. Ingram: There have been a number of contracts let with commercial companies to develop a synthetic replacement for bearskins. There has been a trial of caps made from material provided by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Problems were identified with these caps which included unsatisfactory performance in typical wet weather conditions. Nonetheless we are continuing to work with PETA to find an alternative, and all parties concerned with the trials are taking the search for an alternative to bearskins very seriously.

If an alternative is sourced and found to be fit for purpose, replacement of bearskins will be considered. This has already happened in a number of cases as, for example, with the "busby cap" used by the Royal Horse Artillery.

Correspondence

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Minister of State for Veterans will reply to the letters of 3 March and 27 April from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire on the civil defence memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. [75434]

Mr. Watson: As notified on 24 May 2006, this correspondence was transferred to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, my hon. Friend the Member for Tottenham (Mr. Lammy), subsequently replied on 5 June 2006.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the pension liability of his Department over the next 30 years. [75276]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the technical note which was placed in the Library of the House on 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-90W, following an oral statement made by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

As pension liabilities are not estimated for individual Departments, but by the pension scheme, no separate figure is shown for the pension liabilities in respect of Ministry of Defence civil servants.

Gurkhas

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much compensation for discriminatory pension provision has been paid to Gurkha servicemen who retired prior to 1 July 1997; and how much he expects to be paid in total. [75840]

Mr. Watson: None. There is no discrimination.

Hercules C130J/C130K

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the Hercules C130J and C130K fleet have been fitted with explosive suppressant foam; and when the rest of the fleet are expected to be fitted with it. [75860]

Mr. Ingram: A programme is currently under way to fit some of our Hercules aircraft with explosion suppressant foam (ESF). I am not prepared to disclose how many or which models of aircraft are being fitted, as this might prejudice the operational security of our armed forces. Any decisions on fitting ESF to the rest of the Hercules fleet will take into account the time it will take to fit, the remaining service life of the aircraft, and any impact on operations, as well as cost.

Imber (Roads Access)

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many days the roads to Imber have been open for visitors in the last 12 months. [76532]

Mr. Watson: In the last 12 months the roads to Imber were open for 41 days during the following periods:

5 to 21 August 2005

9 to 11 September 2005

17 December 2005 to 2 January 2006

14 to 17 April 2006.

Military Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* Combat Engineer Tractors, *(b)* Tank Bridge Transporters, *(c)* Medium Wheeled Tractors, *(d)* Foden recovery vehicles and *(e)* M3 amphibious bridging vehicles are (i) in service and (ii) operationally deployable; [71914]

(2) how many *(a)* Truck Utility Medium, *(b)* Pinzgauer 716M Truck Utility Heavy Duty, *(c)* Truck Utility Light, *(d)* Heavy Equipment Transporter and *(e)* BV206 vehicles are (i) in service and (ii) operationally deployable. [71913]

Mr. Ingram: The following table details the numbers of vehicles currently in service and operationally deployable as at 1 June 2006:

Equipment	*Total fleet size*[1]	*Operationally deployable*[2]
Combat Engineer Tractor (CET)	73	47
Tank Bridge Transporter (TBT)	45	37
Medium Wheeled Tractor (MWT)	94	943
Foden Recovery Vehicles	320	318
M3 Amphibious Bridging	38	20
Truck Utility Light (TUL)	2,460	2,366
Truck Utility (Medium) (TUM)	9,184	8,993
Truck Utility Medium (Heavy Duty) (TUM HD) (all variants—Pinzgauer)	1,118	883
Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET)	89	893
BV206 Vehicles	421	361

[1] Includes vehicles that are undergoing planned programmed repair and modification, being used for training, with the Design Authority for trials and testing or in storage.
[2] Includes vehicles that are undergoing repairs at Unit level and undergoing Bowman conversion.
[3] Under the terms of these private finance initiative contracts, the supplier is contracted to maintain agreed availability levels.

At any one time a number of the deployable fleet will be undergoing minor repairs in situ at the unit, and a proportion may be involved in scheduled upgrade programmes, for example Bowman conversion. The number of vehicles available for immediate deployment therefore fluctuates continuously. If a unit drops below a pre-determined number of deployable vehicles, due to vehicles requiring repair beyond the capability of the unit and its supporting battalion, a replacement vehicle is provided.

Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension. [73093]

Mr. Watson: The civilian staff within the Ministry of Defence as members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS), Teachers' Pensions Scheme, NHS Pensions, UKAEA Principal Non Industrial Superannuation Scheme or Parliamentary Scheme, can pay additional contributions to top up their pension either through the Additional Voluntary Contributions Schemes (AVCS), money purchase arrangements, or by buying added years of service in their pension scheme. As an alternative to membership of the PCSPS recruits from October 2002 have been able to join a stakeholder arrangement—the partnership pension account.

The number and percentage of civilian staff in the Department who are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension as at April 2006 are shown in the table.

	Number	*Percentage*
AVCS	1,121	1.4
Added years	1,309	1.6
Partnership	28	0.03

Note:
Figures exclude trading fund agencies

Reservists

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of how many reservists in the armed forces have lost their jobs due to participating in active service; and if he will make a statement. [74822]

Mr. Watson: Under section 1 of the Reserve Forces (Safeguard of Employment) Act 1985, an employer is required to take back into his employment former employees who have completed full-time service. Of all those mobilised to support operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans and Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we are aware of only 28 reservists who have made applications for reinstatement to their civilian jobs under the 1985 Act (eight of which have progressed to Reinstatement Committee hearing). In addition, we are aware that one reservist has lost his job because he was due to report for mobilisation.

Tritium Stocks

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what stocks of tritium the UK holds; and if he will make a statement. [75613]

Des Browne: I am withholding the information requested because it relates to national security and defence in the UK.

Venezuela

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the oil used by the Royal Navy was sourced from Venezuela in the last period for which figures are available. [74978]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence purchases fuels and lubricants under contract arrangements with major suppliers or brokers and does not source fuel directly from Venezuela; information on the sources used by commercial suppliers is not held by the Department.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Conference on Disarmament

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the UK *(a)* priorities for and *(b)* assessment of the 2006 Conference on Disarmament. [75139]

Margaret Beckett: The UK is fully committed to progress in multilateral disarmament forums, in particular in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). As we have said on many occasions, our priority is the start of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT), without pre-conditions, which we view as the next logical step towards achieving the goals of nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. In this regard, the UK fully supports the US initiative in tabling a draft FMCT text on 18 May. We hope that all CD member states are able to accept the very broad mandate proposed and agree to open negotiations towards a treaty without delay.

The UK believes that the CD sessions held so far this year have seen some of the most constructive dialogue in recent years. We were pleased that so many states participated actively in the recent thematic debate on FMCT and we hope that this level of engagement continues.

Departmental Finance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Accounts Payable Module in Prism is closing promptly in all cases; and if she will make a statement. [75957]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The Accounts Payable (AP) module in Prism experienced various problems which prevented prompt closure for the months of December, January, February and March. These problems were identified and corrected. Changes have been made to Prism, and to our procedures, which came fully into effect at the end of March. We are now able to detect the errors which caused the problems within the month, enabling them to be corrected before the month-end. The AP module has closed promptly for April and May.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what delays there are relating to *(a)* the input and processing of invoices and *(b)* late payment of invoices; and in which missions. [75958]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only by contacting each individual post, which would incur disproportionate cost.

G8 Summit

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's

priorities are for the forthcoming G8 summit in St. Petersburg; and if she will make a statement. [75143]

Margaret Beckett: The UK is working with the Russian presidency through their chosen priorities of energy security, infectious diseases and education to deliver a successful St. Petersburg summit. The UK is also working with G8 partners at all levels to ensure that previous G8 work on Africa and climate change is taken forward.

International Nuclear Fuel Bank

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the proposals to create an international nuclear fuel bank; what steps her Department is taking to explore such proposals; and if she will make a statement. [75142]

Margaret Beckett: The UK fully supports the introduction of a reliable supply of fuel cycle services and is co-operating with the US and other partners to develop workable ideas. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has the competence to administer such a mechanism and the US will soon submit a joint proposal to them, supported by the UK, to take this work forward. We believe that, in case of market disruption, the Agency could broker a new fuel supply agreement between a state and an alternate supplier. Suppliers, and their Governments, could give an undertaking to provide a back-up if relevant non-proliferation criteria were met. As a last resort, the Agency could make supplies available from a multilateral reserve of uranium, contributed by states with spare material. We look forward to engaging in further discussions and consultations on these issues at the IAEA in Vienna.

Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* she and *(b)* officials in her Department have had recent discussions with representatives of UK banks regarding their business with Iran; and if she will make a statement. [73715]

Margaret Beckett: I have not had any recent discussions with representatives of UK banks regarding their business with Iran. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have regular routine discussions with those UK banks interested in Iran, just as we have with other businesses with the same interest.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list those *(a)* Acts and *(b)* parts of Acts which received Royal Assent between 1976 and 2006 and for which her Department has policy responsibility which remain in force. [70392]

Margaret Beckett: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has policy responsibility for the following Acts (or parts thereof) which remain in force and which received Royal Assent between 1976 and 2006. Some of the Acts contain provisions which appear to be spent. A definitive list of all the parts of Acts in the relevant period for which the Department has responsibility could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

	Act
2006	European Union (Accessions) Act
2005	International Organisations Act
2003	Arms Control and Disarmament (Inspections) Act
	European Union (Accessions) Act
2002	British Overseas Territories Act
	Commonwealth Act
	European Communities (Amendment) Act
2001	International Criminal Court Act
1998	European Communities (Amendment) Act
	Landmines Act
	Nuclear Explosions (Prohibition and Inspections) Act
1997	United Nations Personnel Act
1996	Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office Act
1995	South Africa Act
1994	Antarctic Act
	European Union (Accessions) Act
1993	European Communities (Amendment) Act
	Foreign Compensation (Amendment) Act
1992	Mauritius Republic Act
1991	Arms Control and Disarmament (Inspections) Act
	Namibia Act
1990	Pakistan Act
1989	Antarctic Minerals Act
	Continental Shelf Act
	Petroleum Royalties (Relief) and Continental Shelf Act
1988	Arms Control and Disarmament (Privileges and Immunities) Act
1987	Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act
	Irish Sailors and Soldiers Land Trust Act
	Territorial Sea Act
1986	Australia Act
	British Council and Commonwealth Institute Superannuation Act
	European Communities (Amendment) Act
1985	Brunei and Maldives Act
	European Communities (Spanish and Portuguese Accession) Act
	Hong Kong Act
1982	Canada Act
1981	Belize Act
	International Organisations Act
1980	Anguilla Act
	Consular Fees Act
	New Hebrides Act
	Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa and Nauru (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act
1979	European Communities (Greek Accession) Act

	Act
	Kiribati Act
	Southern Rhodesia Act
	Zimbabwe Act
1978	Solomon Islands Act
	State Immunity Act
	Tuvalu Act
1976	Seychelles Act
	Trinidad and Tobago Republic Act

Middle East

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her *(a)* middle eastern and *(b)* gulf counterparts regarding future regional security arrangements in the gulf; with which countries these discussions took place; and if she will make a statement. [75068]

Margaret Beckett: I have had no recent discussions on regional security arrangements in the gulf with my middle eastern and gulf counterparts.

Palestine

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Israeli Government regarding *(a)* the killing of a Palestinian girl and the injuring of 12 of her relatives when Israeli shells hit their home in the Gaza Strip on 10 April 2006 and *(b)* the reduction by the Israeli army of the artillery margin of safety in which shells can be fired near civilian areas from 300 to 100 metres. [75582]

Dr. Howells: The Government have made repeated representations to the Government of Israel to exercise restraint in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. We have expressed our concern over the shelling of the Gaza Strip and over targeted killings.

We have also regularly stressed, in our contacts with the Israeli Government, the need for their operations to be in line with international law.

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on contact with Hamas; and how this policy is applied in multilateral forums. [76203]

Dr. Howells: The Government have a policy of non-contact with Hamas, in line with our EU and Quartet partners. In order to work towards our national and regional priorities, we will continue to attend a number of international fora to which we normally contribute, and whose work we value, regardless of Hamas attendance. Ministers and officials will, however, avoid all bilateral contact with Hamas at these events, in line with our policy of non-contact.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of suspension of aid to the Palestinian authority on the living standards of the Palestinian population. [76392]

Dr. Howells: The Government continues to monitor the humanitarian and security situation in the Occupied Territories closely.

Together with our Quartet partners, other donors and international financial institutions, we are looking at ways to provide direct support to the Palestinian people through the establishment of the Temporary International Mechanism. This will be discussed at the General Affairs and External Relations Council today, as well as at the European Council next week.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will issue travel warnings for British citizens travelling in the Palestinian territories to take account of recent deaths of British citizens in the territories. [76393]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) regularly updates its travel advice in light of recent events. In addition, our consulate general in Jerusalem has recently set up a system whereby residents and visitors in the Palestinian territories can register for text message updates. We currently advise against all travel to the Gaza Strip and all but essential travel to the West Bank. This information can also be found on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket%2FXcelerate%2FShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029390590&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1013618385504.

Rwandan War Criminals

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on her policy on the extradition of suspected Rwandan war criminals. [75478]

Dr. Howells: There is no general extradition arrangement between the UK and Rwanda. There is, however, provision within the Extradition Act 2003 for Ministers to consider whether the UK might enter into special arrangements where no other extradition arrangement exists. In addition, there is an appropriate legislative basis to ensure that the UK could surrender any individual indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda if they were found to be in the UK.

It is UK policy to give due consideration to any such request of an individual for extradition or surrender in light of these arrangements.

The Government are committed to a policy of no safe haven for those who commit genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity.

Turkey

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent analysis her

Department has made of the Turkish Government's progress in protecting human rights. [75950]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The European Commission's 2005 Report states that Turkey sufficiently fulfils the Copenhagen political criteria but calls for continued reform, including on freedom of expression, freedom of religion and torture. The Government fully endorse this assessment. Human rights organisations report decreasing levels of torture and ill treatment by security forces so far this year, although there was a temporary rise in allegations during violent demonstrations in March/April 2006. We look forward to the Commission's 2006 Report, expected in the autumn.

UK Passport Holders

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK passport holders live in *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* Nigeria and *(d)* Ghana. [76351]

Dr. Howells: We estimate that:

approximately 10,000 British nationals live permanently in Bangladesh and hold a British passport;

approximately 16,000 British nationals live permanently in Nigeria and hold a British passport;

approximately 35,000 British nationals live permanently in Pakistan and hold a British passport;

approximately 6,500 British nationals live permanently in Ghana and hold a British passport.

These figures are based on passport issues at our high commissions in Dhaka, Islamabad and Accra and our deputy high commission in Lagos respectively. The actual figures for Bangladesh and Pakistan however could be as high as 100,000 and 80,000 respectively, as many Bangladeshis and Pakistanis are dual nationals who obtain a passport in the UK but live for a large part of the year in Bangladesh or Pakistan.

UN Development Fund for Women

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her Department's position is on the future role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in the context of United Nations reform. [75330]

Mr. Thomas: The UK has been the largest contributor to United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)'s core resources in recent years. We are fully committed to the principles of gender equality and women's empowerment and to providing support for the UN's work on these issues. UNIFEM and other UN agencies recognise that in order to advance better outcomes for women and girls, the UN's work needs to be better organised, more joined up and more effective. The Secretary-General has asked the current high level panel on UN systems-wide coherence to assess how this can be achieved. The UK will consider the recommendations of this review in deciding how best we can continue to support the UN system's vital work on gender and women's empowerment.

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the United Arab Emirates on discrimination on grounds of colour against UK citizens visiting the United Arab Emirates; and if she will make a statement. [76005]

Dr. Howells: The Government take any allegations of racial discrimination against British citizens seriously. For reasons of confidentiality we cannot give details of specific consular cases in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). However, our embassy in Abu Dhabi has followed up complaints of discrimination on behalf of British nationals with the UAE Department of Immigration, police and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Visas

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to question 73626, how many complaints have been received relating to UK embassy visa sections in *(a)* Romania, *(b)* India, *(c)* Pakistan, *(d)* Federation of Russia, *(e)* Bulgaria, *(f)* Saudi Arabia and *(g)* Kenya. [75934]

Dr. Howells: The number of complaints relating to visa sections over the last five years are as follows. UKvisas has only recorded complaints received in the United Kingdom separately since March 2006 so these figures are only included for this year.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Romania	4	[1] —	—	—	2	5
India	[2] 9	[2] 7	[2] 10	54	32	41
Pakistan	[3] —	—	—	—	—	[3] 2
Russia	10	2	4	1	1	3
Bulgaria	—	—	—	—	9	2
Saudi Arabia	—	[5] 3	[5] 0	[5] 0	4	4
Kenya	—	—	—	—	3	3

[1] Statistics not available for this period.
[2] Figures for deputy high commissions in Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai only. No data available for these years for the high commission in New Delhi.
[3] Information not available for visa sections in Pakistan. Formal procedures are now in place at our high commission in Islamabad and deputy high commission in Karachi to record all complaints.
[4] Complaints received in the UK only.
[5] Figures for the Consulate-General in Jeddah only. No data available for these years for the embassy in Riyadh.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services (Burnley)

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of ambulances deployed from Burnley Ambulance Station have had a paramedic on board in each month of the last five years. [74758]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action has been taken by her Department in response to the recommendations from the Select Committee on the Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill [Lords]; and if she will make a statement. [75533]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Select Committee on the Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill was set up to consider the previous draft of Lord Joffe's Private Member's Bill and made its recommendations in that context. The Bill involves issues of conscience and the Government's stance is to remain neutral and to listen to the debate.

Avian Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the World Health Organisation on the outbreak of A/H5N1 in a family cluster in Kubu Sembelang, North Sumatra. [75438]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Departmental officials are in regular contact with the World Health Organisation regarding outbreaks of avian flu impacting on human populations. Pandemic flu planning was a topic for discussion at the World Health Assembly held on 22 to 27 May during which time there were a number of contacts between officials and the Secretariat about the development of the outbreak in Northern Sumatra.

Biological Diversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which Minister in her Department is responsible for monitoring her Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if she will make a statement. [73943]

Caroline Flint: Under Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Ministers and Government Departments have a duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity. This has been replaced by a similar provision under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act which comes into effect on the 1 October 2006. There is no statutory duty to monitor compliance with this duty.

The conservation of biological diversity falls under part H of the framework for sustainable development on the Government estate. The Department does not manage any land and its potential impacts on biodiversity are not significant. Nevertheless, our indoor plant management contractors are required to follow best practice to preserve biodiversity.

Bowel Cancer

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times the bowel cancer treatment working group has met during the past 12 months. [76242]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The bowel cancer treatment working group, a sub-group of the bowel cancer advisory group, has not met in the last 12 months. It last met on 22 March 2005.

Chlamydia

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts use the *(a)* nucleic acid amplification test and *(b)* enzyme immunoassay test for chlamydia. [73997]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* This information is not collected centrally.

In September 2003, the Department recognised that the need to switch to the superior nucleic acid amplification test (NAATs) for chlamydia testing and screening should be treated as a priority. At the same time, the chief medical officer wrote to all chief executives of strategic health authorities (SHAs) confirming this.

£7 million pump-priming money was invested in 2004-05 to ensure that all major laboratories in each region of England use the most effective technology. We have invested £80 million in the national chlamydia screening programme. One of the conditions is that all tests are undertaken using NAATs.

This is a clinical governance issue and we have stressed to the national health service how important it is to use this method of testing.

Choose and Book

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding her Department has allocated for 2006-07 for incentives for general practitioners to use the Choose and Book system. [75309]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Revisions to the general medical service (GMS) contract from 1 April 2006-07 include a reward for general practitioner practices, through a directed enhanced service (DES), for utilisation of the choose and book service and for delivering choice to patients.

The full value of the DES is 96 pence per registered patient. There are approximately 53.3 million registered patients in England. Assuming that every practice in England meets the full requirements of both components of the DES, the value of the DES in 2006-07 could be just over £50 million, which is funded as a relatively small part of the growth in overall resource allocations to primary care trusts.

Colo-rectal Cancer

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what cost-benefit analysis her Department has undertaken of the use of non-invasive laparoscopic surgery techniques for the treatment of colorectal cancer; and if she will make a statement. [76245]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has commissioned a research project to consider the costs

and benefits of current services for bowel cancer, including laparoscopic surgery, and to identify areas where improvements might be achievable. This research is being conducted by York health economics consortium and the School of Health and Related Research at Sheffield University and is due to report in the autumn.

In addition, on 24 March, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published provisional new advice on the use of laparoscopic colorectal surgery. It recommends laparoscopic (including laparoscopically assisted) resection as an alternative to open resection for patients with colorectal cancer who are considered suitable for surgery. NICE's final advice on this technique is due to be published in September 2006.

Departmental officials have also carried out a review of existing evidence on the costs and benefits of laparoscopic surgery in the treatment of colorectal cancer and considered whether there is a need for further research in this area. It was concluded that, given the York/Sheffield project and the work being carried out by NICE, no further work was required at this time. This decision was endorsed by the bowel cancer advisory group chaired by the national cancer director.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many laparoscopic surgery procedures for colorectal cancer were carried out in each year since 2003-04. [76246]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total number of laparoscopic surgery procedures for colorectal cancer carried out each year since 2003-04 is shown in the table. These figures do not represent the total number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Laparoscopic surgery procedures for colorectal cancer

	Number
2003-04	38,840
2004-05	39,889

Community First Responders

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the responsibilities are of community first responders in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* the rest of England. [75023]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Community responders are volunteers from the local community and often include members of St John Ambulance, Red Cross and other individuals with a clinical background. First responders are individuals working for the fire and police services, who also respond to ambulance 999 calls while on duty. In all cases, responders are deployed by a national health service ambulance trust to appropriate 999 calls.

Community and first responders in England make themselves available to respond to appropriate 999 calls at the request of a NHS ambulance trust and to provide aid to the patient while the ambulance response is en route, having been dispatched at around the same time as the ambulance vehicle. Calls are usually those where life is in immediate danger such as cardiac arrest. Responders are trained in basic life support and have equipment such as defibrillators.

Their precise roles and responsibilities are a matter for the host ambulance trust.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether community first responders will be retained in Staffordshire with their current roles and responsibilities. [75024]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We would expect the new trusts to maintain current community responder schemes. Their precise roles and responsibilities are a matter for the host ambulance trust.

Contractor Costs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent guidance she has issued to NHS trusts on reducing contractor costs; [R] [76683]

(2) how many NHS trusts requested contractors to reduce the price of contracts which had already been let in 2005-06. [R] [76822]

Andy Burnham: The Department is determined to secure best value from NHS expenditure. A key area is the nearly £15 billion the national health service spends on goods and services. No recent formal guidance has been issued to the NHS on reducing costs with contractors.

The information requested on the number of NHS trusts requesting contractors to reduce the price of contracts already let in 2005-06 is not collected centrally.

Correspondence

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Eddisbury of 18 April 2006 concerning Neil Russell of PJ Care. [75136]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Unfortunately, we have no record of receiving a letter from the hon. Member. His office has supplied us with a copy and we will reply to it as quickly as possible.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the managing director of the strategic health authority covering West Worcestershire will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 2 May. [76240]

Ms Rosie Winterton: West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority reports that Cynthia Bower, Interim Chief Executive, is currently preparing a reply, which will be sent in due course.

Cosmetic Surgery/Laser Eye Surgery

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance her Department provides to private

health providers in respect of after-care treatment following *(a)* laser eye surgery and *(b)* cosmetic surgery; [75550]

(2) how many people experienced complications following *(a)* laser eye surgery and *(b)* cosmetic surgery in each of the last five years; [75551]

(3) how many individuals sought NHS treatment following complications with *(a)* laser eye surgery and *(b)* cosmetic surgery carried out by private health providers in each of the last five years; and at what estimated cost to the NHS in each year; [75552]

(4) what estimate she has made of the number of individuals having laser eye correction surgery in England on the NHS in each of the last five years. [75594]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not provide guidance to private health care establishments as cosmetic surgery and laser eye surgery takes place within the independent sector. However, the Private and Voluntary Healthcare Regulations 2001 and the associated national minimum standards ensure that all aspects of the treatment and services provided by cosmetic surgery and laser eye surgery providers are safe and quality assured, and establishments are inspected by the Healthcare Commission.

Providers must comply with regulations and there are national minimum standards—core standards that cover general issues that apply to all types of private care, and service specific standards that relate to the use of class 4 lasers used in laser eye surgery. These national minimum standards are published by the Secretary of State for Health under section 23 (1) of the Care Standards Act 2000. The standards refer to appropriate patient selection and specific instructions to patient relatives and community services if appropriate. Post-operative information must be provided for patients specific to each procedure undertaken in a day surgical unit.

Information about complications and patients who have sought national health service treatment following complications with cosmetic surgery or laser eye surgery is not collected by the Department.

Dentistry

Ms Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* dentists and *(b)* dental practices in the East Hull and West Hull primary care trust areas have (i) signed and (ii) not signed the new NHS dental contract. [73404]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of dentists who have signed the new contract is not available centrally. We do however have some provisional information that covers contracts. A contract may be for more than one dentist so cannot be broken down further to individual dentist level.

Provisional management estimates in Eastern Hull primary care trust (PCT)

	Number/percentage
Contracts signed	
Number	9
Approximate units of dental activity (UDA) value	131,044
Contracts still in discussion	
Number	0
Approximate UDA value	0
Contracts rejected	
Number	7
Approximate UDA value	1,341
UDAs	1.0
Contacts signed	
Number signed without dispute	8
Number signed in dispute	1
Disputes	11.1

Provisional management estimates in West Hull PCT

	Number/percentage
Contracts signed	
Number	16
Approximate UDA value	277,042
Contracts still in discussion	
Number	0
Approximate UDA value	0
Contracts rejected	
Number	7
Approximate UDA value	23,072
UDAs	7.7
Contracts signed	
Number signed without dispute	19
Number signed in dispute	0
Disputes	0

Notes:
1. The information provided is not validated.
2. It represents a snapshot of the position in early April.

PCTs are working with dentists to resolve as many disputes as possible locally.

Departmental Operating Framework

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when strategic health authorities expressed support for the Department of Health's operating framework for 2006-07. [76088]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The Department developed the operating framework 2006-07 in close collaboration with a range of stakeholders including strategic health authorities.

Disability Equipment (Internet Sales)

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will require the internet industry to ensure that

sales of disability equipment on the internet comply with the medical device regulations. [76791]

Andy Burnham: Any medical device placed on the United Kingdom market should be CE marked by the manufacturer in compliance with the Medical Devices Regulations 2002. Any instances of non-compliance would be investigated and resolved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State whether the device is sold over the internet or by more traditional means.

District Nurses

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many district nurse contacts there have been in each year since 1997. [74051]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The available information had been published in "NHS district nursing: summary information for 2003-04", and is shown in the following table. In order to reduce the burden of bureaucracy on front line staff the Department stopped collecting the number of face-to-face contacts in 2000. The Department collected information on initial and first contacts until 2004.

District nurse contacts, 1996-97 to 2003-04

	Initial contacts (new episodes of care)	*First contacts (different persons receiving care)*	*Total face-to-face contacts*
England			
1996-97	2,196	2,571	36,568
1997-98	2,202	2,581	35,809
1998-99	2,239	2,606	35,089
1999-2000	2,175	2,534	34,146
2000-01	2,035	2,472	—
2001-02	2,007	2,480	—
2002-03	1,918	2,503	—
2003-04	1,961	2,577	—

Source:
Department of Health, Form KC56

General Practitioner Retainer Schemes

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals are on general practitioner retainer schemes. [74705]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As 30 September 2005, 642 individuals were on the general practitioner retainer scheme.

Haemophilia

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answers of 5 June to Questions 73258, 73259 and 73260, on people with haemophilia, if she will publish the Department's consideration and decision with regard to the Macfarlane Trust's submission. [76443]

Caroline Flint: There has been no further development since my last reply.

Herceptin

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will meet Shropshire Primary Care Trust to discuss the provision of Herceptin to those with early stage breast cancer in Shropshire. [74755]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for individual clinicians, in discussion with a patient, to decide whether or not it is suitable to prescribe a specific drug. Primary care trusts (PCTs) may need to be involved to decide whether to support the clinician's decision and supply the drug at the national health service's expense. PCTs need to take a range of factors into account, including local factors, when considering the funding of drugs and other treatments.

The Department is aware that Shropshire county PCT has recently revised its policy on individual patient requests for drugs and is currently reviewing the cases of women who have recently been refused funding for Herceptin in line with this. This is a matter for the local health community and the Secretary of State has no plans to meet the PCT to discuss it.

Kidney Dialysis

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals in *(a)* London and *(b)* England provide kidney dialysis treatment. [73553]

Ms Rosie Winterton: According to figures held by the United Kingdom Renal Registry, there are 54 adult renal units in England, of which eight are in London, and 10 paediatric renal units in England, of which two are in London.

The vast majority of adult units will have satellite dialysis facilities attached to them enabling many patients to dialyse closer to home and minimise travel times. These are looked after by consultants based at a main adult renal unit. Some, although not all, of these are based at hospitals. However, figures for these are not collected centrally.

Medical and Dental Education Levy

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of whether the Medical and Dental Education Levy and multi-professional education and training funding will be sufficient to allow all postgraduate deaneries to fulfil their obligation to provide full study leave funding without consequent reductions in posts or other areas of activity. [73843]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Allocations to strategic health authorities, which will include money for education and training, will be issued shortly. It is for strategic health authorities, working closely with their postgraduate deaneries, to determine exactly how their budgets will be used to meet local needs, priorities and contractual commitments.

Medical Centre (Festival Park, North Staffordshire)

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received concerning the decision not to proceed with the proposed out-of-hours medical centre at Festival Park, North Staffordshire; what costs the NHS incurred in relation to the plans; and whether a procedure for not proceeding was included in the contract with Prima 200 Ltd. [75021]

Ms Rosie Winterton: To date the Department has received one letter about the decision not to proceed with the proposed out-of-hours medical centre at Festival Park.

It is for the local health community to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services.

The Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) reports that the national health service has incurred abortive costs of £650,000 in the financial year 2005-06 for the out-of-hours scheme.

The SHA also reports that the strategic partnering agreement with Prima 200 Limited (Ltd) includes clauses on what happens if a project does not go ahead. Negotiations with Prima 200 Ltd took place within the terms of this agreement.

Mental Health

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will bring forward amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983 aimed at strengthening protection against possible racial bias in the way the Act operates. [73389]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are currently undertaking a race equality impact assessment on the proposed amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983. We will consider what action may be required in light of any findings from the assessment.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the mental health establishments visited by her and her ministerial team since 1 May 2005; and what the date was of the visit in each case. [69387]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State and her ministerial team have visited a total of 12 mental health establishments since 1 May; details and dates as follows:

The Fermoy Unit, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn, Norfolk (31 May 2005)

Holmhurst Day Centre, Southwark Community Health Team, London (21 July 2005)

Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust (PCT) and North East London Mental Health Trust (5 September 2005)

Fairlawns Mental Health Team, Sheffield PCT (27 October 2005)

City and Hackney PCT Mental Health Unit (10 October 2005)

Highgate Mental Health Trust, London (18 October 2005)

Broadmoor Hospital (13 December 2005)

South Essex Mental Health Partnership Trust, including Basildon Mental Health Trust and Churchview Rehabilitation Unit (2 March 2006)

Hollins Park Hospital, Mental Health Advocacy Service, Warrington (30 March 2006)

East London and City Mental Health Trust (1 March 2006)

Humber Mental Health NHS Teaching Trust (4 April 2006).

Merton and Sutton Better Healthcare Closer to Home Programme

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she plans to respond to the Merton and Sutton Better Healthcare Closer to Home Programme steering group's review of her instructions to build the critical care hospital on the St. Helier site. [76310]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has received the response from the local national health service and is currently considering the situation.

Ministerial Cars (Fuel Costs)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the fuel costs were for ministerial cars used by her Department in each of the last five years. [67123]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman) on 27 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1226W.

NHS Direct

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if NHS Direct will give priority to employing disabled nurses when deciding who should be made redundant; [76354]

(2) what external efficiency targets have not been met by NHS Direct in *(a)* Scunthorpe and *(b)* Chester; [76355]

(3) pursuant to the consultation document on the future of NHS Direct, how the NHS Direct site in *(a)* York and *(b)* Southport was assessed as being expensive to maintain from an information and communications technology infrastructure perspective; [76356]

(4) against which Department of Trade and Industry contact centres NHS Direct contact centres have been compared; and what the most recent user satisfaction rating of each was; [76357]

(5) what complaints NHS Direct has received from staff about the quality of accommodation. [76358]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not centrally held. It may be available from the Chairman of NHS Direct Special Health Authority.

NHS Strategic Tracing Service

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress her Department is making on the replacement of the NHS Strategic Tracing Service; when replacement will be completed; and if she will make a statement. [76739]

Caroline Flint: The contract to provide the NHS strategic tracing service (NSTS) runs to the end of June 2007, with an option to extend further for periods of six months up to the end of December 2008. Migration from NSTS to the personal demographics service (PDS) is scheduled to have been completed within this timescale.

The PDS is part of the national programme for information technology spine, and went live, on time, in June 2004. In addition to stand-alone patient tracing services the PDS provides an essential element of the integrated national health service care record service which underpins the creation of an electronic care record for every NHS patient in England. The PDS enables a patient to be readily identified by NHS staff and associated, seamlessly and accurately, with their care record. The PDS also supports other key initiatives such as choose and book and the electronic prescription service.

The PDS currently contains demographic information on most NHS patients and is currently processing over 136 million searches a year from over 14,500 locations.

Use of the PDS will continue to develop over the life of the NHS information technology programme to deliver the full set of planned patient benefits and clinical improvements to the NHS.

NHS Structure

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions she has been requested to involve the Independent Review Panel on questions arising from a proposed change in NHS structure or pattern of service provision since 1997; and on how many occasions she acceded to such a request. [76308]

Andy Burnham: To date, there have been 13 referrals from Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) to the Secretary of State for Health. Two have been referred to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel for advice—East Kent (2002) and Calderdale and Kirklees (2006). Following a referral from Surrey OSC in October 2005, the panel was also asked to assist with the local process to ensure agreement is reached locally between the stakeholders.

Nuchal Fold Scans

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether it is her policy that nuchal fold scans should be available in all NHS trusts; [76290]

(2) how many NHS trusts carry out nuchal fold scans. [76291]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Guidance for the national health service on more accurate tests for Down's syndrome screening was published by the Department on 11 November 2003. The guidance provides a suggested time frame for progress. Nuchal translucency combined with serum tests are performed around 11 to 14 weeks and is one of the recommended tests for Down's syndrome screening. The national Down's syndrome screening programme advise that currently almost 25 per cent. of NHS trusts implement this form of screening. The nuchal fold scan performed between 18 to 20 weeks of pregnancy is not currently recommended by the United Kingdom National Screening Committee as an acceptable marker to detect Down's syndrome.

Nurses

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses were working in the NHS in *(a)* 1979, *(b)* 1990, *(c)* 1991, *(d)* 1997 and *(e)* 2006; how many nursing redundancies there were in the period (i) 1979 to 1990, (ii) 1991 to 1997 and (iii) 1997 to 2006; and what the total change was in the number of nurses working in the NHS in the period (A) 1979 to 1990, (B) 1991 to 1997 and (C) 1997 to 2006. [73812]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the number of qualified nurses in 1979, 1990, 1991, 1997 and 2005. Information on the number of qualified nurses in 2006 will be collected in September.

England

	1979[1,2,3]	*1990*	*1991*[4]	*1997*	*2005*
All qualified nurses	192,052	298,966	309,781	318,856	404,161
HCHS qualified nurses	190,243	285,359	293,774	300,467	381,257
Practice nurses	1,809	13,607	16,007	18,389	22,904

[1] Figures taken from 1985 HPSSS.
[2] Figures for 1979 are hospital staff only and are therefore not directly comparable with later years.
[3] Practice nurse figures for 1979 are estimated.
[4] Practice nurse figures for 1991 may not be fully comparable with other data due to under-reporting of fund holding practice staff by FHSAs.

The following table shows the increase in the number of qualified nurses 1979-90, 1991-97 and 1997-2005.

Headcount

	Change *1979-90*	*1991-97*	*1997-2005*
All qualified nurses	106,914	9,075	85,305
HCHS qualified nurses	95,116	6,693	80,790
Practice nurses	11,798	2,382	4,515

Information on the number of nurse redundancies during these periods is not collected centrally.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses working within the NHS *(a)* retired and *(b)* left the NHS for other reasons in each year since 2001-02; how many are forecast to retire and leave in 2006-07; and if she will make a statement. [75149]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) pension division is unable to provide data on retirements for nurses alone. I have asked the BSA to write to the hon. Member to let her know what data can be provided that might be of assistance.

Information on the number of nurses leaving the national health service is not collected centrally.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been spent on *(a)* voluntary exit schemes and *(b)* mandatory redundancy schemes for nurses working in the NHS in each year since 2001-02; what the forecast expenditure is for 2006-07; and if she will make a statement; [75154]

(2) how many nurses left the NHS on *(a)* voluntary exit schemes and *(b)* mandatory redundancy schemes in each year since 2001-02; how many are forecast to leave in 2006-07; and if she will make a statement. [75155]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Obesity

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults are (i) obese and (ii) overweight when measured by body mass index, according to the Government's most recent health survey figures. [72052]

Caroline Flint: The main source of data on the prevalence of obesity and overweight among children and adults is the Health Survey for England. The most recent data (2004) on the prevalence of obesity and overweight in children and adults are presented in tables 1 and 2. Table 1 refers to obesity and overweight prevalence among children aged two to 15. Table 2 reports the obesity and overweight prevalence among adults aged 16 and over.

Table 1. Prevalence of obesity and overweight among children[1], by gender, England, 2004

Body mass index (BMI) status	*Percentages 2004 (weighted[2])*
Boys	
Overweight	13.9
Obese	19.2
Girls	
Overweight	16.6
Obese	18.5
Bases	
Boys	8,833
Girls	8,228

[1] Children aged 2 to 15.
[2] Data are weighted for non-response.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2004. Updating of trend tables to include 2004 data, The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Table 2: Prevalence of obesity and overweight among adults[1], by gender, England, 2004

Body mass index (BMI) status	*Percentages 2004 (weighted[2])*
Men	
Overweight	44
Obese	23
Women	
Overweight	34
Obese	23
Bases	
Men	39,244
Women	39,803

[1] Adults aged 16 and over.
[2] Data are weighted for non-response.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2004, The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Oesophageal Doppler Monitoring

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the total number of patients treated by the NHS in the last year for which figures are available who would benefit from oesophageal Doppler monitoring; what assessment she has made of the proportion of these patients who do not benefit from this technology; what plans she has to increase the uptake of this technology in NHS trusts; and if she will make a statement. [74047]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not made any assessment of the total number of patients treated by the national health service in the last year who would benefit from oesophageal Doppler monitoring.

Following the Government's decision to shift the balance of power, most central funding has been devolved to local primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities. This means that PCTs are now responsible for selecting and funding services that they feel are required in their region. Each PCT takes into account the needs and demands in their own area, and have a local plan on how best to spend their money on the services they need.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions she has had with Medway NHS Trust regarding the effects of oesophageal Doppler monitoring; what estimate she has made of the savings made by Medway NHS trust through the use of this technology; and whether she has made any assessment of the total savings to the NHS of encouraging the use of oesophageal Doppler monitoring. [74048]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not had any discussions with Medway national health service trust regarding oesophageal Doppler monitoring and has not made an assessment of the costs of this treatment.

Operation Numbers

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average number of operations performed by a whole-time equivalent surgeon was in 2005-06. [74703]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In England, the average number of operations performed by a whole-time equivalent surgeon (defined as (medical) staff in the surgical specialities) in 2004-05 was 490. This is the latest year for which this calculation can be made.

Notes:

1. The number of operations in England in 2004-05 was 9,477,564. Data for 2005-06 are not available.

2. The number of whole-time equivalent staff in the surgical specialities at 30 September 2005 was 19,337 in England.

Sources:

1. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

2. Medical and dental census (30 September 2005), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Overseas Doctors

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation her Department undertook before introducing changes to visa arrangements for overseas doctors working in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [74161]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The immigration rules for permit free training were amended in July 2005 and the implications were discussed with the British Medical Association (BMA), postgraduate deans and overseas doctors groups.

Departmental officials discussed proposals to amend the regulations further at a meeting in January held by NHS employers which was attended by the Home Office and medical stakeholders, including the British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, the British International Doctors Association, the BMA and representatives from the national health service.

Patient/Public Involvement (Health)

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that *(a)* the new bodies that replace patient and public involvement in health forums have sufficient resources and powers to enable them properly to discharge their functions and *(b)* there is a smooth and rapid transition to the new bodies to minimise the risk of losing existing expertise. [72743]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The expert panel, which was established to recommend measures to deliver a stronger voice for patients, services users and the public at all levels in the health and social care system, recently reported its recommendations to ministers in the Department. Ministers are considering the recommendations and will announce the Department's decision on the future structures for patient and public involvement shortly.

Physiotherapists

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many unfilled vacancies for physiotherapists there have been in the NHS in each of the last three years. [75668]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of vacancies for physiotherapists which national health service trusts were actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full time equivalents), as at 31 March in each of the last three years, is shown in the table.

England

	Vacancies
2003	671
2004	626
2005	464

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many graduate physiotherapists were offered employment by the NHS in each of the last three years. [75669]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what incentives are available to encourage members of her staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75112]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department promotes the use of public transport by offering interest-free season ticket loans. Loans are also available to purchase bicycles, and departmental buildings offer secure cycle parking and showers.

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much central Government funding was made available to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005. [72390]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not allocate funding to national health service trusts. NHS trusts as providers of services receive the bulk of their revenue funding from commissioning by primary care trusts. They also receive revenue funding from the Department for research and development and from strategic health authorities for medical staff training and other teaching costs. In addition, trusts can charge staff, visitors or patients for services provided, such as catering or provision of private patient facilities.

Shropshire county primary care trust (PCT) will receive allocations of £331.2 million in 2006-07 and £363.3 million in 2007-08. These represent a cash increase of £59.9 million or 19.7 per cent. over the two years.

Telford and Wrekin PCT will receive allocations of £187.6 million in 2006-07 and £209.3 million in 2007-08. These represent a cash increase of £41.3 million or 24.5 per cent. over the two years, compared to a national average of 19.5 per cent.

It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which are the *(a)* best and *(b)* worst performing councils in England in terms of their ability to take effective action against antisocial behaviour; and if he will make a statement on the performance of Luton borough council in this area. [75923]

Mr. McNulty: The data are not available in the format requested. Tackling antisocial behaviour involves a multi-agency approach which includes the local police, crime and disorder reduction partnerships as well as local borough councils and other partner authorities. The Government have already provided guidance and support to these local agencies to help them to target resources and powers to protect the public and ensure that antisocial behaviour is tackled, not tolerated.

There are variations in performance to tackle antisocial behaviour across the country and the Government are determined that public concern about antisocial behaviour is adequately reflected in the priorities of all our services. The Respect Programme will now take this further so that local services are organised so that they respond swiftly and effectively to the problems that communities face today. People need to see and feel that a difference can be made.

The Government also aims to improve accountability between service providers and the public by giving more power to local communities. The Police and Justice Bill contains provisions for the community call for action. This is a way for local communities to demand a response from agencies to persistent local community safety or antisocial behaviour problems, via an approach to their ward councillor.

Approved Contractor Scheme

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has carried out an assessment of the total *(a)* cost and *(b)* benefits to companies of compliance with the approved contractor scheme. [58968]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office published a full regulatory impact assessment (RIA) on 16 February 2006 on the approved contractor scheme (ACS). The full RIA took into account the costs associated with obtaining ACS status and the benefits to companies that ACS will bring.

The effectiveness of the scheme and the standards being applied will be reviewed annually. I have also asked to be kept informed of the uptake of the scheme on a regular basis.

Buses

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were reported *(a)* on buses and *(b)* at bus stops in (i) the North East of England, (ii) County Durham and (iii) the City of Durham in each of the last 10 years. [75261]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office recorded crime statistics do not separately identify crimes occurring on buses or at bus stops.

Child Abuse Websites

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to introduce measures to prevent credit card-based access to websites hosting images of child abuse. [72503]

Mr. Coaker: The Government created the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) to play a proactive role in protecting children, young people, families and society from paedophiles and sex offenders, particularly those who use the Internet and other new technologies in the sexual exploitation of children. This includes actively bringing together law enforcement with credit card providers as well as other key industry sectors to look at all aspects of online safety and to take proactive steps in preventing and detecting websites hosting images of child sex abuse.

Home Office is working closely with CEOP, the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and the Association for Payment Clearing Services to consider how an Order under Schedule 3 of the Data Protection Act may ensure payment card companies can legitimately hold and internally process sensitive data concerning an individual's conviction(s) at court. The practical issues are still being clarified, but the DCA hope to lay an Order shortly. Card issuers usually have the power to remove an individual's payment card once they have been informed of the commission of a relevant offence.

Compensation

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what financial advice is provided to victims of violent crimes who are awarded large sums of money as compensation. [73950]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Claims to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) are confidential as between applicants and CICA, and Ministers are precluded by law from involvement in individual cases.

CICA do not give financial advice to successful claimants. However, successful claimants have the same access to the various sources of financial advice that are available generally to members of the public.

Where a successful claimant from England or Wales receives a large award but is incapable of managing his or her financial affairs, the Public Guardianship Office (PGO) will usually be brought in to decide how the award should be administered, unless other arrangements, such as the administration of the award in a trust, are to be made. In such cases the PGO's appointees or the trustees would be responsible for taking any necessary financial advice.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average time taken was to process an application to the Criminal Records Bureau for a disclosure in each year since it was established; [74585]

(2) what the longest time taken was to process an application for a criminal record check in the last year for which figures are available. [74586]

Joan Ryan: Data concerning the average time taken to complete a disclosure are not a performance target and are not collated by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). The CRB operates to a set of published service standards (PSS), which are to process 93 per cent. of standard disclosure applications within two weeks and 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosure applications within four weeks. The service standards are published on the CRB website, www.crb.gov.uk.

The longest time taken to process an application within the last year from receipt of the application to despatch of the criminal record check was 11 months. This was not a straightforward case and it required interaction with the registered body throughout the process; the application form was incomplete; there were three police forces involved in the local intelligence checking; and the Police National Computer (PNC) found alias details pertaining to the applicant which he had failed to declare on his form. On occasions such as this it is necessary to recheck these details against the PNC and the other databases containing details of people who are considered unsuitable to work with children and vulnerable adults. The disclosure was issued on 31 May 2006 and contained a total of six separate convictions.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* efficiency and *(b)* effectiveness of the Criminal Records Bureau. [75691]

Joan Ryan: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) publishes an annual report and accounts, which is presented to Parliament pursuant to section 7 of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. The annual report and accounts provides, among other things, analysis on the CRB's performance and its operating costs and balance sheet for the financial year. Copies of the CRB annual report and accounts 2004-05 were placed in the Library and a copy may be downloaded from the CRB's website www.crb.gov.uk. The bureau's management board, which includes a senior Home Office official, also regularly reviews issues concerning efficiency and effectiveness and the Chief Executive provides regular reports to Ministers on performance. The CRB's published service standards (PSS) are to issue 93 per cent. of Standard Disclosures within 14 days and 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days. The CRB is currently issuing 99.7 per cent. of standard disclosures within PSS, and 88.6 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within PSS. More organisations than ever before have access to the CRB's disclosure service and this expansion clearly demonstrates the Government's confidence in the CRB and its ability to deal with growing volumes in a timely and effective manner. Furthermore, a CRB-commissioned MORI survey has also shown that customer satisfaction levels are at an all time high, reflecting the year-on-year improvements that the CRB has made. The independent research has also shown that the CRB is making a difference to the protection of children and the vulnerable. In 2005, some 25,000 unsuitable people were prevented from gaining access to children or the vulnerable, as a direct result of CRB checks. Many more unsuitable people are deterred from applying to work with children and the vulnerable as a direct result of a requirement for a CRB check.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he last met the Chief Executive of the Criminal Records Bureau. [75692]

Joan Ryan: The Secretary of State for the Home Department last met the Chief Executive of the Criminal Records Bureau on 25 January 2006. I last met the Chief Executive of the Criminal Records Bureau on 11 May 2006. Such meetings take place every six weeks, and the Minister reports back to the Secretary of State as and when necessary.

Crossbows

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of offences connected with the misuse of crossbows in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [75554]

Mr. McNulty: There is no specific offence relating to the misuse of crossbows. Such offences could be included under several different offences, such as possession of an offensive weapon, but the data cannot be separated to show how many of the offences involved a crossbow.

The table shows figures for prosecutions and convictions for the only offences that are solely relevant to crossbows. Figures for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Number of defendants prosecuted at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Crossbow Act 1997, England and Wales, 2000-04[1]

	Defendants									
	Prosecuted					Convicted				
Offence description	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Selling or letting on hire a crossbow to a person under the age of 17	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purchasing or hiring a crossbow by a person under the age of 17	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Possession of a crossbow by a person under the age of 17	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

Dangerous Dogs Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people who reside in *(a)* Southend on Sea and *(b)* Essex have been prosecuted under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each year since it was enacted; [75524]

(2) how many dangerous dogs have been destroyed in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* Hertfordshire, *(d)* the Metropolitan police area of London and *(e)* England and Wales in each year since 1996. [75537]

Mr. McNulty: The table shows figures for prosecutions under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in south east Essex and Essex since 1992. Figures for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006. Information on the number of dangerous dogs destroyed is not collected centrally by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform or DEFRA.

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in South East Essex and in the Essex police force area, 1992 to 2004

Offence description	*Statute*	*1992*[2]	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*
South East Essex Criminal Justice Area							
Breeding or breeding from a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Giving or offering to give a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(c)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(d)	0	0	0	1	0	0
Abandoning, or allowing to stray, a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(e)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	3	1	0	1	0	1
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	5	4	3	3	6	1
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non- public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	1	0	0	0	1	0
Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified	Badgers (further protection) Act 1991 Sec. 1. Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 4(8), Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Sec. 13.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		10	5	3	5	7	2

Offence description	Statute	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
South East Essex Criminal Justice Area								
Breeding or breeding from a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Giving or offering to give a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(c)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(d)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abandoning, or allowing to stray, a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(e)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	4	3	2	1	3	2	2
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified	Badgers (further protection) Act 1991 Sec. 1. Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 4(8), Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Sec. 13.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		8	4	2	1	3	3	2

Offence description	Statute	1992[2]	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Essex							
Breeding or breeding from a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Giving or offering to give a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(c)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(d)	1	0	0	1	0	1
Abandoning, or allowing to stray, a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(e)	0	0	0	0	0	1
Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3)	3	0	1	0	0	0
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	11	12	5	6	3	5
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	10	6	11	3	20	9

Offence description	Statute	1992[2]	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	2	0	0	1	0	0
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	1	3	2	1	2	6
Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified	Badgers (further protection) Act 1991 Sec. 1. Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 4(8), Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Sec. 13.	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total		28	21	20	12	25	22

Offence description	Statute	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Essex								
Breeding or breeding from a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Giving or offering to give a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(c)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(d)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abandoning, or allowing to stray, a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(e)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3)	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	8	16	12	7	17	9	4
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	15	14	8	9	18	23	8
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non- public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	1	1	0	0	0	2	0
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	3	4	6	5	3	1	1
Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified	Badgers (further protection) Act 1991 Sec. 1. Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 4(8), Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Sec. 13.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		27	35	26	21	40	35	13

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Offence codes for Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 were introduced to the court proceeding database from 1 January 1992.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Dyfed Powys Police

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the occasions on which Dyfed Powys Police were inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary between 1992 and 2005; and if he will place copies of the reports in the Library. [75705]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 7 June 2006]:* Details of when Dyfed Powys were inspected by HMIC are given in the table. The majority of reports between 1998 and 2005 can be found on the HMIC website at: www.inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Dyfed Powys Police

Date inspected	
1992	HMIC Inspection
1993	HMIC Inspection
1994	HMIC Inspection
1995	HMIC Inspection
1996-97	HMIC Inspection
1997-98	HMIC Inspection
1998-99	HMIC Inspection
2001-02	HMIC Inspection
2002	Pembrokeshire BCU Inspection
2003	BVRI Public Order
2004	HMIC Inspection
2004	Ceredigion BCU Inspection
2004	BVRI Intelligence
2004	BVRI Criminal Justice
2005	HMIC Inspection
2005	Torefan BCU Inspection
2005	Professional Standards Inspection
2006	Race Equality Inspection

Foreign Nationals (Northern Ireland)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to provide *(a)* protection and *(b)* assistance to foreign nationals working in Northern Ireland, with particular reference to access to entitlements. [74681]

Mr. Byrne: Foreign nationals in Northern Ireland, as elsewhere in the UK, will generally be entitled to assistance and protection from the consular authorities of their own country, in addition, in many cases, to those sources of assistance which are also available to British citizens, including the police. As to entitlements to social security benefits, in general these are not available to persons who are subject to immigration control, while EU nationals in general enjoy rights to equal treatment under community law.

Graffiti

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for graffiti crime there have been in each year since 1997. [75363]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not possible to distinguish offences of graffiti from other types of criminal damage in the court proceedings data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform as the circumstances of individual offences are not collected centrally.

House Burglaries

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many house burglaries were reported in 2005; and how many reports subsequently led to a conviction. [75393]

Mr. McNulty: There were 304,400 recorded offences of domestic burglary in England and Wales in 2005. It is not possible to identify how many of these led to a conviction. This is because recorded crime deals with offences and court proceedings deal with defendants and the two data sets cannot be directly compared.

Individual Support Orders

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual support orders attached to anti-social behaviour orders have been given at magistrates courts in each magistrates court area. [74523]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The available information is given in the table.

Number of individual support orders[1] given at magistrates courts in addition to an ASBO, as reported to the Home Office, where restrictions are imposed: Criminal Justice System areas[2] from 1 May 2004 to 30 September 2005—England and Wales

CJS Area[2]	*Individual support orders issued*
Durham	2
GLMCA	4
Gloucestershire	1
Greater Manchester	4
Gwent	1
Hampshire	1
Humberside	1
Kent	1
Norfolk	8
Northumbria	1
Nottinghamshire	4
West Midlands	1
West Yorkshire	2
Total	31

[1] Available at magistrates courts only for juveniles (10 to 17) with ASBOs issued on application. Commencement date 1 May 2004.
[2] As from 1 April 2005. (On the creation of Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS)) CJS Areas superseded MCC areas.

Knife Crimes

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of carrying a knife in a public place in each of the last five years. [75402]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table shows the number of convictions in England and Wales for carrying a knife in a public place for the years 2000 to 2004. Data for 2005 will be available in autumn 2006.

Number of offenders found guilty at all courts of carrying of knives—England and Wales, 2000-04[1]

	Offence description	
	Having an article with blade or point in public place	*Having an article with blade or point on school premises[2]*
2000	3,511	18
2001	4,299	23
2002	5,281	19

Number of offenders found guilty at all courts of carrying of knives—England and Wales, 2000-04[1]

	Offence description	
	Having an article with blade or point in public place	*Having an article with blade or point on school premises*[2]
2003	5,308	29
2004	5,784	37

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Excludes data provided by West Mercia police force area.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Life Sentences

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people sentenced to life imprisonment since 2000 have been released from prison; and what the reasons were each prisoner was released. [74170]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information recorded on the prison IT system as at May 2006 shows that 53 life sentence prisoners who were sentenced from 2000 onwards have been released on licence. In one of these cases the prisoner was later recalled to custody and subsequently released for a second time.

The main criteria governing the release of the 53 lifers were that they had served the period of imprisonment necessary for the purposes of retribution and deterrence (the tariff) and that their risk to the public was acceptable. Since October 1992, the responsibility for the release of tariff expired life sentence prisoners has gradually transferred from the Home Secretary to the Parole Board.

In considering the possible release of any tariff expired life sentence prisoner, the Parole Board is required by statute to satisfy itself that

"it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoner should be confined".

Lobbying

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which foreign Governments and international organisations have made representations to his Department on potential changes to UK domestic law in each of the last five years; and what law was involved in each case. [74457]

Joan Ryan: Ministers and officials regularly discuss with foreign counterparts and international organisations, both bilaterally and in fora such as the EU, G8 and UN, a range of issues including proposals for legislation which would have implications for domestic law and policy. A list of all these meetings and their subject could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mobile Phones

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of offences relating to the theft of mobile phones in each of the last five years. [75561]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not possible to distinguish offences relating to the theft of mobile phones from other offences of theft in the court proceedings data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the number of mobile phones stolen from individuals by *(a)* street theft and *(b)* theft from premises in each of the last five years. [75562]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Parole Board

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of the Parole Board have been a victim of crime; and if he will make a statement. [75410]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We do not routinely collect or disclose information about whether existing members of the Parole Board have been victims of crime. However, in the current round of recruitment of new members, we invited expressions of interest for appointment as independent members from those who had experience as a victim of crime or of victims' issues.

Partners Against Crime Partnership

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 2017W, on crime, what plans he has to extend the Partners Against Crime Partnership; and if he will make a statement. [74462]

Mr. McNulty: An evaluation of this initiative, which was set up in partnership by Dyfed-Powys police and the Post Office Ltd., is now complete. The scheme has been a resounding success in Dyfed-Powys police force, providing enhanced access to policing services in remote rural communities.

I understand that local expansion is already under way with further premises in north Pembrokeshire added to the scheme in April this year. Locally, there are discussions with Post Office Ltd. to expand the scheme wider, subject to funding and police force restructuring plans in Wales. I would add that any decision to extend the Partners Against Crime Partnership is for the local police and partners.

Party Conference Security

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the costs to public funds were of policing and general security for the *(a)* Labour, *(b)* Conservative and *(c)* Liberal Democrat party conferences in each year since 1992. [76087]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The table shows the cost to public funds, in the form of special grant paid to police authorities, for policing party conferences in England and Wales. For security reasons, we do not disclose the other costs incurred.

Year of party conference	*Force*	*Amount of Government special grant (£ million)*
(a) Labour		
1997-98	Sussex	0.750
1998-99	Lancashire	0.750
1999-2000	Dorset	1.581
2000-01	Sussex	1.660
2001-02	Sussex	1.810
2002-03	Lancashire	1.500
2003-04	Dorset	2.250
2004-05	Sussex	3.303
2005-06	Sussex	3.600
(b) Conservative		
1996-97	Dorset	1.150
1997-98	Lancashire	0.750
1998-99	Dorset	0.750
1999-2000	Lancashire	0.892
2000-01	Dorset	0.900
2001-02	Lancashire	1.072
2002-03	Dorset	0.894
2003-04	Lancashire	1.200
2004-05	Dorset	1.185
2005-06	Lancashire	1.400
(c) Liberal Democrat[1]	—	—

[1] No funding is provided for Liberal Democrat party conferences.

Police

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many resignations and retirements of police officers from the Lancashire police force there have been in each year since 1997. [64122]

Mr. McNulty: Figures for the number of voluntary resignations by police officers are provided in the table. The data do not include officers who are dismissed or required to resign.

Figures for the numbers of ordinary and medical retirements by police officers are also provided in the table as follows.

Total number of police officer voluntary resignations in Lancashire (1997-2005)

As at 31 March	*Voluntary resignations*
1997	19
1998	14
1999	12
2000	21
2001	17
2002	40
2003	18
2004	28
2005	44

Total number of police officer retirements in Lancashire (1997-2005)

	Retirement		
As at 31 March	*Ordinary*	*Medical*	*Total*
1997	51	36	87
1998	83	27	110
1999	57	18	75
2000	62	17	79
2001	75	30	105
2002	68	39	107
2003	59	17	76
2004	65	14	79
2005	100	11	111

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the total police staff hours, including uniformed staff and support staff, that will be spent on duties related to police reorganisation in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [68615]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers from each police force have been caught drink driving in each of the last five years; and how many have been *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* disciplined and *(c)* dismissed. [77429]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the costs of merging Lancashire and Cumbria constabularies; what estimate has been made of the likely savings; and if he will make a statement. [50142]

Mr. McNulty: It is estimated that set up costs totalling £22 million will be incurred during the year prior to merger and the first three years of operation. During the first five years of operation of the new force a net saving of £10 million is projected. The precise level of projected costs and savings is a matter for negotiations currently taking place.

The Government are committed to paying 100 per cent. of reasonable set-up revenue and capital costs of restructuring, net of reasonable savings.

Police Direct

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of Police Direct; and if he will make a statement. [75689]

Mr. McNulty: Police Direct is a public messaging service provided by Suffolk Constabulary to residents currently in the west Suffolk area. It is now being rolled out across all of Suffolk. It is also being trialled by Surrey police in the north-west Surrey area. Police Direct uses the Police Message Broadcasting facility which is part of the national Police Portal managed by the Police Information Technology Organisation. Day-to-day running of Police Direct is a matter for the

Chief Constables of Suffolk and Surrey who are responsible for the operational management of their force.

Police Vehicles

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines his Department provides to chief constables on the purchasing of police vehicles. [76014]

Mr. McNulty: The Government are determined to ensure that the police have adequate resources to play their key part in tackling crime and disorder and improving community safety.

Planning and management of police resources locally, including use of vehicles, are matters for each police authority and chief officer.

Efficiency planning guidance sent to chief officers in February 2006 encourages forces to take advantage of the collective buying power of the police service by making use of nationally negotiated arrangements. We have worked with the police service to develop national frameworks for the purchase of vehicles, under which forces are offered significant discounts on manufacturers' prices. These have been in place since 1992 and are regularly re-tendered. The arrangements are strongly encouraged by the Association of Chief Police Officers and HM inspectorate of constabulary. The most recent version (spring 2005) has been designed to assist forces in rationalising the variety of models in use, to encourage standardisation and deliver further increases in value for money.

Prisons

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reasons underly the decision to reduce the operating margin of the useable operating capacity of the prison estate from 2,000 to 1,700 places; when the decision was taken:; and how the 1,700 figure was calculated. [75427]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The usable operational capacity of the prison estate is 1,700 spaces less than the certified operational capacity. This operating margin reflects the constraints imposed by the need to provide separate accommodation for different groups of prisoners such as gender, age, security category and conviction status, as well as the necessary provision of single cells, accommodation out of use and the geographical distribution of prisons and prisoners.

In April 2004, a database was introduced to assist with the management of the prison population. The more accurate information it provides enabled us to reduce the operating margin in stages from 2,000 to 1,700 places. The reduction added 300 places to the useable operating capacity while still maintaining a sufficient operating margin to manage the prison population safely.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the people who have absconded from open prisons in England since 1997 have *(a)* been returned to custody and *(b)* committed offences after absconding which have led to court appearances; and if he will make a statement. [74871]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean [73593] about the numbers of prisoners who remain unlawfully at large having absconded from open prisons. In respect of the request for information about court appearances for offences committed by prisoners now recaptured while unlawfully at large, this information is not held centrally by the Prison Service. It would be necessary to interrogate each prisoner's record and cross check with police and court conviction records which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors are taken into account when a decision is made to hold prisoners who are awaiting deportation or being considered for deportation in open prisons. [76694]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All prisoners are categorised objectively according to the likelihood that they will seek to escape and the risk that they would pose should they do so. The likelihood of deportation must be taken into account when considering foreign national prisoner's allocation to open conditions.

Probation Service

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were committed by offenders under the supervision of the Probation Service during 2005-06. [75391]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is not routinely collected in the form requested.

Data on crimes that are categorised as serious offences committed by offenders under the supervision of the Probation Service are available for the financial year 2004-05 in Table 5.6 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004".

This report is available at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1705.pdf

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many probation officers were employed by the Probation Service in each of the last five years. [75903]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is not available for the full period requested. Data collected prior to one April 2003 are unreliable, and are not directly comparable with the more accurate figures collected since that time. The figures presented in the table show full-time equivalent (FTE) figures at the close of each quarter from 1 April 2003 to 31 December 2005.

		Probation officers[1]
2003-04	Quarter 1	5,831.10
	Quarter 2	5,937.84
	Quarter 3	6,271.45
	Quarter 4	6,285.43
2004-05	Quarter 1	6,257.32
	Quarter 2	6,376.48
	Quarter 3	6,584.94
	Quarter 4	6,566.63
2005-06	Quarter 1	6,469.84
	Quarter 2	6,529.41
	Quarter 3	6,894.36

[1] The 'Probation Officers' category includes the senior probation officer, senior practitioner, and probation officer job groups. Trainee probation officers have been excluded from these figures.

Release on Licence

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK national offenders were released on licence from prison in the last 12 months, broken down by type of offence. [74992]

John Reid: Information on the numbers of United Kingdom nationals received into prison establishments between April 2005 and March 2006, by type of offence, is contained within the following table drawn from the Prison Service IT System. The figures are restricted to those sentenced to one year or more as the majority of those with shorter sentences are not released on licence.

Receptions are used as a proxy for discharges because of concerns about the completeness of the available data on discharges.

Receptions into prison establishments of UK nationals, April 2005 to March 2006 by type of offence, sentence lengths of one year or more

	UK Nationals
All	26,999
Violence against the person	6,044
Sexual offences	1,858
Robbery	2,929
Burglary	4,066
Theft and handling	2,303
Fraud and forgery	881
Drug offences	4,226
Motoring offences	855
Other offences	3,570
Offence not recorded	267

Sexual Offences Act

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the operation of section 73 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003; what recent representations he has received about the operation of this Act; and whether he plans to amend this Act. [75522]

Mr. Coaker: In 2005 the Government undertook a stock take into the effectiveness of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. During that review, the provisions of section 73 of the Act—exceptions to aiding, abetting and counselling—were generally welcomed as a necessary safeguard and helpful to those whose job it was to protect children from pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases or otherwise protect or promote the well-being of children. There are no plans to amend section 73 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Torture

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the use in British courts of evidence obtained by torture or forcible methods overseas; and if he will make a statement. [64996]

Mr. McNulty: Evidence obtained as a result of any acts of torture by British officials, or with which British authorities were complicit, would not be admissible in criminal or civil proceedings in the UK. It does not matter whether the evidence was obtained here or abroad.

During the individual appeals against certification under powers provided under part four of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act (ATCSA), the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC) emphatically rejected any suggestion that evidence relied upon by the Government was, or even may have been, obtained by torture. The Court of Appeal later confirmed the view of SIAC. This issue is currently before the House of Lords' Judicial Committee. It is not always possible to know where all intelligence information has come from or the precise circumstances under which it was obtained. The Security Service and Secret Intelligence Service receive material from a wide range of foreign intelligence services. The agencies evaluate the reliability of this intelligence against other information available to them. It is then passed, together with an assessment of reliability, to the Government.

It may be necessary in some circumstances to rely operationally on material which may have been obtained through the use of torture where it is considered necessary to do so, in particular for preventing terrorist attack and protecting life. The Government do not believe there is an absolute exclusionary rule preventing the use of such evidence in legal proceedings to assess the lawfulness of such executive action. Such a rule could endanger national security as it would undermine our ability to defend in court the decision made and therefore inhibit executive action to protect national security.

We do not condone torture in any way, nor would we carry out this completely unacceptable behaviour. However, we do have an obligation to protect national security and public safety. We would be deficient in this duty if we did not properly assess all the information available to us.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps her Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to her comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74407]

Vera Baird: Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, all public bodies have a duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in the exercising of their functions. There is no statutory obligation on Departments to monitor the extent to which public bodies comply with this duty. However, we understand Defra is working with a wide range of partners to develop guidance for public bodies to support the implementation of this duty and will involve all relevant Departments on the development of guidance.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which Minister in her Department is responsible for monitoring her Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if she will make a statement. [73948]

Vera Baird: The Minister in the Department for Constitutional Affairs responsible for maintaining compliance under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 1974 is Baroness Ashton of Upholland.

Compensation Bill [Lords]

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will introduce new clauses and amendments to the Compensation Bill [Lords] to exempt *(a)* accidents occurring during the course of employment from Clause 1 of the Bill and *(b)* trades union legal schemes from Part 2 of the Bill; and if she will make a statement. [76000]

Bridget Prentice: The Government do not intend to introduce amendments on either of these issues. In relation to *(a)*, the factor embodied in Clause 1 may be relevant in employers' liability cases, and it would change the law to provide otherwise. In relation to *(b)*, exemptions will be achieved by secondary legislation. Independent trade unions (certified by the certification officer) will be exempted in respect of regulated services offered to their own members.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact on the amount recoverable from accident victims and insurers as a consequence of the enacting of Clause 1 of the Compensation Bill [Lords] for the purposes of benefit recoupment and the recovery of NHS outlays; and if she will make a statement. [76001]

Bridget Prentice: Clause 1 does not change the law, and will not therefore have any impact on these areas.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what recent representations she has received *(a)* in favour and *(b)* against Clause 1 of the Compensation Bill [Lords]; and if she will make a statement. [76002]

Bridget Prentice: A range of different organisations have published views and made representations on aspects of the Compensation Bill, including Clause 1, during passage of the Bill.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the legal profession on Clause 1 of the Compensation Bill; and if she will make a statement. [76003]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have held discussions with a number of organisations representing the legal profession during passage of the Compensation Bill, including the Law Society, the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers and the Personal Injury Bar Association.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions she has had with the judiciary on Clause 1 of the Compensation Bill [Lords]; and if she will make a statement. [76004]

Bridget Prentice: Informal discussions on the Bill took place with the judiciary prior to introduction, as is common practice.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many staff in her Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75101]

Vera Baird: 35 staff did not achieve an acceptable mark for the 2004-05 financial year. This represents 0.25 per cent. of the total workforce. For 2003-04 the corresponding figure is 23 staff which represents 0.17 per cent. of the total workforce. For 2002-03 the figure is 24 staff which represents 0.18 per cent: of the total workforce. Comparative figures for the 2005-06 financial year are not available as they are still being collected.

Electoral Registration

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate her

Department has made of the number of *(a)* failed asylum seekers and *(b)* foreign nationals not from the Commonwealth or Irish Republic who are fraudulently on the electoral register. [73919]

Bridget Prentice: This information is not collected. Electoral registers are available for public inspection and anyone who believes that an ineligible person has been included may notify the ERO who may then make further inquiries as to the eligibility of that individual. Currently, it is an offence to fail to supply information to the ERO and knowingly supply false information on the annual canvass form. The Electoral Administration Bill, currently under consideration, strengthens the objection process and creates a new offence of supplying false information of any kind to an ERO, or failing to supply information in connection with registration, at any time. The electoral register does not specify the immigration or asylum status of individuals entered on it; however, the addition of a "nationality" box in the registration form does provide an opportunity for EROs to determine the eligibility of an applicant for inclusion in the register on the basis of their stated nationality.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 43W, on electoral registration officers, what estimate her Department has made of the cost of writing to each electoral registration officer to obtain the information on prosecutions brought for failing to return an electoral registration form. [75351]

Bridget Prentice: To obtain such information by writing to electoral registration officers (EROs) would exceed the threshold of £600 set for parliamentary questions. Furthermore, any records kept by EROs locally at their discretion would not necessarily distinguish between the cost of prosecutions brought specifically for failing to return an electoral registration form and the cost of any prosecutions brought for other electoral offences.

Legal Aid

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many claims for legal aid were *(a)* rejected and *(b)* successful in (i) England and (ii) Winchester in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [74848]

Vera Baird: Legal aid is administered by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) for both England and Wales combined. The following tables therefore include information for both England and Wales, as compared to Winchester.

For civil matters, the LSC records figures for applications received for legal aid and certificates issued. The following table shows the applications received and the certificates awarded for civil legal aid in Winchester, and England and Wales for each of the three previous years.

	Winchester		England and Wales	
	Applications received	*Certificates issued*	*Applications received*	*Certificates issued*
2005-06	374	316	194,788	156,164
2004-05	380	324	193,305	155,464
2003-04	379	300	205,122	160,998

Notes:
Care should be taken not to confuse the certificates issued in any year as only relating to applications made in the same year. Certificates issued may relate to applications made in previous years. Additionally, certificates may not be issued following applications for a variety of reasons such as; the application being withdrawn or the matter being abandoned by the applicant, as well as being rejected.

For criminal matters, the vast majority of legal aid applications are made in the magistrates court. However, Winchester does not have one.

The following table shows the number of applications granted and refused in Winchester Crown court for representation in the Crown court, compared to all Crown court locations in England and Wales[1].

[1] These figures include a small number of applications granted in the magistrates court and extended by the Crown court.

	Winchester Crown court		Crown courts in England and Wales	
	Applications granted	*Applications refused*	*Applications granted*	*Applications refused*
2005-06	210	1	12,777	225
2004-05	239	1	12,098	223
2003-04	180	1	11,675	229

The number of legal aid applications for any specified geographical area should not be misinterpreted as being representative of the number of people within that area. The figures relate to the location of the court for criminal matters, and the location of the supplier for civil matters. For criminal matters it is possible for people from outside a specified location to have their applications decided by courts within it and vice versa. For civil matters, it is possible for people from outside a specified area to receive legal aid by suppliers within that area and vice versa.

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many applications for legal aid have been *(a)* made and *(b)* refused in each year since 1997. [75341]

Vera Baird: The following table gives information on applications for representation. Central records are not kept for matters such as civil legal help or criminal advice and assistance, as the decision whether to grant legal aid is taken by the service supplier, not the Legal Services Commission (LSC).

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Civil representation[1]					
Applications received	434,136	412,954	342,813	226,104	205,821
Certificates issued	319,432	295,872	245,800	174,017	161,988
Crown court representation					
Applications received	12,770	12,862	10,571	12,827	12,004
Applications granted	12,562	12,628	10,381	12,537	11,828
Applications rejected	208	234	190	290	176
Magistrates courts representation[2]					
Applications received	n/a[3]	n/a[3]	n/a[3]	563,002	664,448
Applications granted	n/a[3]	n/a[3]	n/a[3]	530,622	633,944
Applications rejected	n/a[3]	n/a[3]	n/a[3]	32,380	30,504

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Civil representation[1]				
Applications received	211,723	205,122	193,305	194,788
Certificates issued	164,193	160,998	155,464	155,164
Crown court representation				
Applications received	10,962	11,904	12,321	13,002
Applications granted	10,759	11,675	12,098	12,777
Applications rejected	203	229	223	225
Magistrates courts representation[2]				
Applications received	704,819	705,635	670,102	700,292
Applications granted	672,092	669,853	635,648	664,912
Applications rejected	32,727	35,782	34,454	35,380

[1] Before 2000, the Legal Aid Board administered legal aid. For civil matters, the LSC now records figures for applications received and certificates issued. Care should be taken not to confuse the certificates issued in any year as only relating to applications made in the same year. Additionally, certificates may not be issued following applications for a variety of reasons, such as the application being withdrawn or the matter being abandoned by the applicant, as well as being refused.
[2] These figures are estimates based on returns submitted by magistrates courts.
[3] The information is not available.

Outstanding Inquests

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many inquests were outstanding in each coroner's area at the end of 2005 according to the annual statistical returns. [76798]

Ms Harman: The number of inquests outstanding in each coroner's district at the end of 2005 are given in the table.

Inquests outstanding at the end of 2005 by coroner's district in England and Wales

Region, County or District	Deaths in England and Wales	Number of cases: Deaths Elsewhere
The Queen's Household	—	1
North East		
Darlington and South Durham	40	—
North Durham	73	4
Hartlepool	17	—
North Northumberland	64	1
South Northumberland	—	—
Teesside	184	7
Gateshead and South Tyneside	38	10
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	131	1
North Tyneside	68	—
Sunderland	—	—
North West		
Cheshire	279	1
North East Cumbria	56	1
South Cumbria and Furness	35	—
Western Cumbria	27	—
Manchester	169	3
Manchester North	185	—
Manchester South	132	2
Manchester West	146	2
Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	46	1
Blackpool-Fylde	69	—
East Lancashire	66	2
Preston and South West Lancashire	167	3
Sefton, Knowsley and St. Helens	106	4
Liverpool	46	1
Wirral	64	2

Inquests outstanding at the end of 2005 by coroner's district in England and Wales

Region, County or District	Deaths in England and Wales	Number of cases: Deaths Elsewhere
Yorkshire and the Humber		
East Riding and Hull	110	3
North Lincolnshire and Grimsby	68	5
York City	37	1
North Yorkshire Eastern District	28	—
North Yorkshire Western District	63	7
South Yorkshire Eastern District	63	4
South Yorkshire Western District	83	5
West Yorkshire Eastern District	272	6
West Yorkshire Western District	168	—
East Midlands		
Derby and South Derbyshire	53	2
Scarsdale	57	—
Leicester City and South Leicestershire	138	—
Rutland and North Leicestershire	61	3
Boston and Spalding	27	2
West Lincolnshire	44	3
Spilsby and Louth	29	—
Stamford	7	5
Northamptonshire	127	7
Nottinghamshire	58	—
West Midlands		
Herefordshire	—	—
Mid and North Shropshire	42	1
South Shropshire	14	4
Staffordshire South	103	—
Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire	97	5
Telford and Wrekin	37	12
Warwickshire	143	10
Birmingham and Solihull	548	12
Black Country	62	3
Coventry	45	—
Wolverhampton	39	—
Worcestershire	93	2
East of England		
Bedfordshire and Luton	51	4
North and East Cambridgeshire	16	1
South and West Cambridgeshire	33	1
Essex and Thurrock	206	8
Hertfordshire	113	5
Great Yarmouth	4	—
Norwich and Central Norfolk	60	2
Kings Lynn	23	—
Peterborough	39	—

Inquests outstanding at the end of 2005 by coroner's district in England and Wales

Region, County or District	Deaths in England and Wales	Number of cases: Deaths Elsewhere
Southend-on-Sea	88	—
Lowestoft	16	—
Greater Suffolk	52	5
London		
City of London	10	—
East London	217	13
Inner North London	284	—
Inner South London	217	12
Inner West London	74	10
North London	—	—
South London	102	—
West London	198	23
South East		
Berkshire	85	4
Brighton and Hove	28	—
Buckinghamshire	11	1
East Sussex	102	2
Central Hampshire	37	2
North East Hampshire	11	—
Portsmouth and South East Hampshire	141	4
Southampton and New Forest	38	2
Isle of Wight	20	1
Central and South East Kent	91	—
Mid Kent and Medway	102	4
North East Kent	87	3
North West Kent	—	—
Milton Keynes	41	—
Oxfordshire	98	104
Surrey	159	20
West Sussex	57	1
South West		
Avon	209	3
Cornwall	138	1
Exeter and Greater Devon	166	10
Plymouth and South West Devon	222	—
Torbay and South Devon	32	4
Bournemouth Poole and Eastern Dorset	31	2
Western Dorset	29	—
Cheltenham and Cotswolds	90	5
Gloucester	33	1
Isles of Scilly	1	—
Eastern Somerset	32	4
Western Somerset	54	2
Wiltshire and Swindon	119	21
Wales		
Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys	—	—
Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan	253	5
Carmarthenshire	17	2

Inquests outstanding at the end of 2005 by coroner's district in England and Wales

Number of cases

Region, County or District	*Deaths in England and Wales*	*Deaths Elsewhere*
Central North Wales	50	2
Ceredigion	5	—
Gwent	21	2
Neath and Port Talbot	12	—
North East Wales	45	—
North West Wales	54	2
Pembrokeshire	16	2
Powys	29	1
City and County Of Swansea	89	1
Total England and Wales	9,577	456

Postal Voting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate the Government have made of the number of electors who registered for postal votes in each election in each year since the Representation of the People Act 2000 came into force, excluding elections with all-postal voting. [70598]

Bridget Prentice: The Government holds the following information on the number of postal voters in each election held since the RPA 2000 came into force:

UK general election 2001—1,758,055 electors

English local elections 2002 (non pilot regions)—4.9 per cent.[1]

Scottish parliamentary elections 2003—3.6 per cent.[1]

National Assembly for West Wales elections 2003—6.9 per cent.[1]

UK European parliamentary and local elections 2004 (excluding pilot regions)—2,507,272 electors[2]

UK general election 2005 - 5,362,501 electors[2]

2006 local elections—not yet available.

[1] No statistic showing the precise number of electors available.

[2] Provided by the Electoral Commission.

Public Transport (Incentives)

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what incentives are available to encourage members of her staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75100]

Vera Baird: The Department for Constitutional Affairs offers interest free loans for the purchase of season tickets for travel to work by public transport and for bicycles (including safety equipment) which are available to all employees that have at least 2 months service. These advances are repayable in equal monthly instalments within the life of the ticket or over a maximum of 12 months for the purchase of the bicycle.

The Department also offers:

reimbursement of a Young Persons Railcard for employees under the age of 24.

reimbursement of standard public transport fares for new entrants under the age of 21 taking up an initial appointment who have to live away from home because of their workplace.

three free journeys by public transport to the parental home each year for single employees under 21, who are appointed or transferred from a post where they lived with their parents to a post beyond reasonable travelling distance and who live in lodgings.

Small Change Big Difference Campaign

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps her Department has taken following the launch of the Government's Small Change Big Difference Campaign. [72008]

Bridget Prentice: Over the past year the Department has been engaged in, and is developing, several activities that support this initiative. There has been a series of articles produced for the in-house magazine on a range of health topics, including diabetes and migraine, and more are planned including ones on healthy living and exercise. The Department runs stress courses to offer tips and strategies for managing stress. The occupational welfare team provides a range of information on health issues. The Department is also working towards implementation of the smoking ban in line with the impending legislation and, through the welfare team, has committed to providing information and support to those wishing to give up, both in the run up to and after implementation. As the programme of work on this initiative develops the Department of Health will be working across all of Government to ensure the programme joins up to promote maximum impact. DH is leading the implementation for the initiative as part of its cross-government commitment to deliver the public health "White Paper Choosing Health".

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many appeals against statements of special educational needs there have been in the most recently recorded 12 month period; how many were successful; and what percentage of successful appeals had involved legal representation. [75513]

Ms Harman: In 2004-05 the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal registered 1,592 appeals from parents against the contents of statements of special educational needs. The Tribunal has decided 744 of these appeals and upheld 647 (41 per cent.), at least in part. Parents had legal representation in 229 (35 per cent.) of the upheld appeals.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 13 June 2006

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the work his Department is undertaking in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [72811]

Hilary Benn *[pursuant to the reply, 24 May 2006, Official Report, c. 1780-81W]:* The figure given for DFID's spend in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2001-02 was £7 million. This should have read £5.6 million, mostly on humanitarian interventions.

An estimate was made for DFID's expenditure in 2005-06. This was premature, however, as DFID's 2005-06 out-turn figures have yet to be confirmed but are expected to be finalised by the end of August 2006.

DFID funds available for the DRC this financial year were given as £63 million. The correct amount is £62 million.

I apologise for these errors in the original answer.

HIV/AIDS

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect on treatment of HIV/AIDS in African countries of the departure of qualified doctors and nurses from the developing world for employment in the developed world. [75683]

Mr. Thomas: DFID supported analysis of the human resources for health crises in Africa for the High Level Forum for Health in November 2005. The migration of skilled health workers from poorer African countries to developed countries in Europe, the United States and elsewhere has a significant impact on the capacity of African national health services to deliver HIV and AIDS treatment, prevention and care. However, migration to other more developed African countries and internal migration from rural to urban areas are also important factors. Health worker shortages are exacerbated by AIDS-related mortality among the health work force. The result is an overburdened health work force and weak health systems with inadequate capacity to deliver services.

DFID is working at country level to address human resources capacity and support Governments to implement policies on retention, skill mix and deployment. For example, DFID is supporting the health sector in Malawi—one of the most severely affected countries, with £100 million over five years. About £55 million of this is earmarked for the Emergency Human Resources Programme of the Malawi Government. This programme is aiming to increase recruitment and retention of staff by raising health worker salaries by 50 per cent., providing housing and improving training. This is expected to double the number of nurses and triple the number of doctors in training—while using international volunteers to fill gaps in the meantime. DFID is also funding country HIV and AIDS programmes to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on the health workers.

DFID is also working closely with the Department of Health (DH) to address "pull" incentives, preventing the targeting of developing countries in the international recruitment of health care professionals within the NHS through the Code of Practice for International Recruitment of Healthcare Professionals.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General what discounts are available in relation to hotel accommodation used by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department. [69011]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments do not employ special advisers.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) book hotel accommodation for civil servants with First Option through an Office of Government Commerce framework agreement. The agreement enables the CPS, RCPO and HMCPSI to secure specifically negotiated rates and value for money in hotel accommodation. Individual discounts are not available to civil servants under the contract but a rebate is paid at the end of each year.

SFO books hotel accommodation through Expotel under an Office of Government Commerce framework agreement, unless exceptional circumstances apply. The Expotel agreement seeks the best rate within Government prescribed rates and also allows for a subsequent rebate.

The Treasury Solicitor's Office (TSol) and this Office do not have arrangements which provide discounts but bookings are made within Government prescribed rates except in exceptional circumstances.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering Supplies

Mr. Drew: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what environmental and social sustainability criteria are applied when purchasing food for the House dining rooms. [76016]

Nick Harvey: Last year, the House of Commons Commission approved and adopted an outline strategic plan covering the five years from 2006 until 2011. This plan explicitly states that the House administration must match current public service standards, including in the area of environmental protection. Food procurement tenders include consideration of bidders' environmental and ethical policies and procedures, but the precise evaluation criteria applied differ according to the nature of foods being supplied.

Refreshment Department (Alcohol Sales)

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what steps the House took to mark English Wine Week. [76800]

Nick Harvey: The Refreshment Department would have been pleased to support English Wine Week, which ran from 29 May until 6 June. This coincided with the spring bank holiday recess, so that most of the restaurants and bars in the House were closed. It was not considered viable to run a special promotion for the two days the House was sitting during this period.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will take steps to ensure that a Sussex sparkling wine is added to the House of Commons wine lists. [76690]

Nick Harvey: The Refreshment Department is always pleased to consider new wines for addition to its wine lists. The Director of Catering Services is happy to advise any suppliers how to apply to have their wines included on the House of Commons wine lists.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will take steps to ensure that Harvey's beer is considered for stocking in House of Commons bars during Cask Beer Week in September 2006. [76686]

Nick Harvey: The Refreshment Department supports the small independent brewers of Britain by offering a guest ale, changed weekly, in two of the House of Commons bars. This scheme does not operate during parliamentary recesses, when the bars are very quiet. It would therefore not be economic to support Cask Beer Week in September 2006 by stocking Harvey's or any other real ale. I have asked the Director of Catering Services to contact the hon. Member in relation to the prospects for offering Harvey's as a guest ale.

Staff Security Clearance

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the *(a)* shortest, *(b)* longest and *(c)* average time it has taken over the last 12 months to obtain security clearance for a House of Commons pass for hon. Members' staff working at Westminster; and if he will make a statement. [76008]

Nick Harvey: In the past 12 months it is estimated that the shortest time it has taken to obtain security clearance for a House of Commons pass has been approximately three weeks, the longest approximately 12 months, and the average approximately one month. This is dependent upon the nature of foreign connections, and the multiplicity of addresses which have to be checked by agencies both in this country and abroad.

As hon. Members have been informed, the Deputy Serjeant at Arms can in certain circumstances authorise the issue of a pass on the basis of satisfactory references pending the receipt of final clearances.

Tours

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will estimate the unit cost of the *(a)* organisation of a tour of the House and *(b)* cost of the tour itself; and if he will make a statement. [75997]

Nick Harvey: In the financial year 2005-06, the cost of organising a Member's guided tour was around £50. Each tour may contain the guests of a single or several Members.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many tours requested by hon. Members the House provided in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [76006]

Nick Harvey: Between June 2005 and May 2006, 7,374 tours were organised for hon. Members of both Houses by the Central Tours Office, covering around 119,000 guests. Some tours contained the guests of more than one hon. Member.

Equal Opportunities

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what percentage of the House's senior staff are of minority ethnic origin; and if he will make a statement. [76007]

Nick Harvey: As at 31 March 2006, the House had 79 senior staff, 72 of whom have declared their ethnicity. One of these senior staff (1.4 per cent.) is identified as of minority ethnic origin.

The proportion of ethnic minority staff across all pay bands is 19 per cent. The Commission is committed to valuing diversity throughout its workforce, and the board of management has made a commitment in its 2006 corporate plan to monitor the development of a diverse workforce at all levels by establishing gender and ethnic profiles by band and role.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many of his staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77323]

Mr. Straw: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons currently has 12 staff, with one aged over 55 years of age.

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited by his office in each of the last three years. [77324]

Mr. Straw: None, but I am 59.

IT Refreshment Scheme

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Leader of the House what the total cost is of the IT refreshment scheme to replace and install new computers for hon. Members; and how much of that cost is to be spent on *(a)* implementing, installing and administering the scheme, *(b)* leases of equipment and *(c)* licensing of software. [75670]

Mr. Straw: The cost of Members' IT installation and upgrade programme is borne mainly on the House of Commons: Members Estimate; but some costs are borne on the House of Commons: Administration Estimate which is the responsibility of the House of Commons Commission. The maximum estimated cash costs expected to be paid from the Members Estimate are:

	£000 Amount
Administration costs including surveys, storage and porterage	749
Installation charges	646
Equipment costs	3,085
Software costs	1,188

The figures are provisional at this stage, as they depend significantly on the choices Members themselves make about the amount, type and location of the equipment they require.

I understand that the costs borne on the Administration Estimate cannot easily be disaggregated from the other running costs of the Parliamentary ICT Service.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Leader of the House what percentage of hon. Members have had their leased equipment replaced under the IT refreshment scheme; and if he will list the hon. Members concerned. [75679]

Mr. Straw: 58 per cent. of Members have now received their new equipment. The IT refresh project is being undertaken in phases, and all Members will have been given an opportunity to refresh their equipment before the summer recess, provided forms are returned and survey and installation dates are agreed as set out in the guidance issued to Members. Equipment is loaned and not leased to Members and whether Members choose to use their allowance or not is a matter for them.

Party Political Funding

Philip Davies: To ask the Leader of the House when he expects to publish the Government's response to the Electoral Commission's report of December 2004 on the funding of political parties. [76559]

Mr. Straw: The Prime Minister announced on 16 March that there was to be an independent review of the funding of political parties. Sir Hayden Phillips is currently undertaking this review. It would neither be appropriate nor courteous to publish a response to the Commission's report prior to Sir Hayden Phillips reporting.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average period was between *(a)* the state veterinary service and *(b)* his Department receiving urgent animal welfare complaints and the making of a visit to the premises being complained about in the latest period for which figures are available. [76339]

Mr. Bradshaw: Any complaints received by the Department are immediately passed to the state veterinary service (SVS). The SVS aims to respond within 24 hours of receiving a complaint. The figures for April 2005 to March 2006 show the average response time was 0.5 days.

Biofuels

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans the Government have to promote *(a)* the wider use of and *(b)* research into biodiesel. [75455]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

The Government announced in November 2005 that a Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO) will be introduced from 2008 which will require all suppliers of transport fuels in the UK to ensure that a certain percentage of their total annual sales is made up of biofuels. The level of the obligation will rise from 2.5 per cent. in the financial year 2008-09 to 3.75 per cent. in 2009-10 and 5 per cent. in 2010-11. This should ensure that, by 2010, biodiesel sales in the UK will amount to over a billion litres a year—a 20-fold increase from where we are today.

This Department has funded research in recent years into different aspects of biofuel production and use, but none has considered individual biofuels in any detail. Our research has focused instead on the potential environmental and other impacts of significant use of biofuels in the longer term, and on the emissions consequences and economics of various bioethanol and biodiesel blends. Research into biofuels will continue as part of the work the Department has commissioned to develop a carbon and environmental assurance scheme to underpin the RTFO.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is towards the encouragement of biofuels as an alternative energy source. [75892]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to encouraging the most sustainable forms of biofuels for emissions savings as well as for security of supply reasons. That is why we announced in November 2005 that we will introduce a Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation in April 2008 which will require all suppliers of transport fuels in the UK to ensure that a certain percentage of their total annual sales is made up of biofuels (or, in the longer term, some other renewable transport fuel).

The level of the obligation will rise from 2.5 per cent. in the financial year 2008-09 to 3.75 per cent. in 2009-10 and 5 per cent. in 2010-11. These levels will deliver a significant increase on current sales and will mean that by 2010 the vast majority of UK forecourts will be supplying renewable fuels in the form of biodiesel and bioethanol. The RTFO will deliver real environmental benefits and is projected to save around 1 million tonnes of carbon by 2010.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent advice he has received on ways to improve the efficiency of testing cattle for bovine tuberculosis. [76330]

Mr. Bradshaw: The single intradermal comparative cervical tuberculin (SICCT) test is a well-established screening test for TB in cattle and the primary tool for live testing in Great Britain.

The SICCT is approved and recognised by the EU Commission and the International Animal Health Organisation (OIE) as the primary tool for the diagnosis of TB in cattle and other species, by virtue of its overall accuracy, robustness and relative simplicity. This has been demonstrated in several field evaluations conducted throughout the world.

The accuracy of any test is measured in terms of its specificity (proportion of uninfected animals identified as negative) and its sensitivity (proportion of infected animals detected as positive). The specificity for a correctly performed SICCT is above 99 per cent. Its sensitivity is between 77 per cent. and 95 per cent.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure adequate numbers of veterinary surgeons are available to test herds for bovine TB. [76331]

Mr. Bradshaw: We recognise the importance of ensuring sufficient resources are available to carry out bovine TB testing. My officials closely monitor the situation and meet regularly with the veterinary profession.

Last year the Government introduced legislation under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 to enable technical staff in the State Veterinary Service to carry out TB tests. A pilot study into lay TB testing is due to conclude shortly. We will consult the veterinary profession and other interested parties on the results and any proposals to extend lay testing.

End-of-Life Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps the Environment Agency has taken to implement the end-of-life vehicle legislation; [75656]

(2) how many operators have been prosecuted due to failure to apply for a site licence for storing and treating end-of-life vehicles. [75658]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has transposed the End-of-Life Vehicles Directive (2000/53/EC) through the End-of-Life Vehicles Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/2635) and the End-of-Life Vehicles (Producer Responsibility) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/263). DEFRA has responsibility for Part VII of the 2003 Regulations, on the keeping and treatment of waste motor vehicles, and these provisions are enforced by the Environment Agency (EA) in England and Wales.

All facilities treating un-depolluted end-of-life vehicles are required to have a permit, a condition of which is that the site in question must meet the minimum technical standards set down in Schedule 5 to the Regulations.

There are currently around 1,100 'Authorised Treatment Facilities' for ELVs. The EA has worked closely with DEFRA, DTI and the vehicle dismantling sector to produce practical treatment guidance. Sites that hold the necessary site licence are inspected by the EA to ensure that they meet required standards. The EA also investigates sites thought to be handling vehicles illegally.

In 2004, the EA took forward 15 prosecutions for offences involving the keeping or treatment of ELVs. The figure for 2005 was 30. There have been 13 in the first five months of 2006. These are cases where ELVs were the main, or a significant proportion of, the waste being handled illegally.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidelines have been issued by his Department to authorised treatment facilities licensed to store and treat end-of-life vehicles. [75657]

Mr. Bradshaw: 'Guidance for Authorised Treatment Facilities', a booklet providing guidance on depolluting end-of-life vehicles, has been issued by the Department and is available from:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/topics/elvehicledir.htm

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the operators in North Devon who have been issued with a licence for storing and treating end-of-life vehicles. [75659]

Mr. Bradshaw: The operators in North Devon who have been issued with a licence for storing and treating end-of-life vehicles are listed in the following table.

Company name (licence holder)	Address
Mr. R. Penfold, South Molton Metals	Pathfields Business Park, Quicks Close, Hacche Lane, South Molton, Devon
Esau's Vehicle Dismantlers, Mr. A. J. Esau and Mr. P. L. Cridge	Adjavin Lane, Clovelly Road, Bideford, Devon
Oxy Ltd., Stoneybridge Vehicle Dismantlers	Stoneybridge, Knowle, Braunton, Devon
James Sherlock BMW Motorcycles	3 Cooks Cross Industrial Estate, South Molton, Devon
Mr. A. C. Poulton, Deepmoor	Deepmoor, St. Giles in the Wood, Torrington, Devon
Mr. G. Holmes and Mr. P. Holmes	No 2 Yard, Patchacott Cross, Patchacott, Seaworthy, Devon
Gilead Foundation Charity	Risdon Farm, Jacobstowe, Okehampton, Devon
Mr. Stephen W. Bolt and Mr. Michael Pilivant	3 Oaklands Drive, Okehampton, Devon
Mr. C. E. K. Patience	29 Yelland Road, Fremington, Barnstaple, Devon
Bedminster Estates Limited	Seven Brethren Industrial Estate, Barnstaple, Devon
Mr. H. and Mrs. E Penfold	Sunnyside, Station Road, South Molton, Devon

In order to treat end-of-life vehicles, licensed sites also need to meet the requirements of the End-of-Life Vehicle Regulations 2003. To do this they need to have the necessary infrastructure in place to be an authorised treatment facility (ATF). The Environment Agency inspects and approves such facilities under these Regulations. At present only those sites listed below are both licensed and authorised to treat end-of-life vehicles.

Company name (licence holder)	Address
Mr. R. Penfold t/a South Molton Metals	Quicks Close, Hacche Lane, South Molton, Devon
Esau's vehicle dismantlers	Clovelly Road, Bideford, Devon
Oxy Ltd. t/a Stoneybridge Vehicle Dismantlers	Stoneybridge, Knowle, Braunton, Devon
James Sherlock BMW Motorcycles	3 Cooks Cross Industrial Estate, South Molton, Devon

There are a number of sites in North Devon that are registered as exempt from the requirement to have a waste management licence under paragraph 45 of the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 (as amended). This exemption allows for the storage of dry ferrous and non-ferrous metals and storage of depolluted end-of-life vehicles. It does not allow for the storage and treatment of un-depolluted vehicles for which a licence would be required.

Export Health Certificates

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of export health certificates have been granted within agreed timeframes in each year since 1997. [76340]

Mr. Bradshaw: The state veterinary service (SVS) only holds reliable and accessible figures for the period from January to April 2006. Applications for export certificates need to be made 10 working days before export. The following table shows the SVS success rate for timely applications:

	Success rate (percentage)
January 2006	99.7
February 2006	99.8
March 2006	99.5
April 2006	99.2

This compares favourably with the SVS's target of processing 95 per cent. of timely applications within the agreed time frame.

Poultry Keepers

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many keepers of poultry with flocks of fewer than 50 there are; and what estimate he has made of how many chickens this represents. [76176]

Mr. Bradshaw: The June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture for 2005 shows that there are approximately 21,000 registered poultry holdings in England with fewer than 50 birds. This represents approximately 350,000 chickens, or 0.3 per cent. of the national flock.

These figures only represent poultry kept on registered holdings in England. There are likely to be a significant number of poultry keepers with fewer than 50 birds that are kept on unregistered holdings, including domestic premises. No estimate is available for unregistered keepers.

Recycling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to increase the level of recycling; and what additional resources will be granted to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Waste Resources Action Plan to achieve this. [76043]

Mr. Bradshaw: The review of England's Waste Strategy, due to be published later this year, will put forward a range of measures to build on recent improvements in recycling. The proposed target increases for household waste recycling are 40 per cent. by 2010, 45 per cent. by 2015 and 50 per cent. by 2020.

Local authorities' main source of funding for waste management is the environmental, protective and cultural services (EPCS) block of the revenue support grant, distributed by central Government each year. In the last Spending Review (SR2004) the Government announced an increase in the EPCS block of £888 million by 2007-08 over 2004-05. A further £260 million through the waste performance and efficiency grant and £535 million in private finance initiative credits were also made available by 2007-08.

For 2006-07, the Waste Resources and Action Plan (WRAP) has been allocated £10.8 million for market development work, £40 million under the Waste Implementation Programme (to divert biodegradable municipal waste from landfill), £9 million under the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste programme and £5.5 million under the Aggregate Sustainable Levy Fund.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will amend local authority league tables on recycling to give greater weight to waste minimisation. [76687]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* Local authorities are assessed against a number of indicators on household waste which include the percentage sent for recycling or composting and the total weight collected per head. The Audit Commission publishes information on local authority performance against these indicators each year. This is available from the Audit Commission website:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/performance/dataprovision.asp

Currently, there is no local authority statutory performance standard for waste minimisation. However, as part of the review of England's Waste Strategy, Defra is looking at what levels and what forms of targets and indicators will, in the longer-term, be the most efficient at continuing the recent improvements we have seen in waste performance. The review will take into account existing policies designed to make waste management more sustainable, and consider how best to present information on local authority waste performance, consistent with sustainable waste management objectives.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of *(a)* plastic and *(b)* glass bottles were recycled in each of the last five years. [75564]

Mr. Bradshaw: Each year the Department publishes its Packaging Data Note (which can be found on the Defra website), giving the overall tonnages of all glass and plastic packaging waste recycled each year. These are shown in the following tables.

Glass packaging waste recycled

	Tonnes
2001	766,000
2002	747,000
2003	862,000
2004	1,050,000
2005	1,260,000

Plastic packaging waste recycled

	Tonnes
2001	270,000
2002	360,000
2003	321,000
2004	344,000
2005	414,000

2005 figures are subject to confirmation. It is estimated that of the total amount of glass packaging waste recycled in 2004, approximately 75 per cent. were glass bottles. Of the total amount of plastic packaging waste recycled, about 10 per cent. is estimated to have been plastic bottles.

The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2005 place an obligation on producers who put packaging on the market to recover and recycle packaging waste. The packaging targets increase each year and we expect the amount of glass and plastic packaging waste (including bottles) recycled to also increase.

Supermarkets

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department will give evidence to the forthcoming Competition Commission inquiry into the impact of supermarkets on market towns and out-of-town superstores in rural areas. [74503]

Barry Gardiner: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1129.

My noble Friend Lord Rooker, the Minister for Sustainable Farming and Food has since written to the Competition Commission to highlight a number of areas which the Commission may wish to consider as part of its investigation. In doing so, he confirmed that the Department is willing to provide the Commission with any assistance or information it may request. A copy has been placed in the House Library and on Defra's website.

Waste Facility (Wrexham)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the closure of the agricultural waste collection facility near Wrexham. [76045]

Mr. Bradshaw: I understand the facility which was approved for the collection of fallen stock was closed on 26 May when council officers inspected the plant after members of the public raised health concerns over the number of dead carcases on site.

The local authority and state veterinary service is now working with the facility to clear the backlog of carcases with a view to reinstating the approval of the site to begin receiving fallen stock again as soon as possible. In the mean time farmers in the area have been given a choice of alternative collectors and a good fallen stock collection service remains available to them under the National Fallen Stock Scheme.

Waste Management

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of increased incineration of waste on the environment. [75568]

Mr. Bradshaw: Defra published the independent Review of the Environmental and Health Effects of Waste Management, in 2004, which was peer reviewed by the Royal Society. The review concluded that, based on the evidence from studies so far, the treatment of municipal solid waste—including by incineration—has, at most, a minor impact on human health and the environment. Defra has also recently published a study, "Impact of Energy from Waste and Recycling Policy on UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions", in support of a review of the Government's waste strategy. This is available on the Defra website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/pdf/ermreport.pdf

9 per cent. of waste is currently incinerated in England, but an increase is likely to be needed to be able to meet landfill directive targets, despite big improvements in waste recycling and minimisation. Recovering energy from waste through incineration produces many fewer

greenhouse gas emissions than landfilling. Deriving energy from biodegradable waste also helps to offset fossil fuel generation.

The Environment Agency ensures that emissions and other outputs from waste management facilities are within the limits set by the EU and the UK Government to minimise any negative impact. Incinerators are also required to conform to tighter emission standards than other types of combustion plants.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the UK's waste was *(a)* recycled and *(b)* sent to landfill in the last period for which figures are available. [75574]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2002-03, the estimated proportion of controlled waste which was landfilled in the UK was 43 per cent. In the same year, the estimated proportion which was recycled or reused was 42 per cent.

This encompasses waste collected from household, industrial, commercial, construction and demolition sources.

Whaling

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of whales killed for scientific research in each year since the international moratorium on commercial whaling was introduced, broken down by species. [77385]

Mr. Bradshaw: Up to 2005 the number of whales taken each year, by species and by country for scientific whaling (since the moratorium was introduced in 1986) are shown in the following table as reported to the International Whaling Commission.

	Country	*Species taken*	*Number*
1986	Iceland	Fin	76
		Sei	40
	Rep. of Korea	Minke	69
1987	Iceland	Fin	80
		Sei	20
1987-88	Japan	Minke	273
1988	Iceland	Fin	68
		Sei	10
	Norway	Minke	29
1988-89	Japan	Minke (inc. 5 dwarf)	241
1989	Iceland	Fin	68
	Norway	Minke	17
	Japan	Minke (inc. 3 dwarf and 1 lost)	330
1990	Norway	Minke	5
1990-91	Japan	Minke (inc. 4 dwarf)	327
1991-92	Japan	Minke	288
1992	Norway	Minke (inc. 3 lost)	95
1992-93	Japan	Minke (inc. 3 dwarf)	330
1993	Norway	Minke	69
1993-94	Japan	Minke	330
1994	Norway	Minke	74
	Japan	Minke	21
1994-95	Japan	Minke	330
1995	Japan	Minke	100
1995-96	Japan	Minke	440
1996	Japan	Minke	77
1996-97	Japan	Minke	440
1997	Japan	Minke	100
1997-98	Japan	Minke	438
1998	Japan	Minke	100
1998-99	Japan	Minke	389
1999	Japan	Minke	100
1999-2000	Japan	Minke	439
2000	Japan	Minke	40
		Bryde's	43
		Sperm	5
2000-01	Japan	Minke	440
2001	Japan	Minke	100
		Bryde's	50
		Sperm	8
		Sei (in error)	1
2001-02	Japan	Minke	440
2002	Japan	Minke	102
		Bryde's	50
		Sei	40
		Sperm	5
		Minke	50
2002-03	Japan	Minke (inc. 1 lost)	441

	Country	Species taken	Number
2003	Iceland	Minke (inc. 1 lost)	37
	Japan	Minke (inc. 1 lost)	101
		Bryde's	50
		Sei	50
		Sperm	10
		Minke	50
2003-04	Japan	Minke (inc. 3 lost)	443
2004	Iceland	Minke	25
	Japan	Minke	100
		Bryde's (inc. 1 lost)	51
		Sei	100
		Sperm	3
		(inc. 1 lost)	60
2004-05	Japan	Minke (inc. 1 lost)	441

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the UK's objectives are for the next International Whaling Commission meeting. [77386]

Mr. Bradshaw: The UK's key aims are to resist any attempts to end the moratorium on commercial whaling and resist threats to weaken or remove the conservation agenda of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). We will also highlight the cruelty involved in whaling, and promote the adoption of a new whale sanctuary in the South Atlantic. Furthermore, we will strongly urge Japan, Iceland and Norway, to cease their whaling activities.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes to the present international whaling arrangements a majority of votes at the International Whaling Commission could achieve. [77387]

Mr. Bradshaw: Although Japan and her allies may, for the first time, gain a simple majority at the next annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), such a majority would not be sufficient to overturn the moratorium on commercial whaling (which requires a ¾ majority). However, it would enable them to determine the IWC agenda, delete certain key conservation items and change the rules of procedure to their ultimate benefit.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the member states are of the International Whaling Commission; and which are eligible to vote. [77388]

Mr. Bradshaw: The International Whaling Commission, as of 12 June, has 70 member Contracting Governments: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, People's Republic of China, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Republic of Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kiribati, Luxembourg, Mali, Republic of Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States.

How many of these member states have voting rights will be determined only at the opening of the next annual International Whaling Commission meeting (IWC58) on 16 June, when it is known whether member states have paid their annual subscription and whether their credentials are in order. Even then the position can change during the meeting.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which member states of the International Whaling Commission are *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* against (i) commercial and (ii) scientific whaling. [77475]

Mr. Bradshaw: Issues are very rarely put to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in such stark terms. As such, the UK Government cannot determine with absolute confidence how each IWC member state might vote on removing the moratorium on commercial whaling or in protest against scientific whaling.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

AK-47s

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether a consignment of AK-47 type assault rifles has recently been imported from Bosnia into the UK. [75595]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

Belvedere Incinerator

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to make a decision on the proposed Belvedere incinerator. [76651]

Malcolm Wicks: I expect a decision to be announced very shortly.

Building Industry

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what support his Department is giving to the TrustMark scheme in the building industry. [75174]

Margaret Hodge: The TrustMark scheme has been developed jointly by Government, industry and consumer stakeholders to raise standards in the domestic repair, maintenance and improvement sector and to provide

better information to consumers. The TrustMark scheme grew out of the Government's 2001 manifesto commitment to tackle cowboy builders.

DTI licensed TrustMark Ltd. (a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee) on 19 August 2005 to operate the framework. This involves assessing and licensing compliant membership organisations ("Approved Operators") to use the logo, and monitoring their continued compliance. Approved Operators can then license compliant members. There are currently 10 Approved Operators (with further applications being considered) and around 6,500 licensed members.

Our aim is that, over time, improved performance as a result of TrustMark will enhance the construction industry's reputation and improve consumer confidence leading to higher volumes of work and better levels of consumer satisfaction.

DTI is supporting TrustMark Ltd. with a grant of £2 million over two years, ending March 2007.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the criminal offences created in legislation sponsored by his Department since April 2005, broken down by Act. [76911]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is as follows:

2005

No legislation introduced by my Department received Royal Assent.

2006

Act/section	*Offence*
Consumer Credit Act	
51(1)	Penalty for false information. In addition to the new offence created under Section 51 (1), it is an offence under Section 39 (1) of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 for any person to engage in activities for which a licence is required under the Act when he does not have a licence covering those activities and the 2006 Act makes debt administration and the provision of credit information services new licensable activities. Hence, the ambit of Section 39 (1) is extended.
Equality Act	
6	Unlawful disclosure of information.
22	Failure, without reasonable to excuse, to comply with an order under subsection (6).
54	Knowingly recklessly making a false statement of the kind mentioned in subsection (4)(a).
73	Knowingly or recklessly making a false statement, in connection with assistance sought from another, that a proposed act is not unlawful.
Schedule 2, paragraph 13	Without reasonable excuse, (a) fails to comply with a notice under paragraph 9 or an order under paragraph 12 (2), (b) falsifies anything provided or produced in accordance with a notice under paragraph 9 or an order under paragraph 12 (2), or (c) makes a false statement in giving oral evidence in accordance with a notice under paragraph 9.

Departmental Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from his Department in each of the last five years. [71809]

Jim Fitzpatrick: From 2003-04 the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from the Department were as listed, in alphabetical order, as follows. Information at this level of detail relating to prior years is not held on the Department's current financial system, and cannot be retrieved without incurring disproportionate cost.

2003-04

AirbusUK
American Express Europe Ltd
Amey Business Services Ltd
AON Ltd
ATOS Origin IT Services UK Ltd
Fujitsu Services Ltd
NPL Management Ltd
PERA International Ltd
Rolls Royce
SEMA Group

2004-05

American Express Europe Ltd
ATOS Origin IT Services UK Ltd
Capita Insurance Services Group Ltd
CPL Fuels
Cushman and Wakefield, Healey and Baker Cushman and Wakefield, Healey and Baker
Fujitsu Services Ltd
Land Securities Properties Ltd
Laser (Teddington II) Ltd
NPL Management Ltd
Syntegra

2005-06

AEA Technology Environment
American Express Europe Ltd
ATOS Origin IT Services UK Ltd
Capita Insurance Services Group Ltd
Fujitsu Services Ltd
NPL Management Ltd
PERA Innovation Ltd
Syntegra
UK Coal plc

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what opportunities exist for people to work beyond retirement age in his Department. [69006]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Staff may retire on reaching the age of 60 or work until they are 65 or retire at any time between 60 and 65 subject to giving three months notice. Staff in the senior civil service may work beyond 60 if there is a business requirement for them to do so. For all other staff the current maximum retirement age is 65 and they are not retained after that age other than in cases of exceptional departmental need.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of the staff in his

Department is *(a)* male, *(b)* female and *(c)* disabled, broken down by grade. [69008]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following statistics refer to Staff in Post at 1 April 2006.

Percentage of staff in post in the DTI

Grade[1]	*Male*	*Female*	*Declared disability*
Senior civil service	72	28	4
Band C	65	35	6
Band B	55	45	9
Band A	37	63	12
Fast stream	52	48	6
DTI total[2]	57	43	8

[1] Grade bands—the grade structure at the DTI is split into three bands. The equivalent civil service grades are as follows: Band C—senior executive officer (SEO) to grade 6 Band B—executive officer (EO) to higher executive officer (HEO) Band A—administrative assistant (AA) to administrative officer (AO)
[2] Including UK Trade and Investment and Office of Manpower Economics
Note:
Departmental records of disabled staff are solely based on voluntary declaration of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act and not connected in any way to a formal register of disability.

Minimum Wage

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Department has considered implementing a higher minimum wage in areas where the overall cost of living is higher. [76718]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no plans to set different minimum wage rates for different areas or regions. There are often greater variations in pay within regions than between regions, and this would be complex to monitor and enforce. Single national rates are less bureaucratic and more easily understood for all concerned.

Mobile Phones

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of mobile phones in circulation in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [75557]

Margaret Hodge: The Department does not hold the information that my hon. Friend requested nor is it available centrally and to obtain such information would entail disproportionate cost. However, research carried out by Ofcom found that the number of mobile phone subscribers in the UK rose from almost 45 million in 2001 to more than 64 million by the end of 2005.

Sayers Bakery

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what notice of redundancies he has received in respect of Sayers Bakery, Lorenzo Drive, Liverpool; what action he is taking; and if he will make a statement. [76696]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Advance notification of the proposed redundancies at Sayers Confectionery Limited., Lorenzo Drive, Liverpool, has been received. The information was passed to the Manager of Norris Green Jobcentre plus, who has arranged for staff to visit the site to assist those employees who are facing redundancy. The Jobcentre plus offers access to a range of support schemes, from the new deal and the jobseekers allowance through to more focused schemes designed to help those caught up in restructuring. It provides information on job searching; compiling CVs; further education and training for individuals who need to develop new skills; benefits information; etc. The help required is agreed in discussion with the employer, and in liaison with the local Government Office and the Local Learning and Skills Council.

Sunday Trading

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people have responded to his consultation on Sunday trading; and if he will list the persons invited to his stakeholder conference on the subject. [74074]

Mr. McCartney: From 13 January to 14 April the DTI asked for views and evidence on all aspects of extending Sunday shop opening hours. We have received around 1,000 responses. We intend to publish a summary of the responses on the DTI website (www.dti.gov.uk/consumers/buying-selling/Sunday%20Shopping) within three months of the close of this consultation.

On 10 May we held a stakeholder conference, attended by a wide range of stakeholders, where Indepen Consulting Ltd. presented their cost-benefit analysis and participants discussed the assumptions and findings. This was followed by optional forums where we gathered views on the impact on society, the retail sector and employees, and also what can be learnt from international comparisons.

We wrote to around 150 organisations including retailers, trade associations, trade unions, faith groups and groups with an interest in family life to make them aware of the conference. Details of the conference and how to sign up were posted on the DTI website and we also placed an advertisement in a number of retail trade publications. A report of the conference with a list of the organisations that attended, will be published on the DTI website shortly.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casinos

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what methodology the Casino Advisory Panel is using *(a)* to consider the social impact of new casinos and *(b)* to assess local opposition to new casinos in its work allocating casino licences. [77062]

Mr. Caborn: The role of the Casino Advisory Panel is to advise the Secretary of State on the areas for the 17 new casinos permitted by the Gambling Act 2005, which will provide the best possible test of social impact, not to measure that impact. The panel is also

required to ensure that the areas selected are willing to license a new casino and that they include areas in need of regeneration.

No earlier than three years after the award of the first premises licence, the Government will ask the Gambling Commission to advise on whether the introduction of the new types of casinos has led to an increase in problem gambling or is increasing that risk.

All local authorities who put proposals to the panel were asked to include details of their research into local opinion.

In announcing its short list of casino bids the panel has asked any interested members of the public to write to it expressing their views on the short listed areas, whether in support or in opposition.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations *(a)* she and *(b)* the Casino Advisory Panel has received in the last six months criticising the methodologies used by the Casino Advisory Panel in its work. [77063]

Mr. Caborn: There have been no representations criticising the methodology used by the Casino Advisory Panel.

Parliamentary Ombudsman

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list those occasions when the recommendations of a report from the Parliamentary Ombudsman have been *(a)* rejected and *(b)* partly rejected by her Department since 1997. [76263]

Mr. Lammy: There were no occasions where the Department rejected or partially rejected recommendations of a report from the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what incentives are available to encourage members of her staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75120]

Mr. Lammy: The vast majority of staff already use public transport. There are no car parking spaces, other than for disabled staff. We provide interest-free loans for the purchase of public transport season tickets and the purchase of bicycles. We are currently upgrading on-site facilities for cyclists.

Tourism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to promote tourism in South East Essex; and if she will make a statement. [75652]

Mr. Woodward: The Regional Development Agencies have had responsibility for tourism support and promotion at a regional level since 2003. My Department contributes £3.6 million a year towards this in grant-in-aid.

The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) works with the Essex Development and Regeneration Agency (ExDRA), as the body delegated responsibility for promoting tourism in Essex by the county council.

Initiatives that are directly being supported by EEDA include a tourism strategy for Essex which incorporates the Thames Gateway and Haven Gateway areas of the county. In addition EEDA is working with the Arts Council on cultural development and tourism in the Southend borough.

SCOTLAND

Biodiversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which Minister in his Department is responsible for monitoring his Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if he will make a statement. [73939]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office have no responsibilities in relation to section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to him comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74397]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office have no responsibilities in relation to section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by his Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature of the charges brought against them were. [73964]

David Cairns: None.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what incentives his Department offers to encourage staff to share vehicles when travelling to work. [73058]

David Cairns: All staff in the Scotland Office are on loan from the Scottish Executive or the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and, where appropriate, may avail themselves of the schemes offered by those Departments.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions Ministers of State in his Department stayed overnight in *(a)* five star, *(b)* four star and *(c)* three star hotels on foreign visits in each of the last three years. [69100]

David Cairns: There have been no Ministers of State in the Scotland Office during the last three years. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the terms of the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers" which state that when travelling on official business, Ministers are expected to make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Pensions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will estimate the pension liability of his Department over the next 30 years. [75272]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the technical note which was placed in the Library of the House on 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-90W, following a response at oral questions by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual departments but for individual pension schemes, as shown in the breakdown of liabilities per pension scheme given in Table 1 of the technical note.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension. [73059]

David Cairns: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) can pay additional contributions to top up their pension either through the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme (CSAVCS), a money purchase arrangement, or by buying added years of service in the PCSPS. As an alternative to membership of the PCSPS recruits from 1 October 2002 have been able to join a stakeholder arrangement, the partnership pension account.

The number and percentage of staff in the department who are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension as at 31 May 2006 are shown in the following table.

	Number	*Percentage*
CSAVCS	1	2
Added years	3	6
Partnership	0	0

Staff Development

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the total cost was of *(a)* staff away days and *(b)* staff team building exercises in his Department in each of the last three years. [69105]

David Cairns: The staff in the Scotland Office are on loan from the Scottish Executive or the Department for Constitutional Affairs; both Departments provide access to training and development opportunities. The Scotland Office does not hold information in the form requested; however, the total direct expenditure on training was:

	£
2003-04	23,482
2004-05	11,123
2005-06 (Estimate)	13,370

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Integration

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to encourage community integration. [76450]

Meg Munn: The Secretary of State is developing the Commission on Integration and Cohesion's scope to ensure that it contributes to the delivery of the new Department's strategic priorities. We expect to make an announcement about the way ahead before the summer recess.

The creation of the new Department for Communities and Local Government gives a renewed impetus to our work of encouraging integration with its powerful new remit to promote community cohesion, equality and civil renewal along with its responsibilities for housing, urban regeneration, planning and local government.

Council Tax (Pensioners)

John Penrose: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many copies of council tax bills for 2006-07 he has received from pensioners. [65110]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

4,487 copies of council tax bills for 2006-07 have been received by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as at 21 April 2006.

Digital Challenge Competition

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to include the Digital Challenge Competition in the Transformational Government work programme. [75921]

Mr. Woolas: The Digital Challenge competition is an integral part of the programme outlined in Connecting the UK: the Digital Strategy, of which Transformational Government is also a part.

The Digital Challenge competition has the potential to make a real difference to people's lives. There are three overarching criteria for the winning bid which are fundamental requirements and which also reflect the principles outlined in Transformational Government:

Empowerment

The winning bid must show how they will use ICT to give new choice, voice and empowerment to citizens; it should be about enabling citizens to participate in their communities, as well as gaining access to services.

Service Transformation

The winning bid must demonstrate innovation in changing how we offer services to people—using ICT to transform the way services are provided, used and experienced.

Efficiency

Local authorities must show that after year one their initiatives are sustainable and cost effective and be prepared to showcase these to other local authorities in years two and three, acting as the UK exemplar.

The Digital Challenge is supported across government by many departments. Learning and evaluation of the winning bid and runners-up will be used to inform the development of Transformational Government programmes.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the legal status of home condition reports will be; when home information packs are introduced; and for how long the Condition Report will be valid. [73899]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The regulations to be laid shortly will specify that Home Condition Reports will be valid documents once they are registered. The regulations will also specify that buyers, sellers and mortgage lenders can legally rely on Home Condition Reports. Home inspectors will be required to have in place suitable indemnity insurance.

The regulations will require that Home Condition Reports must be no more than three months old when marketing begins, but there will be no requirement for sellers to update them after this. We expect the industry to develop cheap solutions for updating packs where the seller wishes to do so.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home inspectors are in training; what qualifications are required to enter training; and how many home inspectors she expects to have in place in each local authority area in England by 1 June 2007. [73900]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* As of 30April 2006, over 4,400 potential home inspectors were in training. The current qualification, the ABBE Diploma in Home Inspection, is open to people with different levels of previous experience, but all candidates must satisfy all parts of the Diploma. This includes providing a portfolio of evidence demonstrating the required skills and experience, and passing the ABBE examination.

We have estimated that the number of home inspectors required in England and Wales by 1 June 2007, will be between 5,000 and 7,400. The 'Report on the Number of Home Inspectors Required from Introduction of Home Information Packs' published by DCLG on 23 May 2006 shows the number of inspectors expected to be required in each of the English regions and Wales. I have deposited a copy in the Library of the House.

Housing

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average waiting time was for a council property with disabled access in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* the West Yorkshire region in the latest period for which figures are available. [75490]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 7 June 2006]:* Information in the form requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans she has to *(a)* build and *(b)* supply council housing for those with serious disabilities in (i) Leeds and (ii) the West Yorkshire region; [75491]

(2) what plans her Department has to improve the provision of council housing for those with serious disabilities in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* the West Yorkshire region. [75492]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 7 June 2006]:* We have a duty to deliver housing appropriate to the needs of those with serious disabilities. Housing Associations are now the main providers of new social housing. Regional Housing Boards recommend the allocation of resources to deliver regional and sub-regional priorities identified in Regional Housing Strategies. The Housing Corporation has invested £3.3 million for 54 new supported housing units in West Yorkshire between 2004-06. For the period 2006-08, £4.2 million has been allocated to provide 95 new supported housing units in West Yorkshire.

In addition, Leeds are delivering through the private finance initiative high-quality accommodation and support services for people with learning disabilities. In addition to specialist provision, we continue to enable people with serious disabilities to live in their own homes if they wish to do so, with the appropriate level of care. Council housing adaptations are resourced through Council's Housing Revenue Account, or from other financial resources available to the local authority. Local authority tenants are statutorily entitled to assistance under the Disabled Facilities Grant programme but the present financial arrangements preclude the ODPM ring fenced fund being used for the provision of such adaptations for LA tenants. In the private sector, each year around 30,000 applicants benefit from a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), which since 1997 has increased from £57 million to £103 million in 2005-06. Leeds allocation for 2006-07 is £1.5 million, a 37 per cent. increase. Provision for suitable accommodation will

also be increased through our decision to implement the Lifetime Homes Standard through the new Code for Sustainable Homes.

I also understand that Leeds city council is preparing a Disability Housing Strategy and a Learning Disabilities Strategy (Valuing People), which will set out the approach that the authority needs to take in future years for provision of new housing which meets the needs of the seriously disabled in our communities.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people with serious disabilities are on the waiting list for council housing in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* the West Yorkshire region. [75496]

Yvette Cooper: Information in the form requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Infrastructure (Sussex)

Mr. Soames: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to ensure timely development of infrastructure to keep pace with housing construction in *(a)* West Sussex and *(b)* Mid Sussex. [64450]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 19 April 2006]:* I have been asked to reply.

Government have increased overall spending in the south east since 2000 by 50 per cent. from £30 billion to £45 billion, including a 244 per cent. increase in housing and community funding, 67 per cent. increase in health, 59 per cent. in transport and 58 per cent. in education.

The South East Plan has been recently submitted to Government and sets out the regional assembly's views on required house building levels in the south east to 2026. This work has been prepared in partnership with local councils, and so takes account of local assessments of need. In its draft the assembly has taken a view of infrastructure requirements across the region, and this will be debated at the forthcoming examination in public. In due course, the Government will give their approval to the final version, which will certainly take into account the issue of infrastructure delivery, on the basis of the best information available at the time.

The Government response to the Barker report included:

a cross-cutting review in the run-up to CSR 07 to co-ordinate infrastructure provision across Departments;

consultation on the Government's response to Kate Barker's recommendation for a Planning-Gain Supplement (PGS) to help finance infrastructure and ensure that local authorities share in the benefits growth brings.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he will announce the local authorities' *(a)* capital grants for 2006-07 and *(b)* indicated grants for 2007-08. [46138]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Information on capital grants issued to local authorities is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much rates support grant was given to Lancashire county council over the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [53372]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the amount of formula grant provided to Lancashire county council for the period 1998-99 to 2007-08, together with the increase year-on-year on a like-for-like basis after adjusting for changes in funding and function. Formula grant comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and, for authorities with responsibility for policing, principal formula police grant. It is not appropriate to show just revenue support grant as the amount for England is dependant on the amount of redistributed business rates available for England in the year.

The large change in the level of formula grant in 2006-07 is due to the transfer of schools funding to the Dedicated Schools Grant.

	Previous year's adjusted formula grant	*Current year's formula grant*	*Change in formula grant*	*Percentage change in formula grant*
1998-99	559.359	578.211	18.852	3.4
1999-2000	578.211	601.844	23.633	4.1
2000-01	601.843	628.203	26.360	4.4
2001-02	624.510	644.495	19.984	3.2
2002-03	623.966	650.639	26.673	4.3
2003-04	680.497	712.003	31.506	4.6
2004-05	691.061	733.177	42.116	6.1
2005-06	740.515	779.547	39.032	5.3
2006-07	215.765	222.766	7.001	3.2
2007-08	222.317	232.482	10.165	4.6

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities make provision for their councillors to hold a budget which they can spend on approved projects and organisations in their own wards. [76274]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of which local authorities the Government are proposing to reduce their support for borrowing for capital expenditure; and if she will make a statement. [76617]

Mr. Woolas: Government support for borrowing by local authorities is issued as part of the Formula Grant Settlement. Formula Grant is unhypothecated and so capital support is not provided as a separate funding

stream. The amount issued is calculated on a formulaic basis and therefore the Government do not intervene by reducing support to individual local authorities.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's policy is on supported borrowing for capital expenditure by Buckinghamshire county council; and if she will make a statement. [76618]

Mr. Woolas: Government support for borrowing by local authorities is issued as part of the Formula Grant Settlement. Formula Grant is unhypothecated and so capital support is not provided as a separate funding stream. The amount issued to Buckinghamshire county council, as with all local authorities, is calculated on a formulaic basis and therefore the Government do not intervene by reducing support to individual local authorities.

Mixed Communities Initiative

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the Mixed Communities Initiative. [76449]

Yvette Cooper: The mixed communities approach is one element of our strategy to tackle concentrated deprivation and create sustainable communities for all. It brings together social, economic and physical regeneration, alongside essential improvements in public services, in order to transform failing communities into ones able to attract and retain households on a wide range of incomes. The Government are currently working with a number of locally led and managed projects in order to develop mixed communities in some of our most disadvantaged areas, while also testing out approaches to encourage mixed communities more widely. One such project is based in Coventry.

Parliamentary Questions

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will answer question 65110, tabled on 19 April to the Deputy Prime Minister. [73584]

Mr. Woolas: I have answered the hon. Member's question today, 13 June 2006.

Staff Discipline

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil service staff formerly working in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister have been disciplined as a result of breaches of rules contained in the departmental staff handbook in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [76238]

Angela E. Smith: Information on the number of disciplinary cases is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Supported Housing

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the introduction of Supporting People on the safety and security of staff in supported housing. [76226]

Mr. Woolas: Supporting People is a national programme which funds and enables local provision of housing-related support services. The programme went live on 1 April 2003, and brought together a range of pre-existing services and funding streams under a single strategic framework. This included the establishment of national quality standards—the Quality Assessment Framework—which include, among many other matters, ensuring proper procedures for risk assessment and health and safety of staff and against which all of these services have now been assessed.

While no specific assessment has been made by DCLG of the effect of the introduction of Supporting People on the safety and security of staff in supported housing, the Audit Commission national report on Supporting People (published in October 2005) reported that the Quality Assessment Framework has been effective in raising standards.

DEFENCE

Military Units (Oxfordshire)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which military units from *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the United States and *(c)* other nations have been based in Oxfordshire in each of the last five years; and where each unit has been based. [76412]

Mr. Ingram: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Bearskins

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent research he has commissioned on whether animals used to provide bearskins are killed humanely; and if he will make a statement. [76169]

Mr. Ingram: The pelts used to provide bearskins are provided by traders operating under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Authorities. Those pelts that are provided are certified under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Details on the manner in which the bears are killed are a matter for the Canadian Authorities. The UK MOD requirement for fresh bearskins has been reduced through the operation of a refurbishment programme.

Defence Intelligence Staff

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 767W, on the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre, from which units of the US armed forces the two American personnel are drawn. [76414]

Mr. Ingram: The US Army Exchange Officer is a member of the US Army Intelligence Corp (304th MI Battalion, 3rd MI Brigade).

The US Air Force Exchange Officer is from the Intelligence Branch of the US Air Force.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether each recommendation in the Butler Review related to the Defence Intelligence Staff was accepted by the Government; and what progress has been made in meeting each recommendation which was accepted. [76409]

Mr. Ingram: The Government's response to the Butler Review was presented to Parliament in March 2005 (Cm 6492) and its response to the recommendations regarding the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) is in Chapter 7.

Lord Butler recommended that the relevant work of the DIS should be more closely integrated with the rest of the intelligence community. The DIS is now fully integrated into the central intelligence requirements and priorities process, although with the acknowledgement that the Ministry of Defence remains ultimately responsible for providing the DIS with its direction.

Lord Butler recommended that consideration should be given to the provision of proper channels for the expression of dissent within the DIS. As the Government response indicated, the MOD had already introduced new arrangements for raising issues of conscience and professional concern, including dissent, in order to address (inter alia) the concerns expressed by Lord Butler. The procedure for handling matters of conscience or professional concern was promulgated to staff in a standing instruction in March 2005.

Lord Butler recommended that in future the Deputy Chief of Defence Intelligence should be an intelligence specialist. The MOD recognises the advantage of appointing an intelligence specialist to this role, but as the post requires a wider skills base, increased staff development effort, including a leadership programme for members of the DIS, has been introduced and will enable more personnel with intelligence experience to be considered for the post.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which bodies in addition to the Defence intelligence staff constitute the UK defence intelligence community. [76410]

Mr. Ingram: The bodies which make up the UK Defence intelligence community are the Defence intelligence staff, the J2 branch at the permanent joint headquarters (PJHQ) and the single service intelligence organisations. Operational deployments will also have intelligence elements.

The PJHQ J2 branch act in conjunction with the rest of the Defence intelligence community. Each of the single services has an intelligence branch at their respective front line command headquarters. These are N2 (HQ fleet), G2 (HQ land command) and A2 (HQ strike command). The services also have specialist intelligence units to support them, such as the Air Warfare Centre, the Army Intelligence Corps and the RAF Intelligence Branch.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by his Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature was of the charges brought against them. [73966]

Mr. Watson: Records are not kept centrally on how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by the Department in each year since 2001 and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Low Flying

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many low flying flights there were in the *(a)* Highlands of Scotland and *(b)* South West of Scotland and Anglo-Scottish border tactical training area in each year between 1998-99 and 2004-05. [76237]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 260-61W.

Psychological Operations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 622W, on 15 Psychological Operations Group, whether any of the operations of 15 (UK) Psychological Operations Group since 1 January 2003, other than training, have been carried out in the United Kingdom. [76413]

Mr. Ingram: 15 (UK) Psychological Operations Group have never carried out operations in the United Kingdom.

Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1993W, on nuclear-powered submarines, what the standard operating procedures are for collecting effluent produced by the warming up process from nuclear-powered submarines using *(a)* Southampton and *(b)* other X berths; and if he will make a statement. [76215]

Mr. Ingram: There are no X berths at Southampton. At the Southampton Z berth all reactor warm-up effluent is kept onboard the submarine until such time as it can be dealt with in accordance with the standard operating procedures at either HM Naval Base Devonport or HM Naval Base Clyde. These procedures were described in the answer I gave the hon. Member on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1992W, and there is nothing further I can usefully add.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates since 1 January 2005 US Navy nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed submarines have visited UK waters or designated berths; and what the location was in each case. [76289]

Mr. Ingram: US Navy nuclear-powered submarines have visited the following UK designated berths since 1 January 2005:

Plymouth

4-9 May 2005

19-22 October 2005

9-15 November 2005

Faslane

6-16 May 2005

10-17 June 2005

22-29 June 2005

5-12 August 2005

17-19 August 2005

25-29 August 2005

8-11 May 2006

A further visit to Faslane will take place 9-15 June 2006.

During the period there have been no visits to Portsmouth, the Solent anchorages, or to other UK designated berths.

All these visits were by nuclear powered submarines (SSN). There were no visits by nuclear ballistic missile armed submarines (SSBN).

UK Military Airfields

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress with the review of UK military airfields; and when he expects to report the outcome. [75933]

Mr. Ingram: My right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for Defence announced to the House in July 2004 during his statement on the White Paper on Delivering Security in a Changing World that we would be undertaking an extensive review of our future requirements for airfields. There will not be one single report on the outcome of the Defence Airfield Review as the work is being taken forward through a series of business cases assessing the best configuration, both operationally and in value for money terms, for a number of future aircraft types.

I announced the conclusions of the studies into the basing of Joint Combat aircraft and Nimrod MRA4 aircraft to the House in my statement on 17 November 2005. I will announce the results of the remaining individual studies in due course.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what incentives are available to encourage members of his staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75109]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government's policy is to encourage the use of sustainable transport methods.

Pensions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his role will be in developing Government policy on pensions. [71543]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out details of the new role he has asked me to undertake in his written answer on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 985W, and a copy of my letter of appointment has been made available in the Library.

I will be taking the lead in overseeing the delivery of Government business and improving the effectiveness of Government policy across the whole range of policy areas, including delivering key pledges in our 2005 election manifesto. An important challenge will be to ensure a long-term infrastructure is put in place to entrench a new pensions savings culture, where future generations can take increasing personal responsibility for building their retirement savings. We believe the proposals in the Pensions White Paper do this, and I shall continue to play a full role in discussions as we seek a consensus on the way forward on pensions. The hon. Member will be aware that, until recently, I was responsible for ensuring proper regulation of the local government pension scheme. I intend to build on that experience in seeking agreement on sustainable, affordable and fair pensions for the future.

PRIME MINISTER

Sports Relief

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Loughborough (Mr. Reed) of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 247, when he took part in the mile run in aid of Sports Relief; and between which points. [77244]

The Prime Minister: A number of events have been planned by Sport Relief in the build up to 'Sport Relief Saturday' which takes place on 15 July. In the coming weeks, I am taking part by running a mile in aid of Sport Relief with 2012 ambassadors and young people. I congratulate hon. Members who took part in the Westminster Mile.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Agricultural Crops

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total value of the agricultural crop in Northern Ireland was in each of the past four years; and what the total value of agricultural subsidies was in each year. [75969]

David Cairns: Gross output is the standard measure of the value of agricultural output. The published gross output figures normally include the value of agricultural subsidies paid on products. In answer to this question the gross output figures for agriculture in Northern Ireland are given with the subsidy on products removed to give a clearer picture of the value of market returns. These figures and the total value of direct agricultural subsidies in Northern Ireland for the last four years are presented in the following table. The figures for 2005 are provisional and may be subject to change as more up-to-date information becomes available.

£ million

	Gross agricultural output less subsidies on products	*Total direct agricultural subsidies*
2002	925.2	248.1
2003	1,026.1	238.5
2004	1,055.8	277.4
2005 (Provisional)	1,048.0	281.7

Animal Cruelty

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of animal cruelty have been reported across the Province over the last three years, broken down by Westminster constituency. [77339]

David Cairns: The number of reported cases of animal cruelty is not held centrally by one agency. DARD records those cases reported directly to the Department (mainly in respect of farmed animals), while other suspected cruelty cases will also be reported directly to the Police Service of Northern Ireland or to animal welfare organisations. However, the PSNI do not collate figures relating specifically to animal cruelty.

Records of the number of cases of animal cruelty reported to DARD, for calendar years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are provided in the table. The information is not recorded by Westminster constituency, but is held by Divisional Veterinary Office area.

Total

DARD Divisional Veterinary Office	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Armagh	2	11	8
Ballymena	26	16	14
Coleraine	20	34	24
Dungannon	0	18	17
Enniskillen	13	9	12
Larne	19	18	27
Londonderry	16	7	21
Newry	2	23	17
Newtownards	46	34	25
Omagh	10	3	20
Total	156	175	185

Cattle Identification Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been charged under cattle identification legislation in each of the last five years; and how much was recovered by way of fines in each year. [77095]

David Cairns: The Department referred 65 individuals to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) during the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2006. Total fines imposed by the courts during the period—£72,005.

Number of people charged under cattle identification legislation

April to March	*Number*	*Total fines (£)*
2001-02	5	5,275
2002-03	3	1,610
2003-04	19	23,660
2004-05	15	8,530
2005-06	23	32,930

Cross-border Arrangements

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the proposed EU legal instrument for cross-border institutional arrangements. [75422]

Mr. Hanson: The EU Commission has proposed a legal instrument, European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), to allow public bodies from different member states to create or join an EGTC with the objective of facilitating and promoting cross border, transnational and interregional co-operation in order to strengthen economic and social cohesion. No new powers are confirmed on public bodies by joining an EGTC and member states can withhold their approval of an EGTC if it considers it to be contrary to the public policy of the member state.

Other corporate and European structures can also facilitate such co-operation and the EGTC instrument would offer one more option for cross border co-operation to those arrangements that already exist. This may have operational benefits and can be welcomed. The institutions created under the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the North South Cooperation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 already facilitate work across the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The current Ireland/Northern Ireland PEACE and INTERREG IIIA programmes are managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and these structures have performed well.

Door-to-door Bus Services

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the delivery of the door-to-door bus service *(a)* for Comber and *(b)* elsewhere in Strangford constituency. [75472]

David Cairns: The Department for Regional Development is currently evaluating tenders for the provision of door-to-door transport services in a number of urban areas and would hope that services would start on a phased basis in September 2006. As part of this scheme Comber is linked with Newtownards and Dundonald as a single contract area.

Through the Rural Transport Fund, the Department for Regional Development provides support to two rural community transport partnerships operating door-to-door services within the Strangford constituency. These are Down Community Transport based in Downpatrick (which also operates in the South Down constituency) and Peninsula Community Transport based in Kircubbin.

Equal Opportunities

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to ensure that women are more equally represented in the civil service in Northern Ireland. [76322]

Mr. Hanson: Significant progress has been made in ensuring that women are properly represented, particularly at senior grades, in the Northern Ireland civil service, and this has been reflected in changing compositional figures.

Before advertising a vacancy in the civil service, an assessment is made of the gender balance and where this shows women to be under-represented a statement welcoming applications from women is included in the advertisement. In the period January 2005 to May 2006, welcoming statements were included in 125 advertisements.

The civil service is anxious to make further progress to increase the diversity of the work force in order to make it more reflective of the community it serves. To this end an outreach programme is being devised and in relation to gender an emphasis will be on encouraging more women into occupations that traditionally have been carried out by men.

Forum for Local Government and the Arts

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times the Forum for Local Government and the Arts in Northern Ireland met in 2005; and where each meeting took place. [76648]

Maria Eagle: The Forum for Local Government and the Arts in Northern Ireland met once in 2005, on 6 December at the Sean Holywood Centre, Newry.

Household Condition Survey

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will *(a)* increase the number of households included in the Northern Ireland Household Condition Survey, *(b)* add energy and income datasets to the Northern Ireland census and *(c)* include energy and income datasets in surveying for community planning under new local government arrangements. [75588]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows:

(a) For the 2006 Northern Ireland House Condition Survey the Housing Executive increased the sample size to 7,250 dwellings (compared to 3,000 in the interim House Condition Survey of 2004), making it broadly comparable to the sample used in the full survey of 2001.

(b) No decisions on question topics and content for the 2011 census have yet been taken. Proposals for the 2011 census will be brought forward in a White Paper, probably in 2008, drawing on consultation with users, testing of options and the balancing of competing requirements. The issues of energy and income were raised by users during recent consultation on the content of the next census. A planned census test in 2007 will include a question on income.

(c) Strategic Community Planning Partnerships within the new councils will seek to utilise all available relevant information, data and research to inform how the situation within their localities can be improved for the benefit of all citizens.

Knife Amnesty

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many items have been surrendered to date in each district council area in Northern Ireland since the commencement of the knife amnesty. [76440]

Mr. Hanson: The police have estimated that at 31 May, a total of 320 items were surrendered since the commencement of the knife amnesty and put on show on Wednesday 7 June a number of the items deposited. A definitive count will be made shortly after the amnesty finishes and information will be available in the week commencing 19 June.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to extend the knife amnesty in Northern Ireland in accordance with the amnesty operating in England and Wales. [76444]

Mr. Hanson: The current knife amnesty will not be extended beyond 14 June, but I do plan to re-run the amnesty later this year. This would give an opportunity for the year-long public information campaign to begin to make an impact of changing attitudes.

Playgroups

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children were not able to obtain a place in the playgroup of their first choice in each of the five education and library boards in each of the last three years. [75543]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is as follows.

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
BELB	33	51	31
NEELB	209	259	159
SEELB	176	148	179
SELB	205	269	208
WELB	—	—	140

The WELB is not able to supply the figures in respect of the 2004-05 and 2005-06 school years.

Promotion Boards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what promotion boards have been held in *(a)* each Northern Ireland Department and *(b)* the Northern Ireland Office in each of the last five years. [70454]

Mr. Hanson: The following are details of general service promotion competitions which have been held in each Northern Ireland Department and the Northern Ireland Office during the period 2001 until 2005.

	Promotion board held
2001	Grade7/A, Staff Officer/B2, Executive Officer 1, Executive Officer 11/Band C, Administrative Officer/Grade 1
2003	Deputy Principal/B1, Staff Officer/B2
2004	Grade 7/A, Executive Officer 1
2005	Executive Officer 11/Band C

The following list provides details of all other departmental promotion boards held in each of the last five years ie 2001 until 2005.

DSD (including SSA and CSA) and DEL did not hold any promotion boards in each of the last five years other than general service promotion competitions as shown above.

DFP/OFMDFM

2001

HPTO Civil Engineering Assistant
Principal Statistician
Programmer Analyst
Senior Valuer
Senior Systems Analyst
District Valuer
Valuer 1
Drilling Rig Supervisor
DP Statistician

2002

Assistant Solicitors
Senior Law Clerk
G6/Economist
Service Wide Personal Secretary
Principal Economist
Senior Principal Statistician
Valuer 2
PPTO Civil Engineering
HPTO Mechanical and Electrical Engineers
SPTO Civil Engineer

2003

PPTO Mechanical and Electrical Engineers
DP Statistician
HPTO Mechanical Engineer
Principal Statistician
Principal Economist
SPTO Mechanical Engineer

2004

HPTO Quantity Surveyor
District Valuer
Senior Valuer
DP Economist
PPTO Architect

2005

Principal Economist
Senior Principal Statistician
SPTO Architect
HPTO Architect
SPTO Structural Engineer
HPTO Mechanical Engineer
HPTO Quantity Surveyor
PPTO Quantity Surveyor
HPTO Supplies Officer
HPTO Electrical Engineer

DARD

2001

Inspector Grade II
Deputy Chief Agricultural Officer
Principal Professional Technical Officer.
Senior Professional Technical Officer
Higher Professional Technical Officer
Inspector Grade I
Scientific Officer (Chemistry)
Scientific Officer (Microbiology)
Scientific Officer (Biology)
Senior Principal Veterinary Officer

2002

Divisional Veterinary Officer
Higher Professional Technical Officer

2003

Inspector Group 2
Higher Scientific Officer (Chemistry)
Inspector Grade II
Higher Scientific Officer (Biology)
Higher Scientific Officer (Microbiology)
Higher Scientific Officer (Molecular Biology)

2004

Scientific Officer (Chemistry)
Scientific Officer (Biology)
Scientific Officer (Microbiology)
Senior Professional Technical Officer
Fisheries Officers 1

2005

Divisional Forest Officer

DRD

2001

PTO Electrical Engineering Assistant (Roads Service)
SPTO Civil Engineering Assistant (Water Service)
HPTO Civil Engineering Assistant (Water Service)
SPTO Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Assistant (Roads Service)

HPTO Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Assistant (Roads Service)
PTO Civil Engineering Assistant (Roads Service)
HPTO Civil Engineering Assistant (Roads Service)
SPTO Civil Engineering Assistant (Roads Service)

2002

Senior Scientific Officer (Water Service)
Higher Scientific Officer (Water Service)
Industrial Foreman (Roads Service)
Electrical Foreman (Roads Service)

2003

Scientific Officer (Water Service)
PTO Electrical Engineering Assistant (Roads Service)
Senior Personal Secretary

2004

TG1 Civil Engineer (Roads Service)
SPTO Civil Engineer (Water Service)
Higher Scientific Officer (Water Service)

2005

Scientific Officer (Water Service)
SPTO Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Assistant (Water Service)
SPTO Civil Engineer (Roads Service)
HPTO Civil Engineer (Water Service)
HPTO Civil Engineer (Roads Service)
PTO Civil Engineer (Roads Service)

DOE

2001

PPTO Planner

2002

SPTO Planner
PPTO Planner
HPTO Planner
Grade 6 Planning Manager
SPTO Planner
Scientific Officer (Environment and Heritage Service)

2003

HPTO Planner
PPTO Planner
SPTO Planner
HPTO Planner

2004

SPTO Deputy Chief Examiner (Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency)

2005

SPTO Planner
HPTO Planner
PPTO Planner

DCAL

2001

Mapping and Charting Technician Grade I
Senior Mapping and Charting Officer
Higher Mapping and Charting Officer
Mapping and Charting Officer

2003

Principal Mapping and Charting Officer
Higher Mapping and Charting Officer
Senior Mapping and Charting Officer

2004

Supervisor Grade B (Industrial Competition)

2005

Supervisor Grade A (Industrial Competition)

DETI

2002

G7—Principal Inspector (HSENI)
SO—Area Inspector
G6—Deputy Chief Executive (HSENI)

NIO

2005

HCS Fast Stream Grade 7/A

DE

2004

Personal Secretary Competition

DHSSPS

2002

Principal Pharmaceutical Officer

Public Land Transfers

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much public land in Northern Ireland, has been transferred to the private sector in each of the past 10 years for which figures are available; and at what cost. [64977]

Mr. Hanson: It has not been possible to provide information for the 10-year period as recovery of the required information would be possible only at disproportionate cost.

The tables detail the information requested for the five-year period from April 2001 to March 2006.

Table A: All organisations except NIHE

Period	*Number of lots sold*[1]	*Total area (Ha)*	*Total of sale prices (£)*
1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002	134	79.44	28,140,738
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	162	746.99	26,200,374
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	135	2,554.71	21,989,858
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	155	86.40	96,550,721
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	192	86.47	73,336,411
Total	778	3,554.01	252,617,615

[1] In a very small number of cases the information on the "number of lots" or the "total area" is not available, but the total of sale prices is complete in all cases.

Table B: NIHE[1]

	Total of sale prices (£)
1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002	2,650,738
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	3,052,978
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	1,714,824
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	1,728,450
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	3,637,524
Total	12,784,514

[1] The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) is unable to provide any lot and area details, expect at disproportionate cost. NIHE data are shown separately in Table B.

Roads

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Department for Regional Development spent on structural maintenance for the road network in counties *(a)* Tyrone, *(b)* Derry and *(c)* Fermanagh in each of the last five years; and how much the Department has budgeted for structural maintenance in (i) the current year and (ii) the next two years in these counties. [76299]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 13 June 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about how much the Department for Regional Development spent on structural maintenance for the road network in counties (a) Tyrone, (b) Derry and (c) Fermanagh in each of the past five years; and how much the Department has budgeted for structural maintenance in (i) the current year and (ii) the next two years in these counties. I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service.

Firstly I should advise that whilst Roads Service does not maintain details of expenditure on a county basis, such information is available on a district council basis. The table below details Roads Service's expenditure, for the five-year period 2000/01 to 2004/05, on structural maintenance for the nine district councils whose boundaries straddle Counties Tyrone, Londonderry and Fermanagh. Expenditure details for 2005/06 year are not yet available.

Roads Service expenditure on structural maintenance by council area

£ million

District council	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Omagh	2.5	3.6	4.0	4.9	4.0
Strabane	2.3	2.7	2.9	3.4	3.9
Cookstown	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.5	2.2
Dungannon	2.7	3.1	3.5	3.4	4.0
Derry	2.1	2.2	2.4	3.2	2.7
Magherafelt	1.2	1.5	1.9	2.7	2.2
Coleraine	1.7	2.1	2.3	3.4	2.4
Limavady	1.0	1.2	1.6	2.6	2.1
Fermanagh	2.9	3.1	4.3	5.5	4.6

In providing this information, I should explain that Roads Service does not simply apportion its total structural maintenance expenditure equally across district council areas. Resources available for each maintenance activity (e.g. resurfacing, patching, gully emptying, grass cutting etc) are apportioned to district council areas using appropriate indicators of need. This ensures, so far as possible, an equitable distribution of funds across the country.

With regard to structural maintenance expenditure in the current year and the next two years, I can advise that Roads Service's structural maintenance budgets are not allocated at the outset of the financial year on a district council basis. Therefore, it is not possible to give an initial budget allocation for 2006/07 for structural maintenance in each district council area as requested. However, expenditure this year, coupled with the Revised Budget allocations, suggests that approximately £170m will be invested in roads' structural maintenance across Northern Ireland in the three years to 2007/08.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the Department for Regional Development Roads Service will outline the options for the route of the proposed dual carriageway between Londonderry and Dungiven. [76367]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 13 June 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding when the Department for Regional Development Roads Service will outline the options for the route of the proposed dual carriageway between Londonderry and Dungiven.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

When the Secretary of State announced that this £250m (estimated cost) scheme to provide a dual carriageway between Londonderry and Dungiven had been added to the Forward Planning Schedule, he indicated that it was expected to be completed in the latter part of the 10 year period to 2015.

A study is underway to identify the preferred corridor for the route. This involves preliminary studies of environmental, land form and traffic modelling, particularly at the Londonderry end of the route. It is well advanced and will report later this summer. Although it is not normal practice to make announcements at this stage in a scheme development, it is anticipated that a public exhibition and consultation will be undertaken as the next step in the more detailed development of the Londonderry to Dungiven scheme.

The next stage will be the development and assessment of possible road line options within the corridor identified in the current study. This will take several years and it is not anticipated that any announcement of a preferred line for the Londonderry to Dungiven dual carriageway will issue for some time.

It is worth reminding ourselves that this 30km scheme is the largest undertaken by Roads Service and will undoubtedly take several years in development.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the change was in the average number of vehicles using the Limavady bypass between its opening and the most recent date for which figures are available. [76319]

David Cairns: The chief executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 13 June 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding the change in the average number of vehicles using the Limavady Bypass between its opening and the most recent date for which figures are available.

I have been asked to reply as these issues fall within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service.

As you know, Roads Service collects traffic volume data by means of 270 automatic census points strategically located throughout the Northern Ireland road network. Unfortunately none of these census points are located on the Limavady Bypass, and therefore we are unable to provide the information requested.

However the location of our census points throughout Northern Ireland is currently under review, and it is intended to install a new counter on the Limavady Bypass as part of this review.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful on this occasion.

Sinn Fein

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been paid in salaries and expenses to Sinn Fein MLAs since the suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly. [13942]

Mr. Hain: The following table presents the amounts paid by the Northern Ireland Assembly to Sinn Fein MLAs as a result of their entitlements, under various pieces of assembly legislation, during the period 1 April 2002 and 31 March 2006.

	Salaries	*OCA*	*T and S*	*Resettlement and winding up*	*Other*	*Total (£)*
2002-03	742,068	863,773	161,441	—	4,680	1,771,962
2003-04	519,797	922,712	142,918	219,153	8,778	1,813,358
2004-05	750,961	1,143,544	121,106	41,388	14,566	2,071,565
2005-06[1]	764,000	1,130,000	174,000	—	14,000	2,082,000

1 The information provided represents only the most recent figures available for this period.

I am sorry for the delay in replying which was caused by an administrative error. Steps have been taken to prevent such a recurrence.

St. Mary's Primary School

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children at St. Mary's Primary School in Barrack Street, Belfast, were entered for the 11-plus examination in each of the last five years; and what grades were achieved in each year. [76222]

Maria Eagle: Over the past five years only one child from St. Mary's Primary School, Belfast was entered for the transfer procedure test. It would not be appropriate to give the grade achieved, to avoid disclosure of personal data.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children at St. Mary's Primary School in Barrack Street, Belfast *(a)* began and *(b)* completed Key Stage (i) 1 and (ii) 2 in each of the last five years. [76223]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is as follows.

Pupils entering and leaving Key Stages 1 and 2 at St. Mary's, Belfast, 2001-02 to 2005-06

Pupils in	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Year 1	11	8	15	19	7
Year 4	9	11	14	14	14
Year 5	7	9	12	18	14
Year 7	8	12	7	12	16

Notes:
1. Pupils enter Key Stage 1 in Year 1 and leave it in Year 4.
2. Pupils enter Key Stage 2 in Year 5 and leave it in Year 7.

Vehicle Registration

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to enable the owners of vehicles registered in the United Kingdom and who have moved to or are working in Northern Ireland to receive their vehicle test in Northern Ireland. [73861]

David Cairns: The Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency will carry out a vehicle inspection on vehicles registered in the United Kingdom once they have reached four years of age, as is the statutory requirement in Northern Ireland.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to enable vehicles registered in Scotland, England and Wales to obtain a vehicle test in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [73906]

David Cairns: The Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency will carry out a vehicle inspection on vehicles registered in the Scotland, England or Wales once they have reached four years of age, as is the statutory requirement in Northern Ireland.

Water Framework Directive

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a copy of the conclusions of the second stage study carried out by the Rivers Agency into the implications of the EC Water Framework Directive. [76457]

David Cairns: No. The second stage study into implications of the Water Framework Directive was intended to provide an internal management report to inform the Rivers Agency Management Board of the implementation issues for the Agency. I have no plans to place it in the Library.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Citizenship Curriculum

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that young people take part in his Department's review of the citizenship curriculum. [76677]

Jim Knight: Gathering the views of young people is a crucial part of the review process. The review team is

working with the National Children's Bureau and the National Youth Agency to consult directly with groups of young people.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what incentives are available to encourage members of his staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75098]

Mr. Dhanda: It is Government policy to encourage the use of sustainable travel. In the Department, we encourage staff, wherever possible, to use public transport or cycle to work especially those commuting to our London offices due to very limited car parking and traffic congestion.

The incentives made available to encourage staff to use public transport to and from work are interest free loans for season tickets and cycle purchases loans for those who want them.

Director General for Higher Education

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the appointment of the next Director General for Higher Education in his Department will be by open competition. [76130]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* Yes.

Purity Rings

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance he has issued to local education authorities on pupils wearing jewellery with religious significance, with particular reference to purity rings. [76141]

Jim Knight: School governing bodies determine school uniform policy and dress codes under powers conferred by the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act. The Department's guidance does not specifically mention jewellery with religious significance, but states that in deciding the format of their uniform, governors should have regard to their responsibilities under equalities legislation. It also states that in setting a policy, the school should be sensitive to pupil's cultural and religious needs and differences.

School Governors

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school governors will be appointed by *(a)* town and parish councils, *(b)* district authorities and *(c)* county councils to foundation schools at (i) primary and (ii) secondary level under arrangements proposed in the Education and Inspections Bill. [77038]

Jim Knight: The stakeholder model of school government introduced through the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2003 requires that the governing body of a foundation school must comprise at least one but no more than one fifth local authority governors. The local authority will be the county council in two tier authorities and the unitary authority in other areas.

There is no requirement for other tiers of local government to be represented on the governing body of any other category of maintained school. The Education and Inspection Bill would not change these arrangements.

School Meals

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the recommendations submitted to her Department by the School Meals Review Panel and the School Food Trust; and what assessment she has made of the impact the recommendations would have on the soft drinks industry. [66374]

Jim Knight: On 19 May 2006 the Secretary of State announced a suite of new nutritional standards for school lunches and food and drink served at other times of the day.

These standards combine the recommendations of the School Meals Review Panel and the School Food Trust. New regulations for school lunches will mesh the existing standards in the Education (Nutritional Standards for School Lunches) (England) Regulations 2000 with the new food-based standards to produce interim food-based standards from September 2006. A subsequent set of regulations will set out the final food and nutrient-based standards which will apply to school lunches, and the standards for food served at other times of the day. A guide to introducing the food-based standards for lunch will be issued by the School Food Trust in late June.

We have published a full Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) which considers the financial impact that the new nutritional standards will have. In compiling the RIA, account was taken of the report written for the School Meals Review Panel (SMRP) by PricewaterhouseCoopers on the costs of implementing the Caroline Walker Trust's recommendations, which are closely mirrored by the recommendations of the SMRP.

School Sprinkler Systems

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he plans to make it mandatory to install fire-safety sprinklers in schools. [76742]

Jim Knight: We do not have plans to require the installation of sprinklers in all schools. Our current guidance to local authorities, promoters, governing bodies and all those involved in the provision and design of schools, is to use risk assessments as the basis for deciding whether or not sprinklers should be installed in new school buildings.

Secondary Schools (Wellingborough)

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the

number of *(a)* secondary school and *(b)* primary school aged children taught at home in (i) Northamptonshire and (ii) Wellingborough in the most recent year for which figures are available. [75301]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Booe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils there were in each year group in the *(a)* Wrenn, *(b)* Sir Christopher Hatton and *(c)* Weavers secondary schools in Wellingborough in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what the maximum admission number is for each group in each school. [75302]

Jim Knight: The number of pupils in each year group for each school is given in the table.

Information about the published admission numbers of schools is not collected centrally. Northamptonshire county council has informed us that the admission numbers for each school is as follows:

School	*Number of admissions*
Wrenn School	250
Sir Christopher Hatton School	208
Weavers School	[1]246

[1] Northamptonshire county council has provided an additional year 9 class at Weavers School and so there are 376 places available in that year.

Number of pupils by national curriculum year group[1], as at January 2006[2]

Headcount

Year group	*Weavers School*	*Sir Christopher Hatton School*	*Wrenn School*
7	163	208	252
8	185	202	251
9	252	207	249
10	190	202	252
11	186	200	249
12	45	88	98
13	33	70	84
Total	1,054	1,177	1,435

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Provisional.
Source:
Schools' Census

Selective Mutism

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) which organisations received funding from his Department to research selective mutism in each of the last five financial years; and how much each organisation received in each year; [76375]

(2) which organisations received funding from his Department to support *(a)* teachers and *(b)* parents in their work with children exhibiting selective mutism in each of the last five financial years; and how much each organisation received in each year; [76376]

(3) what guidance is provided by his Department on selective mutism to *(a)* local education authorities, *(b)* schools and *(c)* teacher training institutions; [76377]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the incidence of selective mutism among children under the age of 16 years; and if he will make a statement; [76378]

(5) what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of the provision of information to teachers and parents about assisting children who exhibit selective mutism; and if he will make a statement. [76379]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has not commissioned any recent research or produced guidance specifically on selective mutism, although it is one of a number of communication difficulties addressed in our Early Support publication "Speech and language difficulties", published in 2005.

Where a child is exhibiting selective mutism in a school or early years setting we would normally expect early referral to a speech and language therapist and/or psychologist. Selective mutism often appears associated with anxiety, and thus may be linked to a number of factors. Patience and understanding, coupled with measured interventions designed to build the child's confidence, appear to have beneficial effects, as does reducing pressure on the child.

The Department has not made any assessment of the incidence of selective mutism, or any assessment of the adequacy of information available. In 2002-03 and 2003-04 we gave grants of £30,000 and £2,000 respectively to help the Selective Mutism Information and Research Association (SMIRA) produce an instructional video entitled "Silent Children—Approaches To Selective Mutism" and an associated booklet.

Supply Teachers

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will take steps to prevent teacher employment agencies from employing experienced supply teachers only if they accept the lower pay scale of newly qualified teachers. [76667]

Jim Knight: Teachers who are not employed by a school or local authority are free to choose whether or not to work for an employment agency. Employment agencies are not bound by the national School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document, and are free to set their own rates.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Career Advice

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she is taking to improve career advice for girls. [75803]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The "Youth Matters: Next Steps" document, published on 8 March 2006, sets out proposals for improved information, advice and guidance for young people. It recognises the

importance of access to individually tailored information, advice and guidance that challenges rather than perpetuates traditional stereotypes.

Central to improved information, advice and guidance will be the development of quality standards. The challenging of traditional stereotypes will be included in these standards. The Equal Opportunities Commission is represented on the Steering Group that is supporting the development of the standards.

Domestic Violence (Refuge)

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues about improving the services offered to women seeking refuge from domestic violence. [75353]

Meg Munn: As Deputy Minister for Women and Equality, I sit on the Inter-Ministerial Group for Domestic Violence (chaired by my hon. Friend Baroness Scotland of Asthal) which undertakes the performance management of the cross-Government National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan by reviewing progress at quarterly meetings. This is the mechanism for improving the services offered to women seeking refuge from domestic violence nationally.

A substantially revised domestic violence Best Value Performance Indicator will help assess overall provision and effectiveness of local authority services designed to help victims of domestic violence.

Management Positions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she is taking to encourage firms to consider women for senior management positions. [75804]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* Encouraging firms to consider more women for senior management positions is something that the Government take very seriously. The Government support initiatives such as the FTSE 100 cross company mentoring scheme 'Women Directors on Boards', which is backed by 29 Chairmen and CEOs.

Vertical segregation and the 'glass ceiling' is something that the Women and Work Commission identified as a cause of the gender pay gap. The Government will issue an Action Plan in response to the Commission's recommendations later in the year. Companies from a range of sectors have committed to develop and deliver programmes that support the Work and Work Commission's recommendations, including initiatives, which support women into senior management positions.

Sex Industry

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government are taking to assist women who have been trafficked into the UK to work forcibly in the sex industry; and if she will make a statement. [76029]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Since March 2003 the Home Office has funded Poppy, a scheme run by Eaves Housing for Women to provide safe accommodation and tailored one-to-one support for adult female victims who have been trafficked into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

In April of this year the Home Office entered into a two-year, £2.4 million funding agreement with Eaves Housing for Women. This funding will not only provide for the continuation of the existing crisis provision service for up to 25 women it will also meet the costs of: 10 additional "step-down" places which will help the women to live semi-independently; the introduction of the first ever specialist national outreach service in the UK for victims trafficked into sexual exploitation; and the development of a resource pack for victims, service providers and law enforcement agency staff.

Vocational Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she is taking to increase the take-up of vocational training by girls. [75805]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* There are a number of steps we are taking to increase the take up of vocational training by both boys and girls. In particular we are challenging stereotypical choices through the Young Apprenticeship programme for 14 to 16-year-olds, the 14-19 Pathfinders and in the development of new specialised Diplomas.

Working in partnership with the EOC, we have been evaluating how equal opportunities are being addressed in practice by Young Apprenticeship partnerships, particularly to encourage all young people to consider non-traditional options, through, for example, vocational tasters.

Computer Clubs for Girls is also an innovative, award-winning initiative created by e-skills UK and funded by DfES. Clubs are being run in partnership by schools and employers in order to raise the standard of girls' ICT skills while transforming girls' attitudes to careers in IT.

Underpinning all this work is access to information, advice and guidance so that young people, and girls in particular, can make informed choices. The "Youth Matters: Next Steps" document, published on 8 March 2006, sets out proposals for improved information, advice and guidance for young people. Central to improved information, advice and guidance will be the development of quality standards. The challenging of traditional stereotypes will be included in these standards. The Equal Opportunities Commission is represented on the Steering Group that is supporting the development of the standards.

TREASURY

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the criminal offences created in legislation sponsored by his Department since April 2005, broken down by Act. [76905]

John Healey: There were no provisions creating criminal offences in primary legislation sponsored by Her Majesty's Treasury since the end of April 2005.

Developing Countries (Health)

Mark Durkan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of International Monetary Fund and World Bank targets for achieving longer-term economic growth of public health spending by developing countries; and whether he proposes to make representations on this issue at the International Monetary and Finance Committee meeting in Singapore. [76348]

Mr. Timms: In 2005 the international community committed to double aid flows to Africa by 2010.

To achieve the Millennium Development Goals in health the international community must accelerate support to develop universal and equitable health systems.

Ensuring that the increased aid can be used effectively will require partnership between developing countries, donors and the international financial institutions.

The Bank and the Fund have a critical role to play in this international effort, in supporting countries' own poverty reduction and development strategies. The World Bank is now the largest provider of development finance in the health sector. We will continue to urge the Bank to do more to help countries scale up their investment in their health programmes.

The IMF plays a crucial role in supporting financially and through policy advice the macroeconomic stability necessary for lasting poverty reduction. We welcome the commitment—expressed in the Managing Directors' medium-term strategy—for the IMF to assist developing countries in the management of increased aid inflows, and will continue to urge the Fund to support countries in increasing their investment in priority sectors including public health, within their frameworks for macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth.

Family Tax Credits (Northern Ireland)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the uptake of family tax credits has been since its introduction in Northern Ireland, broken down by Westminster constituency; how much in total has been paid and if he will make a statement. [77340]

Dawn Primarolo: Take up rates for family credit, working families tax credit and child and working tax credit is not available by constituency. Estimates of take up rates for child and working tax credits in 2003-04, including breakdown by country and region, are detailed in the HMRC publication "Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit 2003-04".This publication also details take up rates for family credit and working families tax credit, which preceded the new tax credits. Estimates for the number of in-work families, and amounts paid, receiving working family tax credit and family credit between May 1998 and February 2003 appear in the quarterly published WFTC statistics. Estimates for 2003-04 and 2004-05 of the numbers of in-work families with child and working tax credit awards, including breakdown by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are published in "Child and Working Tax Credit. Finalised Awards 2003-04. Geographical Analysis" and "Child and Working Tax Credit. Finalised Awards 2004-05. Geographical Analysis".

These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

Income Statistics

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the average income per person in Houghton and Washington East. [76336]

Dawn Primarolo: The latest estimates for the mean and median of total income (for taxpayers) by constituency can be found in table 3.15 "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency" on HM Revenue and Customs website. http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315. The information is based on the latest Survey of Personal Incomes (2003-04).

Because sample sizes at constituency level are small and can demonstrate a large variability from year to year, inference from the information in the table should take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.15a "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency, Confidence Intervals".

Similar information including non-taxpayers is not available.

Taxation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the net yield from inheritance tax in each year since 1996-97; and what the forecast for 2006-07 is; [66650]

(2) if he will estimate the revenue collected from *(a)* stamp duty on property, *(b)* inheritance tax and *(c)* council tax in each year since 1996-97; and what his estimate is for (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [66659]

Dawn Primarolo: Receipts of stamp duty on land and property are shown in the following table.

Receipts of stamp duty on land and property

	£ billion
1996-97	1.1
1997-98	1.5
1998-99	2.1
1999-2000	3.2
2000-01	3.7
2001-02	4.1
2002-03	5.0
2003-04	5.0
2004-05	6.3

The figures quoted in the table for the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05 are published in table 15.1 on the HMRC website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/15_1_sep05.pdf

Figures for future years will depend on estimates of property sales, both residential and commercial.

Receipts of inheritance tax are published in table T1.2 on the HMRC website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/1_2_v2_dec05.pdf

The latest estimates/forecasts for receipts of inheritance tax are set out in table C8 in chapter C of the 2006 Financial Statement and Budget Report on the website: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/20F/42/bud06_chc_247.pdf

Council tax receipts net of council tax benefit are shown in the following table.

Net receipts of council tax (2004-05 prices)

	£ million
1996-97	10,683
1997-98	11,237
1998-99	12,137
1999-2000	12,911
2000-01	13,760
2001-02	14,456
2002-03	15,337
2003-04	16,938
2004-05	17,592
2005-06	17,978
2006-07	18,231

Forecasts for these taxes are only published for years up to 2006-07, the last year covered in the Budget report.

Insurance Policies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received regarding cashback claims from insurance policies operated by a company called PowerPlan; [76524]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that consumers applying for cashback from insurance policies are made aware of the laid down conditions included in the small print. [76525]

Ed Balls: The Government have received representations regarding the issue of cashback claims from insurance policies operated by Powerplan.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for regulating the sale of general insurance policies. The FSA requires all disclosure to be clear, fair and not misleading, and for retail customers to be given a policy summary which sets out key aspects of a policy before the sale is concluded. The FSA does not regulate travel insurance sold as part of a package. Nor does it regulate sales of non-motor extended warranties under €500.

Extended warranties can be service agreements or insurance backed contracts. The sale of extended warranties on domestic electrical goods are regulated through The Supply of Extended Warranties on Domestic Electrical Goods Order 2005, which includes specifying information that should accompany the sale of the product.

For insurance-backed products, consumers will have a right of recourse to the Financial Ombudsman Service in respect of the insurance contract.

Ivory Imports/Exports

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many elephant products have been seized by HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 2000, broken down by *(a)* type of item and *(b)* country of origin; [76212]

(2) how many offences have been committed under the Customs and Excise Management Authority Regulations relating to ivory seizures since 1997; and what *(a)* the nature of the offence and *(b)* the penalty was in each case. [76211]

Dawn Primarolo: Details of seizures made by HM Revenue and Customs of endangered species (as listed under Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora) between 1999 and 2004 are available on the UK CITES website at www.ukcites.gov.uk/news/tradestatistics.htm The 2005 figures are due to be published here shortly.

The records list countries of origin or export. Elephant products are likely to be listed under the headings "Ivory" or "Parts and Derivatives". However ivory seizures will only be recorded as elephant ivory where they have been declared as such either by a passenger or in accompanying documents.

The published statistics only list ivory as a separate heading with effect from 2002. Prior to this ivory is included under the Parts and Derivatives heading. Statistics on ivory seizures before 1999 are set out in HM Customs and Excise annual reports. The 1997 and 1998 annual reports list 11,907 and 51,675 seized CITES items as Parts and Derivatives.

Offences committed since 1997 breach either the import or export prohibitions contained in Council Regulation 338/97. These offences render ivory liable to forfeiture and it is, therefore, seized under the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979. In addition to seizure, the penalty for these breaches is the non-restoration of the ivory unless a valid retrospective CITES permit has been obtained from DEFRA.

Most seizures made are from private individuals returning to this country or on occasion as gifts sent to them via the post. Some of these individuals will not even be aware that ivory imports are banned in the EU, especially if they have seen ivory goods openly on sale in some international airports.

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has revised data collection methods for ivory imports and exports since 2002 to include weight, number of items and description of items. [76716]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on imports and exports are collected using a standard European classification. Details of the classification can be seen on HM Revenue and Customs' trade statistics site uktradeinfo.com. There have been no changes to the description or requirement to collect value and weight for ivory products since 2002.

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the approximate financial value is of ivory imported into the UK since 2003, based on declarations made to HM Revenue and Customs. [76717]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table includes the approximate financial value is of ivory imported in the UK since 2003 based on declarations made to HM Revenue & Customs.

Imports into the UK of Ivory, 2003-06

	Commodity	Statistical value (£000)[1, 2]
2003	Ivory: ivory powder and waste	6.49
	Worked ivory and articles of ivory	17.87
2004	Ivory: ivory powder and waste	2.45
	Worked ivory and articles of ivory	0
2005[3]	Ivory: ivory powder and waste	0
	Worked ivory and articles of ivory	0.62
2006[3, 4]	Ivory: ivory powder and waste	
	Worked ivory and articles of ivory	0
Totals	Ivory: ivory powder and waste	8.94
	Worked ivory and articles of ivory	18.49

[1] Value of goods plus costs incurred up to the UK border
[2] Data include estimates of Below Threshold Trade Allocations
[3] Provisional
[4] 2006 data are for January to March
Source:
HM Revenue & Customs—Overseas Trade Statistics

Junior Football Clubs

Mr. Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made by his Department of how much additional tax revenue will be collected as a result of the introduction of pay-as-you-earn taxation for junior football clubs in Scotland. [76455]

Dawn Primarolo: No additional tax is due. HMRC is simply updating tax collection procedures for some Scottish junior football clubs.

Neonatal Mortality

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the neonatal mortality rate for all births was in *(a)* Peterborough constituency, *(b)* the Peterborough city council area and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [76596]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 13 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the neonatal mortality rate for all births was in (a) Peterborough constituency, (b) the Peterborough City Council area and (c) England in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (76596)

Information on neonatal mortality is routinely published for local authorities and health authorities. Data cannot be provided for Peterborough constituency because of the risk of disclosing individual's information due to small differences with local authority boundaries.

Neonatal mortality rates for the Peterborough City Council area and England from 2000 to 2004 (the most recent year for which data are available) are given in the table below.

Neonatal mortality rate[1], Peterborough city council area and England 2000 to 2004

	Peterborough rate	England rate
2000	2.4	3.9
2001	2.9	3.6
2002	3.7	3.6
2003	6.3	3.7
2004	1.2	3.4

[1] Per 1,000 live births

Civil Service (Relocation)

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has held with ministerial colleagues on the implications for the civil service of the Government relocation programme in the north-west. [66798]

Des Browne: The Chancellor announced in Budget 2006 that over 7,800 posts have now been relocated out of London and the south-east. Over 1,600 posts have already been relocated to the north-west. The Government are on course to meet the target to relocate 20,000 civil service posts out of London and the south-east by 2010. Individual Departments are responsible for deciding on sites for relocation, but they must do so taking into account both their business needs and local economic factors, as set out in central guidance, "Choosing Locations for Government Business".

Nottingham East Midlands Airport

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of *(a)* imports flown into and *(b)* exports flown out of Nottingham East Midlands airport in each of the last five years. [77447]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on trade with other EU member states by port/airport is not collected. The table gives the data for the last five years of the declared value of the non-EU imports and exports through East Midlands airport.

Non-EU Imports and exports via East Midlands airport

£ million

	Value of imports	Value of exports
2001	2,541	1,396
2002	2,167	1,460
2003	2,279	1,865
2004	2,261	1,753
2005 (provisional)	2,612	1,634

Source:
HM Revenue and Customs—Overseas Trade Statistics.

Parliamentary Ombudsman

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list those occasions when the recommendations of a report from the Parliamentary Ombudsman have been *(a)* rejected and *(b)* partly rejected by his Department since 1997. [76265]

John Healey: HM Treasury is not aware of any occasion since 1997 in which it has rejected or partially rejected recommendations of the Parliamentary Ombudsman in relation to HM Treasury's activities. However, HM Treasury does not hold definitive statistics of this nature. HM Treasury cannot provide this information without first identifying and then reviewing all HM Treasury files relating to every Parliamentary Ombudsman investigation since 1997. This exercise would incur disproportionate cost.

Small Breweries Relief

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will amend the criteria governing the eligibility of breweries for Small Breweries' Relief to encompass independent breweries producing between 60,000 and 100,000 hectolitres of beer per annum. [76691]

John Healey: Since SBR was introduced in June 2002 more than 100 new breweries have opened, creating over 1,000 new jobs and injecting energy and innovation into a traditional industry.

The Government are committed to ensuring that SBR is targeted to benefit those who need it most. Although all reliefs are kept under review, the Government believe that SBR is currently striking the right balance, and meeting its objectives.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit payments were not made to claimants because the award fell below the payment threshold in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06; and what the total value of these non-payments were for each year. [76206]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available except at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the total cost of the £25,000 tax credits overpayments income disregard; and if he will make a statement. [76420]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 13 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 1836W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in the Inland Revenue and HM Revenue and Customs have worked on tax credits in each quarter since April 2002; and how many worked *(a)* in contact centres, *(b)* on policy, *(c)* in the debt management service, *(d)* in inquiry centres, *(e)* in the tax credits offices, *(f)* in the programme office, *(g)* on compliance, *(h)* on the IT live service and *(i)* on IT development; and if he will make a statement. [76473]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Unclaimed Assets

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made in establishing *(a)* the extent of unclaimed assets in the UK and *(b)* their availability for charitable or other purposes. [77331]

Ed Balls: The Government reported in the Budget that the banking industry has set in train work to develop a scheme to enable unclaimed assets to be reinvested in society. The Government are clear that that such a scheme needs to be consistent with retaining the rights of owners to reclaim assets at any time and, with this in mind, are assessing the legal and accounting issues involved. The industry's steering group is considering issues of definition, reuniting and operation and distribution. This work is ongoing.

TRANSPORT

Night Flights

11. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints the Department and the Civil Aviation Authority received about night flights in 2005. [76584]

Gillian Merron: The Department receives a number of complaints and other representations about night flights policy. We received around 6,000 responses to our recent consultation document on night flying restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports.

Complaints about specific night flights are properly a matter for individual airports, which are best equipped to investigate complaints.

Departmental Expenditure

13. **Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what change in spending on transport his Department plans to make between 2005-06 and 2007-08. [76586]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Public spending by the Department of Transport is planned to increase from around £11.4 billion in 2005-06 to around £12 billion in 2007-08.

Concessionary Fare Scheme

14. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the total cost of implementing the Government's concessionary fare scheme. [76588]

Gillian Merron: The Government are providing an extra £350 million for 2006-07 and a further £367.5 million for 2007-08 to fund free off-peak local bus travel for people aged 60 and over and disabled people. The Chancellor announced in the Budget that the free local bus travel entitlement would be extended

further to national bus travel from April 2008, for which Treasury earmarked up to an additional £250 million per year.

Road Accidents

15. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what action he plans to take to reduce the number of road traffic fatalities among young drivers. [76589]

Dr. Ladyman: We are very concerned about young driver fatalities, especially, that a minority appears to have a seriously unsafe attitude to the risks. We have strengthened the driving test; have commissioned research on improving pre-driver education and how to develop safe attitudes to driving among young people; and are developing a package of measures to tackle unlicensed driving.

16. **Mr. Martlew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress has been made in reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured in road accidents. [76590]

Dr. Ladyman: Our provisional statistics for 2005 indicate that there were 32,150 people killed or seriously injured in accidents reported to the police in Great Britain, 33 per cent. below the 1994-98 baseline average.

Traffic Management

17. **Christine Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to improve traffic management to ease road congestion. [76591]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government have a number of initiatives to tackle road congestion, through a combination of investment, improved management, new technology and better information. Under the Traffic Management Act 2004 local authorities have greater duties to manage traffic on their road network, including co-ordinating street works. Newly created traffic officers are helping to keep traffic moving, and ease congestion and ensure safety primarily on English motorways.

Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation

18. **Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to introduce a renewable transport fuels obligation. [76592]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government announced in November 2005 that a renewable transport fuels obligation (RTFO) will be introduced from 1 April 2008. Further details of the obligation were announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the March 2006 Budget, including the level of obligation for the years leading up to 2010.

We are currently discussing aspects of the detailed design of the RTFO scheme with stakeholders and we envisage consulting on the draft secondary legislation around the end of the year. We are also developing robust carbon and environmental assurance schemes to deliver the best biofuels from day one of the obligation. This work is being taken forward by the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP).

Roads (Wales)

19. **Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with his colleagues in the National Assembly for Wales about road systems in and out of Wales. [76593]

Dr. Ladyman: Officials from the Department for Transport have met with officials from the Welsh Assembly Government on several occasions to discuss cross-border schemes. I have also recently offered to meet with Andrew Davies, Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks in the Welsh Assembly Government to discuss these issues.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on his plans to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from road transport. [76594]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government are introducing a Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation in April 2008, the effect of which will be that by 2010 5 per cent. of all transport fuels sold in the UK will come from renewable sources—a 20-fold increase on biofuels market share on 2005. The RTFO will deliver real environmental benefits and is projected to save around 1 million tonnes of carbon by 2010 (the equivalent of removing a million cars from the road).

To encourage company car drivers to drive more environmentally friendly cars with lower carbon dioxide emissions, the Chancellor announced in Budget 2006 that the lower threshold for company car tax rates will be reduced by 5g/km from 140g/km to 135g/km from 2008-09. It also provides for introduction of a new 10 per cent. band for cars with CO_2 emissions of 120g/km or below, also from 2008-09.

Vehicle excise duty for cars is based on carbon dioxide emissions which give a clear signal to motorists to choose less polluting vehicles. New energy efficiency vehicle labels—matching the graduated VED structure—were introduced into car showrooms last year, raising consumer awareness of the potential fuel savings available from using more efficient vehicles. At Budget, the Chancellor announced further reforms to VED, including a new higher band for the most polluting new cars, and a zero rate of VED for cars with less than 100g per kilometre of CO_2 emissions to assist the development of the low carbon car market.

On 7 June I announced that we will refocus the two-year budget of £40 million earmarked for environmental grants and advice. The full budget will remain allocated for green transport initiatives, the detail of which will be developed as part of the Powering Future Vehicles Strategy review this year.

The European Voluntary Agreement on new car fuel efficiency provides an incentive for vehicle manufacturers. Government are working with relevant stakeholders to consider a replacement for the voluntary agreement, which expires in 2008-09.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress is being made in lowering the average emissions per vehicle. [76545]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the former Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend for Edinburgh, South-West (Mr. Darling) to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 2 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 829.

DVLA

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* total staff costs and *(b)* total staffing complement of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's diversity unit are; and if he will make a statement. [76303]

Dr. Ladyman: The total costs of the nine staff in the diversity unit in the 2005-06 financial year were £273,329.

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will increase staffing levels at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to ensure that more roadside checks can be made on untaxed vehicles. [76173]

Dr. Ladyman: Increasing DVLA staffing levels to enable more roadside checks on untaxed vehicles to be made is not the most effective way of tackling this problem.

DVLA supplies the police with details of untaxed vehicles for use with their ANPR Units. They are thus able to identify these on the public road without the need for DVLA officials to be present. Additional resource has been made available to considerably increase DVLA's level of wheel clamping activity against untaxed vehicles. The DVLA works closely with the police and clamping units are available to support them at roadside checks. Offending vehicles, the keepers of which are frequently involved in other criminal activity, are impounded in this partnership approach to the problem.

Motorways

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost was of adding an extra lane to an existing motorway in each of the last 10 years. [75815]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table lists the average cost in real terms of adding an extra lane to existing motorways, provided by publicly funded major schemes for the last 10 years.

	Lane km added to HA motorway network	*Cost per km in real terms (£ million)*
1996-97	51	7.0
1997-98	39	4.0
1998-99	0	0
1999-2000	0	0
2000-01	0	0
2001-02	0	0
2002-03	7	32.3
2003-04	21	13.3
2004-05	4	2.0
2005-06	32	6.2

Potters Bar Rail Crash

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial assistance has been made available by the Government to Network Rail in connection with litigation arising out of the Potters Bar rail crash; and whether he plans to make financial assistance available to the survivors and victims' families in connection with their litigation arising out of the crash. [76121]

Derek Twigg: No funds have been made available to Network Rail. The Legal Services Commission granted legal aid to one of the families in connection with their application for judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision not to hold a public inquiry.

Seat Belts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the seat belt wearing rate was among *(a)* males and *(b)* females on each motorway in each of the last five years, broken down by front and rear seats. [77504]

Dr. Ladyman: This information is not available. I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 16 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 942W, which sets out the reports that contain information on the seat belt wearing rates that are observed.

Thameslink 2000

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1288W, on Thameslink 2000, when he plans to make these reports available to the public. [76372]

Dr. Ladyman: The inspector's report on the re-opened Thameslink 2000 inquiry will be published when the decision is announced, in line with standard practice for planning inquiries. The report by London TravelWatch assessing the impact on users of the related rail closure proposals is available on their website.

West Coast Main Line

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether all the additional services in the West Coast Mainline Progress Report planned to call at Milton Keynes will allow passengers to alight and embark. [76929]

Derek Twigg: A revised timetable is due to be introduced early in 2009 when the West Coast Main Line Project will be substantially complete. It is too soon to say whether there will be any restrictions on boarding or alighting at Milton Keynes but extra platform capacity is being provided there to enable more trains to call.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Africa (Chinese Policy)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of Chinese policies in Africa including aid strategies. [76040]

Mr. McCartney: We are keen to increase our dialogue with China on implementation of their Africa policy launched this year. Our network of diplomatic posts in China and Africa provide regular reporting and analysis. The Department for International Development has recently commissioned several papers on the impact of Chinese policies in Africa, one of which, from the Institute of Development Studies, focuses on aid, among other issues. This paper can be found at the following website: http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/global/AsianDriverpdfs/DFIDAgendaPaper06.pdf. Copies will also be placed in the Library of the House and sent to my hon. Friend.

Burma

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Government of Burma regarding humanitarian problems caused by the Burmese Army for the Karen, Karenni and Shan people. [76872]

Mr. McCartney: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 893W and the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe, gave the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. David Jones) on 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1626W-27W.

Commonwealth Youth Sunday

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in what countries Commonwealth Youth Sunday is observed. [76038]

Mr. McCartney: I am unaware of Commonwealth Youth Sunday. National Youth Days are celebrated at different times of the year across the Commonwealth.

Ethiopia

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to encourage Ethiopia to implement the International Boundary Commission 2002 ruling on the border with Eritrea. [75327]

Mr. McCartney: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Tewkesbury (Mr. Robertson) on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 318W.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her Department's policy is towards Ethiopia regarding the border dispute with Eritrea; and what assessment she has made of the effect of this policy on relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia. [75329]

Mr. McCartney: We have consistently urged the Ethiopian Government to accept the final and binding resolution of the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission and to allow demarcation of the frontier with Eritrea. We welcome the participation by both parties in the recent meetings of the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission in London. We continue to urge both sides to engage constructively in future meetings of the Boundary Commission and to commence demarcation as quickly as possible. We remain committed to normalisation of relations on either side of the final border between the two countries as the only permanent basis for peace.

EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* she and *(b)* diplomatic and consular staff plan to meet (i) Polisario and (ii) the Moroccan authorities to discuss the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement. [77170]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to discuss the EU/Morocco Fisheries Agreement with either the Polisario Front or the Moroccan authorities. However, on my recent visit to Morocco on 6 June, I discussed this issue with the Moroccan Deputy Foreign Minister. Officials have also discussed the agreement with representatives of both the Moroccan Government and members of the Polisario Front.

The UK's position on the issue is clear. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Exeter (Ben Bradshaw) to the hon. Member for Portsmouth South (Mr Mike Hancock) on 2 May (Official Report, column 1315W).

Madagascar

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of diplomatic links with Madagascar. [75890]

Mr. McCartney: UK diplomatic links with Madagascar are conducted through a non-resident ambassador based in Port Louis, Mauritius and an honorary consul based in Antananarivo (we are currently seeking accreditation

for both these officials), and through contact with the Malagasy embassy in London.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Government of Sudan regarding its attitude towards peace measures and human rights in Sudan. [76041]

Mr. McCartney: My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, saw the Sudanese Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs on 7 June, and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development also spoke to him. We welcomed the signature by the Government of Sudan of the Darfur Peace Agreement, and stressed the need for this to be implemented rapidly. On the Government's side early action on disarmament of the Janjaweed was key. We have condemned the grave abuses of human rights in Darfur and will continue to do so. There must be no impunity for those who have committed these crimes and those responsible must be brought to justice.

Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that the EU does not negotiate bilateral deals which oblige countries to adopt intellectual property standards or timetables which go beyond trade-related intellectual property rights. [76241]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The UK position on intellectual property rights in bilateral and regional agreements was published in the Government response to the report of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights following recommendation 77 of the Commission under chapter 8—The International Architecture. This is available at the following website: http://www.iprcommission.org/graphic/uk_government_response.htm.

The Government state clearly that bilateral and other agreements should not, as a matter of course, oblige countries to adopt intellectual property standards or timetables that go beyond the requirements of the World Trade Organisation Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement. They also makes the further commitment that

> "For our part, we will seek to ensure that EU agreements with developing countries avoid imposing obligations beyond TRIPS".

I can confirm that UK negotiators are routinely briefed regarding this commitment.

The TRIPS Agreement, however, sets minimum standards and not a maximum level of intellectual property protection. It is therefore within a government's sovereign right to enhance their intellectual property protection if they judge it to be in their country's interest, including as part of an overall package of trade issues which make up a bilateral trade agreement.

Uganda

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written statement by the Secretary of State for International Development of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 81WS, on his visit to Uganda, what steps she is taking to ensure the Secretary General's recommendations to the Security Council of the United Nations are submitted without further delay; and if she will call for a UN Special Envoy, a UN Panel of Experts and action to improve the protection of civilians throughout Northern Uganda. [75041]

Mr. McCartney: UN Security Council Resolution 1663 of 24 March 2006 requested the UN Secretary General to make recommendations to the Council on how to address more effectively the problem of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). On 26 April 2006, the Assistant Secretary General at the Department of Political Affairs briefed the Security Council on the threat posed by the LRA and made a number of recommendations, including that:

- a Panel of Experts be established to investigate the financial backing for the LRA;
- the Government of Uganda be encouraged to accept the appointment of a senior envoy for the LRA;
- the Government of Uganda set out a strategy for dealing with the root causes of the conflict through dialogue so that internally displaced peoples could return home.

In the Security Council discussion which followed the UK welcomed these proposals. We are urging the Secretariat at all levels to deliver a detailed written report as soon as possible, as the basis for taking these proposals forward.

The UK is encouraging the Ugandan Government to accept the appointment of a Special Envoy. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development raised this with President Museveni on 16 May when they discussed the role a Special Envoy could play in achieving greater regional co-operation on the LRA issue.

Improving the protection of civilians is a crucial issue and on 4 May the Government of Uganda launched the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) to oversee the protection of civilians, the conditions of internally displaced persons planning for the return of the displaced to their homes and peace building including the return and reintegration of combatants and reconciliation.

This JMC represents an important step forward. It involves greater public recognition by the Government of Uganda of the scale of the problem and it creates an opportunity for constructive dialogue and joint planning. The JMC is currently developing an action plan to take this work forward and our High Commission in Kampala and the Department for International Development Uganda are both closely involved in this.

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the reports relating to the proposed trial for treason of Dr. Besigye, the Leader of the Opposition in Uganda; and if she will make a statement [76024]

Mr. McCartney: Dr. Besigye, the leader of the Forum for Democratic Change party in Uganda, is currently on trial in the Ugandan High Court facing a number of treason charges. On 18 May this trial was put on hold pending the outcome of a petition to the Constitutional Court, made by Dr. Besigye's lawyers. The Constitutional Court is expected to give a ruling by the end of June 2006.

On 16 May my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development raised Dr. Besigye's on-going High Court trial with President Museveni. The President gave an assurance that due process would be followed.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1971W, on Uganda, what assessment she has made of reports of *(a)* the execution by Ugandan security forces of two soldiers for the alleged killing of Father O'Toole and *(b)* the 2003 execution by Uganda Chieftaincy Military Intelligence of (i) Ismael Muviru, (ii) Mutwabil Walakira and (iii) Captain Sewamuwa Daudi; and if she will make a statement. [76214]

Mr. McCartney: Pursuant to my answer to the hon. Member on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1970W, on Uganda, no-one has been executed on the orders of the High Court since 1999.

Father Declan O'Toole and two workers from his parish were murdered on 20 March 2002. Following a field court martial two Uganda Peoples Defence Force (UPDF) soldiers, Corporal James Omediyo and Private Abdullah Mohammed were executed by firing squad on 25 March 2002. These executions prompted legal challenges to the authority of the UPDF to act in this manner and two related cases are currently before the Supreme Court of Uganda.

The non-governmental organisation Human Rights Watch has claimed that, in September 2003, the Joint Anti-Terrorism Task Force detained without trial and then executed Ismael Muviru, Mutwabil Walakira, Captain Sewamuwa Daudi, and another unnamed man. The UPDF, the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the independent Foundation for Human Rights Initiative have reported that they investigated the allegations and could not find any evidence to verify the claim. There also was no known response to newspaper appeals for the public to come forward with any information on the case.

We have repeatedly made clear to the Ugandan Government our opposition to the death penalty and the need for a fair and transparent judicial process.

UK Ambassador (Kyrgyzstan)

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006 to question 74571, on the UK Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, what the cost was of *(a)* travel, *(b)* subsistence and *(c)* accommodation for the (i) Ambassador, (ii) Deputy Head of Mission and (iii) Defence Attaché of each of the visits listed. [76128]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The total cost of travel for the Ambassador, the Deputy Head of Mission and the Defence Attaché for their visits to Kyrgyzstan from Almaty, Kazakhstan since January 2005 is £589. The total combined costs for accommodation and subsistence for these visits is as follows: Ambassador—£3,752; Deputy Head of Mission—£2,237 and Defence Attaché—£3,730.

Whaling

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Norwegian Foreign Minister on *(a)* Norway's expansion of its commercial whaling programme and *(b)* Norway's support for Japan's attempts to gain a simple majority at the International Whaling Commission; and if she will make a statement. [76993]

Mr. McCartney: The UK's opposition to Norway's commercial whaling programme has been consistent and strong. In April 2006, the UK led a demarche against Norway's announcement of a record increase in the number of North Atlantic minke whales they plan to catch this year. We will continue to fight vigorously at the International Whaling Commission to oppose whaling activities. The focus of the recent meeting between my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and her Norwegian counterpart was Iran and the Middle East. Whaling was not discussed.

World Expo

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) why the UK has not signed up for the World Expo in Shanghai in 2010; [73616]

(2) what resources her Department has allocated to British participation in the World Expo in 2010. [73617]

Mr. McCartney: We are considering the Chinese Government's formal invitation to participate in the Shanghai Expo 2010. As part of that process we are looking at how UK participation might be funded and we are discussing this with a wide range of possible stakeholders including Government Departments, other parts of the public sector, and many private sector companies.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Asylum and Immigration Tribunal

26. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what average time was taken by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal to process an appeal in relation to asylum seekers and immigration cases in the latest period for which figures are available. [76566]

Bridget Prentice: In the financial year 2005-06, the average time taken to promulgate immigration judge appeals in asylum cases was 15 weeks and in immigration cases, 14 weeks.

Legal Services

27. **David Taylor:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she is taking to reform the regulation of legal services. [76567]

Bridget Prentice: The draft Legal Services Bill (Cm 6839) which was published on 24 May 2006, sets out the Government's proposals for reform in the way legal services are regulated to deliver a better deal for consumers. These provide for the creation of a strong and independent oversight regulator, the Legal Services Board, a new independent Office for Legal Complaints and a provision for legal services to be provided in new ways to meet the needs of consumers. The draft Bill is currently subject to Pre-Legislative Scrutiny by a Joint Committee which is expected to report by 25 July. The Government will carefully consider the Joint Committee's recommendations and will introduce a full Bill as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Domestic Violence Court (Swansea)

28. **Mrs. James:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what consideration has been given to establishing a specialist domestic violence court in Swansea. [76568]

Ms Harman: Swansea magistrates court is being considered as a venue for a specialist domestic violence court. An announcement will be made later this year after assessments of all bids across England and Wales including that from Swansea have been considered.

Victims of Crime

29. **Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that victims of crime and their families have a voice in court proceedings. [76569]

Ms Harman: The Government are currently piloting victims advocates at five Crown courts. The scheme allows the relatives of murder and manslaughter victims the choice to speak in court about the impact of the crime on them, after conviction and before sentence.

Electoral Turnout

30. **John Robertson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 159W, on electoral turnout, what initiatives the Government have undertaken to promote participation in democracy. [76570]

Bridget Prentice: The Government's "1824 Collective" campaign aimed to raise awareness of registration in advance of the May 2006 London elections. They are also working with local authorities to pilot ways of increasing registration nationally. They have also undertaken pilots in the 2006 elections aimed at modernising the voting process. The Electoral Administration Bill contains a number of clauses to encourage participation at elections.

Fine Defaulters/Bail

31. **Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what progress has been made in introducing measures to deal with people who do not pay fines and who break their bail conditions. [76571]

Ms Harman: On 27 March we completed the full national rollout to the magistrates courts in England and Wales of the tough new measures introduced in the Courts Act 2003 to deal with fine defaulters. We have also introduced a strategy to improve first time compliance with bail conditions, speed up the execution of Fail to Appear warrants and deal with Bail Act offences robustly when offenders are brought back before the court.

Next of Kin

32. **Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Government have to review who is considered to be next of kin in cases where the next of kin is accused of the murder of the deceased. [76572]

Ms Harman: The Government have no plans to carry out such a review.

Being someone's next of kin does not automatically give a person the right to do anything. Being next of kin does not, for example, give a person a right to bury someone, or to administer their estate.

Family Courts

Ms Keeble: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to end enforcement action by family courts without a public hearing. [76573]

Ms Harman: My hon. Friend will be pleased to know that the Government will soon be publishing a consultation paper on improving the openness of family courts which will focus on all family proceedings. I am sure hon. Members will take the opportunity to consider it and respond on this very important issue.

Dr. David Kelly

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer from the Under-Secretary of State at the Home Department of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 274W, on Dr. David Kelly, whether the Oxfordshire coroner consulted the police in this case in line with rule 6 of the Coroners Rules 1984. [76692]

Ms Harman: Yes. The details are set out in the evidence given by ACC Page of Thames Valley police to the Hutton Inquiry on 3 September 2003.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he proposes to take *(a)* to discourage alcohol volume drinking and *(b)* to promote soft drink alternatives to alcohol; and what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to this end. [74613]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are proposing a number of measures to discourage alcohol volume drinking: it will later on this year begin a campaign to discourage binge-drinking, focusing on specific groups at the highest risk of harm; it is currently working with the alcohol industry and others to refresh and promote the "sensible drinking message", including on product labelling; and is working with the industry to prevent irresponsible drinks promotions, in particular those that encourage people to drink too much, too quickly.

The Government support the industry's Social Responsibility Standards document and the Portman Group's code of practice, both of which include guidance on preventing irresponsible promotions. We are also encouraging the licensed trade to promote the safe consumption of alcohol, for example by linking alcohol promotions with soft drinks or food.

The Department for Trade and Industry was involved in the development of the Social Responsibility Standards document and has provided advice on the competition issues impacting price promotions.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alcohol-related crimes have been committed in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex of offenders. [75407]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected, it is not possible to identify those offences which are alcohol-related. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in either the recorded crime or court proceedings data series.

Buses

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to prevent people using illegal drugs on buses. [76669]

Mr. Coaker: The initial responsibility in such circumstances falls to the bus operator. Any instances of drug misuse on buses should be reported to the police who will advice on the issue in general and respond to specific instances as appropriate.

Caravan Thefts

Mr. Heban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were successfully prosecuted in Hampshire for the theft of a caravan in each of the last five years. [76549]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* It is not possible to identify separately the number of thefts of caravans from other theft offences on the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform; data are therefore unavailable.

Child Trafficking

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what studies his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the future of child trafficking victims after they have been returned to their home countries. [75977]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have not commissioned any evaluation into the futures of child trafficking victims who have returned to their county of origin. However Her Majesty's Government are aware that children returned to certain countries could be put at risk of further harm, with the likelihood of being re-trafficked. As a general principle, therefore, children will only be returned, where it is considered both possible and safe to do so and only after a full assessment of each case has been thoroughly carried out. Before considering the return of a child, full consideration is given to the Government's obligations under the immigration laws and the European Convention on Human Rights and the unique circumstances of each case including an assessment of the country of origin.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer the letter to his predecessor dated 27 February from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Ms E. Lennon. [72164]

John Reid: My right hon. Friend's letter, addressed to my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, was received by the Home Office on 22 March. My hon. Friend, the hon. Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham) replied on 27 March.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter to his predecessor dated 10 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, about Mr. H. Kadir. [75881]

John Reid: A reply was sent to the right hon. Member on 20 April 2006.

Criminal Justice Act

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the custody plus provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to be introduced. [76744]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 12 June 2006]*: While continuing to work towards an implementation date of Autumn 2006 for Custody Plus, the Government would not implement such an important sentence unless it was satisfied that the National Offender Management Service could cope with the additional work. The issue of capacity to implement this fully and effectively is being considered.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much compensation the Criminal Records Bureau has paid for delays in processing criminal record checks in each year since it was established; and how many applicants received such compensation payments in each year; [74584]

(2) what total compensation was paid to individuals who were incorrectly assigned a criminal record at the Criminal Records Bureau in each of the last five years; [75299]

(3) what steps he is taking to compensate individuals wrongly assigned a criminal record by the Criminal Records Bureau. [75307]

Joan Ryan: The Criminal Records Bureau compensates customers for any loss which is a consequence of its maladministration. This includes errors and mistakes which the CRB have made that have delayed it from issuing Disclosures. However, there are a range of other factors that can contribute to delays in completing Disclosures, including incomplete or inaccurate application forms that require further information from the applicant or Countersignatory; the existence of criminal record information or other relevant non-conviction information and, for Enhanced Disclosures, the performance of Disclosure Units within police forces.

The CRB aims to return customers to the position they would have been in but for its maladministration; this is by making ex-gratia awards. In financial year 2002-03, the CRB made 19 awards totalling £30,603 for consequential loss; in 2003-04 it made 47 awards totalling £56,618; in 2004-05 it made 32 awards totalling £26,489 and in 2005-06 it has made 59 awards totalling £67,014. The following table illustrates the number of awards made against the number of disclosures issued in each of those years:

	Number of:		
Financial year	*Disclosures issued*	*Awards*	*Value of awards (£)*
2002-03	1,441,704	19	30,603
2003-04	2,287,109	47	86,618
2004-05	2,434,290	32	25,489
2005-06	2,772,929	59	67,014

Figures to determine the number of applicants that these sums were paid to are not available, because in some circumstances the awards were paid to Registered Bodies, employers or Umbrella Bodies.

Information is not available to determine the total amount of compensation paid by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) for individuals who were issued with a Disclosure which, following investigation, was found to contain incorrect conviction information.

The fact that a Disclosure is proved to be inaccurate after a dispute, often following a fingerprint check, does not automatically incur a redress award. This is because in some instances an applicant's details are the same, or very similar, to those of an individual with a record on the Police National Computer (PNC). It may be that the applicant's details have been used by another individual when arrested or convicted and the CRB has a statutory obligation to disclose such records where they are identified.

The Disclosure Service enables individuals to dispute the content of a Disclosure and allows them to distinguish themselves from the record on the PNC. This did not happen under the previous arrangements. The CRB scheme complies with existing treasury guidelines.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what Criminal Records Bureau checks are made on applicants for taxi licences who have previously resided overseas. [76135]

Joan Ryan: An individual may become known to the police within days of entering the country and eligible employers should therefore always be encouraged to undertake disclosure checks regardless of the length of time an individual has been resident in the UK. This applies to those who wish to obtain private hire and taxi licences.

The CRB introduced the Overseas Faxback Service in February 2003, to provide details and guidance to employers and individuals on how to obtain a certificate of good conduct or a copy of a person's own criminal record from those countries included in the faxback service. This information can be used in conjunction with the full range of pre-appointment checks to ensure that the prospective employee is suitable for the post. These pre-appointment checks are the responsibility of the employer and a CRB disclosure is only one part of that process.

Full details of this service are available on the CRB's website at www.crb.gov.uk. For those seeking general advice about the countries covered by the faxback service, the CRB also has a national rate enquiry line on 0870 0100 450 and an e-mail enquiry facility at overseas@crb.gsi.gov.uk.

Some countries, including most in the EU, also have arrangements enabling their citizens to obtain certificates of good conduct or extracts from any existing criminal record to show to prospective employers. These may be obtained once the prospective employees have arrived in the UK but it may be advisable for them to obtain the document before leaving their home country.

Following a recent EU Council decision, the CB has, in conjunction with Home Office colleagues and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), become involved in EU initiatives to explore how criminal record and disqualification data cross EU states might be used for employment vetting and disclosure purpose. These discussions are in the preliminary stages at present and more information will become available in due course. The CRB are also in discussion with ACPO and others about seeking access to other, non-EU, overseas conviction data.

Crossbows

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what restrictions apply to the *(a)* sale and *(b)* use of crossbows. [75553]

Mr. Coaker: It is an offence under the Crossbows Act 1987 to sell or hire a crossbow to a person under the age of 17 and for a person under the age of 17 to purchase or possess a crossbow. In the Violent Crime Reduction Bill currently before Parliament, we are proposing to increase this age limit to 18. Those carrying a crossbow in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse could be committing the offence of carrying an offensive weapon in a public place under section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953.

Deportation

Mr. Speller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* fingerprints and *(b)* DNA samples are taken from those who are deported from the UK. [75380]

Joan Ryan: It is not routine practice to fingerprint deportees under immigration powers, as the notice of intention to deport is often served by the prison service on behalf of the immigration service. However, fingerprints will be taken if the prisoner lodges a claim for asylum or as part of the re-documentation process. Fingerprints may also have been taken at an earlier stage if the deportee had been identified as an immigration offender or under police powers at the point of charging.

Immigration legislation does not give immigration or police officers the power to take DNA samples from individuals. However, where the Immigration Service is looking to prosecute an individual, we will consider asking the police to take DNA samples on an individual case basis in accordance with their powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984. Under provisions in PACE, police officers may take a DNA sample from any person arrested or charged in connection with a recordable offence.

Suspects (Description)

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been issued on the releasing of information on a suspect's ethnic origin as part of a description where the public's help is sought in tracing the suspect. [71204]

Mr. McNulty: The release of information in relation to the description of a suspect is an operational matter. The Association of Chief Constables (ACPO) Media Advisory Group provides guidance to the police on working with the media and releasing information about individual cases. The Media Advisory Group's guidance is at:

http://www.acpo.police.uk/asp/policies/Data/magguidelines.pdf

Financial Fraud

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of financial fraud have taken place in each of the last five years involving credit card cheques; and what the total value was in each year. [75899]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to recorded offences of cheque and credit card fraud and is published in Table 2.04 of "Crime in England and Wales 2004-05". A copy of this table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1105chap2.xls

The Home Office does not collect data on the total value involved. Statistics provided by the Association for Payment Clearing Services (APACS) on financial losses were also published in section 4.6 of the volume referred to above. These are available on the website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1105chap456.pdf

Holocaust Memorial Day

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Muslim Council of Britain on Holocaust Memorial Day; and if he will make a statement. [69260]

Mr. Coaker: The Secretary of State for the Home Department last met representatives of the Muslim Council of Britain on the 3 May 2006. There is no formal record of the meeting. However, whenever the issue of Holocaust Memorial Day has been raised, the Home Secretary has stressed that the Government take a broad and inclusive approach towards the content and community outreach of the commemoration. Lessons about the need to confront all forms of racism and hatred, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, have been a consistent theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. The Government regret that the Muslim Council of Britain does not support Holocaust Memorial Day and we hope that in the near future they will reconsider their stance.

Knife Crimes

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes have been committed using a knife in each of the last five years. [75401]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. Crimes involving the use of a knife cannot be separately identified in the recorded crime statistics.

The Homicide Index has details of the number of homicides where the apparent method of killing was by a sharp instrument. Figures for the last five years are given in the following table:

Offences of homicide where the apparent method of killing was by a sharp instrument: England and Wales

	Number of offences
2000-01	214
2001-02	261
2002-03	266
2003-04	234
2004-05	236

Medicinal Imports

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy to allow pharmaceutical manufacturers of opiate-based analgesic medicines to import their raw materials from overseas manufacturers; and if he will make a statement. [75749]

Mr. Coaker: In common with other major opiate manufacturing countries, the United Kingdom does not permit importation of such base material drugs domestically manufactured and readily available. This policy is in furtherance of the aims of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 to limit international supply to what is necessary for countries' medical needs. It is adjusted to take account of treaty obligations on overseas trade with the European Union and the European Economic Association only.

National Non-Emergency Number

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the national non-emergency number for community safety advice and action will be available for use in Dudley. [77143]

Mr. Byrne: The 101 single non-emergency number service for community safety action, information and advice will be rolled out across England and Wales in a number of waves. The first wave of services have been launched in Hampshire and South Wales, with Leicestershire and Rutland, South Yorkshire and Northumbria launching in summer 2006. The next wave of areas is yet to be agreed. It is planned that the service will be available across England and Wales by the end of 2008.

Police

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil service staff hours have been spent on duties related to police reorganisation since 16 September 2005; and what estimate he has made of the number of staff hours which will be spent on this issue in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [68616]

Mr. McNulty: Six Home Office officials have been working on police restructuring since my right hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, South (Mr. Clarke), the then Home Secretary, launched the review in September 2005. The implementation team currently includes eleven Home Office officials (full-time equivalents). No estimate has been made of the number of staff hours which will be spent on this issue in 2006 and 2007.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Ministers have duties related to the proposed police reorganisation in England and Wales; and how many hours these Ministers have spent on issues related to police reorganisation. [68617]

Mr. McNulty: As the Minister of State for Policing, Security and Community Safety, I am responsible for the work relating to the proposed police reorganisation in England and Wales. I have recently begun a series of meetings with chief constables, chairs of police authorities and other stakeholders on police restructuring.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* telephone calls and *(b)* meetings he has had with chief constables to discuss police restructuring in England and Wales. [68624]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Secretary had the opportunity to discuss police restructuring with senior police colleagues at the Association of Chief Police Officers conference in May, but it is not possible to identify how many telephone calls he has had.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been convicted of a criminal offence in each of the last five years, broken down by type of criminal offence. [75404]

Mr. McNulty: It is not possible to identify the number of police officers convicted of a criminal offence as details of defendants are not held centrally.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the outsourcing of police custody suites. [57774]

Mr. McNulty: Police authorities and chief constables have responsibility for the local provision of custody facilities and the resourcing of those facilities. Chief constables have specific responsibility under section 35 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) for the designation of police stations in their area which are used for the purpose of detaining arrested persons.

Each chief officer is responsible for ensuring that all police officers and police staff working in their custody suites are suitable, capable and trained whether police staff are employed directly or through a contractor. Most forces make use of the mixed economy approach. It provides chief officers with a level of flexibility to provide staffing levels to meet local requirements while providing the overarching framework to raise standards and achieve improved custodial care.

The National Centre for Policing Excellence on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Home Office has produced the 'Guidance on the Safer Detention and Handling of Persons in Police Custody'. The guidance was launched on 8 February 2006. The guidance identifies the standards expected of both police officers and police staff in the handling of persons who come into police contact.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there are

in Lancashire; and how many there were in 1997. [76011]

Mr. McNulty: As at 30 September 2005 there were 3,550 full-time equivalent police officers (FTE officers is less those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave) in Lancashire. As at 30 September 1997 there were 3,281 FTE officers. This represents an 8 per cent. increase over the period.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police raids on suspected terrorist sites in the past three years have been based on false information; and what the cost of the raids was. [75968]

Mr. McNulty: It is not our policy to comment on police operations on suspected terrorist sites or their cost. This is an operational matter for the police.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of his time the Permanent Secretary of his Department has spent on police force restructuring in the last 12 months. [68696]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 May 2006]:* It is not possible to identify what proportion of his time the Permanent Secretary has spent on police restructuring in the last 12 months.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his officials have been deployed on police force restructuring in the last 12 months. [68697]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 May 2006]:* Six Home Office officials have been working on police restructuring since the then Home Secretary launched the review in September 2005. The implementation team currently includes eleven Home Office officials (full-time equivalents).

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of his official time has been spent on police force restructuring in the last 12 months. [68699]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 May 2006]:* It is not possible to identify the proportion of the Home Secretary's official time that has been spent on police restructuring in the last 12 months.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost of bringing protective services in the four Welsh police forces up to the level considered Fit for Purpose in the report Closing the Gap by Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary. [66043]

Mr. McNulty: The case submitted by the four Welsh police authorities in December 2005 identified costs and benefits of force merger, including a considerable investment to provide an uplift in protective services.

Our assessment, based on independent financial review and professional moderation, is that the same benefits could be realised for a much lower investment. The Home Office continues to work with Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary and the Welsh police forces and authorities to review the business case, to refine the costs and benefits of providing the necessary uplift in protective service provision while achieving best value for money.

The operational assessment that a single authority and force for Wales is the best option to protect people better from serious crime and terrorism remains unchanged.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days of absence have been taken by officers of the Metropolitan police as a result of injuries sustained from collisions of police vehicles travelling above the speed limit in each of the last five years. [75344]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not collected by the Home Office.

Prisons

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1212W, on Leyhill open prison, how many of those prisoners escaping have not yet been detained, broken down by *(a)* original offence and *(b)* the year of escape. [73593]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Leyhill is an open prison with no secure perimeter and prisoners are not held in secure accommodation. Prisoners who leave the premises without authority or do not return are defined as absconders rather than escapees. Since 1999 there have been 393 absconds. Of those absconds, 25 only remain unlawfully at large. Details of these are provided in the table. The police are notified when prisoners abscond and their details are entered on the Police National Computer.

Absconders from Leyhill prison unlawfully at large

Offence	*Date of abscond*
Possession of a firearm with intent	5 March 2006
Possession of drugs	15 December 2005
Theft	26 November 2005
Possession of drugs	30 October 2005
Robbery	8 September 2005
Customs and Excise evasion (drugs)	31 July 2005
Import of drugs	27 March 2005
Aggravated burglary	27 January 2005
Import of drugs	27 January 2005
Death by reckless driving	19 December 2004
Possession of drugs with intent	2 December 2004
Burglary of a dwelling	27 July 2004
Theft	5 August 2003
Robbery	29 July 2003
Robbery	8 December 2002
Burglary	5 May 2002
Theft	6 September 2001
Murder	5 March 2001
Robbery	18 May 2000
Murder	6 March 1999
Manslaughter	17 February 1999
Murder	6 December 1998
Attempted robbery	5 December 1998
Drugs	26 December 1997
Import drugs	16 May 1997

Probation Officers

Mr. Mallins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time probation officers were employed in the area covered by the Greater London magistrates courts in each of the last six years. [76745]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* Information is not available for the full period requested. Data collected prior to 1 April 2003 are unreliable, and are not directly comparable with the more accurate figures collected since that time. In addition, due to the manual process employed in the collection of data for quarter one 2003-04 it is not possible to breakdown the data requested by area. The figures presented in the table show full time equivalent (FTE) figures at the close of each quarter from 1 July 2003 to 31 March 2006.

London	*Probation Officers*[1]
2003-04	
Quarter 2	795.70
Quarter 3	840.50
Quarter 4	862.50
2004-05	
Quarter 1	864.80
Quarter 2	874.60
Quarter 3	835.41
Quarter 4	834.54
2005-06	
Quarter 1	820.07
Quarter 2	829.74
Quarter 3	821.44
Quarter 4[2]	824.80

[1] The 'probation officers' category includes the senior probation officer, senior practitioner, and probation officer job groups. Trainee probation officers have been excluded from these figures.

[2] From Quarter 4 2005-06 the workforce data collected will be structured according to the new offender management model. These latest figures are as yet unpublished and are currently being validated. As a result of this they may be subject to change.

Proceeds of Crime Act

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of assets seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 were returned to the Cambridgeshire Constabulary from seizures in the Cambridgeshire police force area in each year since 2003-04; what the value was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [77082]

Mr. McNulty: The police asset recovery incentive scheme came into force in 2004-05. Under the scheme, agreed with the Association of Chief Police Officers, police forces received one-third of all assets recovered above £40 million in 2004-05, rising to one-half in 2005-06 allocated to individual forces on the basis of their performance.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary received an incentive payment of £410,828 for their performance in 2004-05 and will shortly receive a payment of £48,033 for 2005-06.

Registration Marks Regulations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of an offence under the Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001 in (A) Southend, (B) Essex, (C) Hertfordshire, (D) the Metropolitan Police area of London and (E) England and Wales in each year since 2002, broken down by age group. [75523]

Mr. McNulty: A breach of the Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001 amounts to an offence under s.59(1) of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994. However, this offence forms part of a group of miscellaneous motoring offences in the data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. It is not possible to separate these offences from others within the group and therefore no separate data can be provided.

Resignation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times he has offered his resignation to the Prime Minister; and on what dates. [67908]

John Reid: This is a matter for my right hon. friend the former Home Secretary.

Runaway Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish his Department's strategy for co-ordinating police forces' response for safeguarding children who run away or go missing from home or care. [75882]

Mr. McNulty: Our aims are to reduce the number of missing person episodes and, so far as the police are concerned, ensure that all inquiries are risk-assessed and pursued appropriately in accordance with guidance approved by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). To achieve this we are striving to develop effective partnership working across the statutory and voluntary sectors and are providing funding and support through data exchange protocols. This should help provide better analysis of the extent and nature of the problem which will support policy development.

ACPO, the Police National Missing Persons Bureau (PNMB) in the Metropolitan Police and the voluntary organisations are currently developing proposals for improved working which we look forward to considering.

Security Industry Authority

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for registration with the Security Industry Authority as a door supervisor have been *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected since inception of the scheme. [66520]

Mr. Coaker: As of 7 June, 44,983 door supervisor licences have been granted, and 2,793 refused.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for registration with the Security Industry Authority as a door supervisor are awaiting decision. [66521]

Mr. Coaker: As of 7 June, 7,665 door supervisor applications are currently in the SIA's processing system awaiting a decision.

The SIA's licensing statistics are updated weekly on the SIA website at: http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/licensing/stats_2.htm.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Adviser Discretion Fund

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of individual grants made under the Adviser Discretion Fund in each of the last 12 months were for *(a)* less than £100, *(b)* between £100 and £300 and *(c)* over £300; and what the total amount paid was in each category. [74619]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested is not routinely collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information is available on the number of awards made and total value of those awards in each of the last 12 months (April 2005 to March 2006). In this period 221,214 awards were made at a cost of £16.3 million. The average value of awards was £73.72.

Departmental Jobs (Regional Distribution)

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of jobs in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body, (ii) executive agency and (iii) other public body for which his Department is responsible are located in (A) Scotland, (B) England, excluding Greater London, (C) Greater London, (D) Wales and (E) Northern Ireland. [39867]

Mrs. McGuire: Table D of Civil Service Statistics covers permanent staff numbers (full-time equivalent) in each Department and agency. Information on The Health and Safety Executive, part of the Department since June 2002, is available in the same publication.

Civil Service Statistics are available in the Library and at the following address on the Cabinet Office website: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_of_the_civil service/statistics/civil service_statistics/index.asp

Information on the number of civil servants in other public bodies for which the Department has responsibility is included in the information in Civil Service Statistics but is not separately identified. The number and location of these staff are as follows:

Statutory body	*London*	*West Midlands*	*North East*	*Total*
Independent Review Service	—	93	—	93
Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority	—	—	40	40
Office of the Pensions Ombudsman	33	—	—	33
Social Security Advisory Committee	3	—	—	3
Total	36	93	40	169

Note:
Staffing figures are full-time equivalent permanent staff as at April 2004, the same date as the available information on the Cabinet Office website.

Departmental Vehicles

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cars are *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by his Department; what models the cars are; what type of petrol each model requires; and what the fuel efficiency is of each model. [41350]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is shown.

(a) Vehicles owned by the Department

Make	*Model*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Vauxhall	Astra, Vectra, Corsa, Zafira	1,183	44.3
Peugeot	206, 307, 406	558	20.8
Ford	Fiesta, Focus, Mondeo	353	13.2
Citroen	C3, C4, C5	137	5.1
Fiat	Punto	50	1.9
Volvo	S40, V50	43	1.6
Nissan	Almera	32	1.2
Toyota	Corolla, Avensis, Prius	269	10.1
Volkswagen	Golf	24	0.9
Honda	Motorcycles	11	0.3
Mercedes	Vans	9	0.3
London Taxi		2	0.1

(a) Vehicles owned by the Department

Make	*Model*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Renault		1	0.1
Suzuki		1	0.1
Total		2,673	—

(b) The Department does not lease any vehicles.

Records of fuel type by individual model are not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The information available is in the table.

Fuel types	*Number*
Diesel	1,490
Diesel Euro IV	417
Liquid Petroleum Gas	512
Petroleum	232
Hybrid Electric	22
Total	2,673

The Department does not maintain records of the fuel efficiency of its vehicles.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his oral statement of 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1648-70, on pensions reform, what steps he is taking to allow early retirement funded by the Financial Assistance Scheme if a beneficiary is in ill health. [76824]

James Purnell: Financial Assistance Scheme payments commence at age 65, except in special circumstances where early payment can be made to terminally ill qualifying members or to survivors of qualifying members who have died, on application by the scheme trustees.

We have no plans to extend early access to payments more broadly to anyone in ill health.

Incentive Packages

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value is of *(a)* pay supplements, *(b)* bonuses and *(c)* other incentive packages that are payable in his Department on the basis of geographic location; how many people are in receipt of each payment; and what the total cost to his Department of each payment was in 2004-05. [35913]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is as follows.

(a) DWP has four geographical pay areas:

National

Inner London

Outer London, and

Specified Location Zone (SLPZ)

The differential cost is not a standard amount but is calculated in each individual pay range.

The current numbers of staff in post in each individual pay area, the 2005 value of the average additional cost above national rates for each of the main grades and the estimated total additional cost in 2004-05 are contained in the following tables:

Table 1: Staff in post (October 2005) and additional average salary value above national rates in 2005

Grade	SLPZ		Outer London		Inner London		Total Staff
	Number	(£)	Number	(£)	Number	(£)	Number
Band A/AA	111	1,695	316	2,155	509	3,290	936
Band B/AO	1,070	1,870	2,858	2,345	4,943	3,480	8,871
Band C/EO	972	1,930	2,216	2,275	4,972	3,420	8,160
Band D/HEO	122	1,845	268	2,310	973	3,415	1,363
Band E/SEO	29	2,065	64	2,520	458	3,665	551
Band F/Grade 7	11	2,565	17	3,020	368	4,000	396
Band G/Grade 6	3	3,235	8	3,690	140	4,740	151
Total	2,318	—	5,747	—	12,363	—	20,428

Table 2: Estimated total additional cost of pay areas in 2004-05

Grade	SLPZ	Outer London	Inner London	£ million Total
Band A/AA	0.058	0.213	0.571	0.843
Band B/AO	0.521	1.866	4.589	6.976
Band C/EO	0.472	1.307	4.325	6.103
Band D/HEO	0.064	0.180	0.867	1.111
Band E/SEO	0.019	0.047	0.432	0.499
Band F/Grade 7	0.009	0.016	0.360	0.386
Band G/Grade 6	0.005	0.010	0.145	0.160
Total	1.148	3.639	11.289	16.078

Table 4: Estimated total additional cost as a percentage of total paybill

Grade	SLPZ	Outer London	Inner London	Percentage Total
Total	0.05	0.15	0.47	0.68

In addition to the above pay areas, DWP pays a location based recruitment and retention addition (RRA) to staff based on a number of Scottish islands:

Orkneys

Shetland

Outer Hebridies

Tiree

Islay and

Jura

In 2004-05 it is estimated that some 106 staff were eligible for payments at a total cost of some £92,000 pounds.

(b) DWP does not pay bonuses on the basis of geographical locations.

(c) DWP does not have any incentive packages in place for staff in any particular geographical locations.

Jobcentres

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus offices closed in 2005-06; and how many are planned for closure in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [63377]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question on how many jobcentre plus offices closed in 2005/06; and how many are planned for closure in (a) 2006/07 and (b) 2007/08. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The shape of the Jobcentre Plus network is under continual review. Following the creation of Jobcentre Plus in 2002 a programme of closures emerged. A detailed service delivery planning exercise was carried out in each District, in consultation with local stakeholders, to identify the locations from which new processes and services would be delivered. Jobcentre Plus inherited a network of around 1500 offices from the former Employment Service and Benefits Agency. It was established during the service delivery planning process that many were unsuitable due to the fabric of the building, location or both. These factors influenced the shaping of the future network. For these reasons a total of 206 offices have closed since 1st April 2005. A further 113 offices are scheduled to close in 2006/07 and 8 during 2007/08. In addition there are a number which are scheduled to close but for which final closure dates are subject to further planning and stakeholder consultation.

Secondly, as a result of a decision in September 2004 to centralise the processing of benefits, 35 offices have been identified for closure once processing work has migrated out of those locations. Four have closed during 2005/06. The closure dates for the remaining offices is subject to more detailed planning but the assumption is that a further 10 will be closed during 2006/07 and the remaining 21 sites during 2007/08.

We continue to evaluate our services and the network of offices from which they are delivered to ensure efficiency. Any site identified as a potential closure, as part of this process, is referred to the Minister of State for consideration. To date 12 offices have been agreed for closure. The actual dates for these closures are currently being finalised but the expectation is that they will occur during 2006/07.

Manchester Action Team

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Manchester, Withington constituency and *(b)* the City of Manchester have found employment as a result of the Manchester Action Team. [74539]

Mr. Jim Murphy: During the period April 2004 to March 2006 the Manchester Central and Manchester South Action Teams helped 538 people from the Manchester Withington constituency into work. Information is not available prior to this period because of changes to ward boundaries.

From October 2000 to March 2006 the four Manchester based Action Teams (Manchester Central, Manchester North, Manchester South, and Salford) helped 12,545 people into work.

Pensions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures he is taking to ensure that all pensioner households receive their full entitlement of benefits. [76017]

James Purnell: The Pension Service has written to every pensioner household to tell them about pension credit. In the last eight months the Pension Service has carried out a number of campaign initiatives such as the "You're Missing Out" direct mailings targeted at 1.5 million people most likely to be entitled. Full page adverts have also been taken out in the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, Sun, News of the World, Daily Record, and the People.

The Pension Service local service also offers a full benefit entitlement check to customers that focus on a range of entitlements including pension credit.

Since 5 December 2005 customers who contact the pension credit application line to make an application have also been able to claim housing benefit and council tax benefit during the one phone call.

Over the financial year the Pension Service will be:

Writing again to everyone we believe may have an entitlement to pension credit, encouraging them to apply and advising how the Pension Service can help them do so— over two million mailings are planned.

Offering face-to-face visits and a full benefit entitlement check to the most highly eligible and vulnerable pensioners—with plans to undertake over one million successful home visits.

Handling over 1.3 million calls from customers and making telephone calls to around 250,000 customers to encourage and help them to apply for pension credit and council tax benefit and housing benefit—at one time and with one call.

Continuing to issue an invitation to claim the state pension approximately four months prior to customers reaching their state pension age.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners living in Chorley constituency are in receipt of pension credit. [76018]

James Purnell: The most recent number of households and individuals receiving pension credit in the Chorley constituency are in the following table:

	Number of recipients
Households	4,060
Individual beneficiaries	5,000

Notes:

1. These figures are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figures provided are the latest available figure: which are taken from the GMS scan at 17 February 2006. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure. Average amounts are displayed as at the scan reference data of 17 February 2006.
2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest ten.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Individual beneficiaries comprise claimants and partners and may include partners who are aged less than 60.

Source:

DWP: 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS). Pension credit scan taken as at 17 February 2006.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the cost of uprating the basic state pension at *(a)* earnings growth and *(b)* 5 per cent. per annum in each year from 2006 to 2030, assuming price indexation as the benchmark. [70297]

James Purnell: The information requested is provided in the following table:

	Net costs (£ billion)	
	(a) Earnings growth	*(b) 5 per cent. per annum*
2006	0.4	0.6
2007	0.7	1.3
2008	1.3	2.0
2009	1.9	2.6
2010	2.6	3.4
2015	6.3	7.4
2020	10.7	12.1
2025	16.8	18.6
2030	24.5	26.9

Notes:
1. Figures are in 2006-07 price terms in £billions rounded to the nearest £100 million.
2. Costs are measured against current policy with basic state pension linked to prices.
3. The costs are net of income related benefits.
4. Figures are for Great Britain and overseas expenditure.

Source:
The figures are based on departmental expenditure forecasts and simulation models.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will post on his departmental website his response to the report of the Parliamentary Ombudsman on occupational pensions; [76304]

(2) when he was first informed of all the recommendations in the report of the Parliamentary Ombudsman on occupational pensions; [76305]

(3) what factors he took into account when deciding not to follow the Parliamentary Ombudsman's recommendation to consider her report Trusting in the Pensions Promise for a period of two months before responding. [76309]

James Purnell: The Department first received draft recommendations from the Ombudsman on 21 December 2005 and responded provisionally in January 2006 A further draft was provided by the Ombudsman on 13 February which the Department also responded to. The recommendations in the published report are substantially the same as were in these two drafts. Therefore, when the report was published the Department had already had over two months to consider the issues raised. Having decided that it was not able to accept four out of the five recommendations made by the Ombudsman, the Department saw no reason to delay responding to her published report. To do so could have raised expectations in the affected members which would not be met.

In his oral statement on 16 March the Secretary of State informed the House that he would publish a full response to the Ombudsman's report. This response is on the departmental website at www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2006/pensions/response-ombudsman.pdf.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on progress with the admission of the MG Rover pension scheme to the Pension Protection Fund. [76148]

James Purnell: The MG Rover pension schemes are currently in a Pension Protection Fund (PPF) assessment period.

The PPF works with scheme trustees to progress schemes through the assessment periods as quickly as possible.

During the assessment period, scheme members receive the PPF level of benefits.

Spending Review (Efficiency Targets)

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what total efficiency savings were achieved by his Department in 2004-05; and whether these count towards the agreed efficiency target for his Department set out in the 2004 Spending Review. [52867]

Mrs. McGuire: Total efficiency savings made by DWP in 2004-05 are estimated at £313 million.

The target for DWP is that we realise annual efficiency gains of at least £960 million by 2007-08 against our spending in 2003-04. As such these early savings do not count towards our agreed efficiency target but are an encouraging indication of DWP's ability to meet the efficiency target set for the Department in the 2004 Spending Review.

Teleclaiming

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of the teleclaiming system on claimants *(a)* with psychosis, *(b)* with other mental illnesses, *(c)* on low income and *(d)* for whom English is a second language. [66070]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 26 April 2006]:* While no specific research has been undertaken in relation to the impact on people with specific conditions such as psychosis, Jobcentre Plus aims to make access to its services as straightforward as possible.

Initial contact by telephone is our normal and preferred way of taking claims. However, our delivery of services is tailored to meet individual customer requirements taking health conditions, disabilities, and language barriers into consideration. Staff will hold face to face interviews where a customer cannot use telephone based services.

Where a customer's first language is not English, Jobcentre Plus will use Language Line which provides a translation service between customer and our staff. We also provide other translation services and specialist equipment for disabled customers.

We recognise that customers on a low income may be concerned about the costs of calls made to the Contact Centre. Jobcentre Plus Contact Centres operate a local BT rate 0845 number although customers using mobile telephones or other landline networks are charged at their network provider's normal tariff. Customers can also use "warm phones" in local Jobcentre Plus offices to make this call free of charge and when asked we can arrange to call them back at any point during their call.

In addition we are currently operating a free phone pilot within two of our Contact Centres, where we are offering a 0800 free phone number to customers using our services from a landline. If the pilot is successful we are considering extending this nationally.

In delivering high quality services to our wide and diverse customer groups, we do recognise that some customers face particular difficulties. For example, we are working in consultation with stakeholder groups such as the Royal National Institute for the Deaf to continuously improve our processes.

The Department has recently established a group to examine best practice in the use of telephony for people who have difficulty accessing services and this group will make recommendations on implementing service changes.

Jobcentre Plus is about to commission a programme of research to look at whether certain groups, such as customers with specific physical and/or learning difficulties have problems making contact. The results of this research will be available by early summer 2007.

Work-based Learning (Surrey)

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Surrey, *(b)* Guildford and *(c)* Waverley have (i) participated in and (ii) completed each of the three Work Based Learning for Adults Scheme stages in each year since 1997. [66166]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Work Based learning for Adults was launched in 1998, replacing Training for Work. In April 2001, the delivery of Work Based Learning for Adults was transferred from Training and Enterprise Councils in England to the former Employment Service, to ensure greater coherence between the support available to unemployed people, and to make Work Based Learning for Adults even more work-focused.

Information on the numbers of starters and leavers for the various strands of Work Based Learning for Adults in Surrey, Guildford and Waverley is available from April 2001 and is shown in the following table.

From April 2006, voluntary training outside the new deals will no longer be supported. Training in the new deal programmes, including voluntary training, will continue to be funded; this includes new deal for lone parents and new deal for partners programme.

We are also working closely with DfES and the Leaning and Skills Council to see how they can give greater access to basic skills training for people not participating in the new deal programmes.

Surrey local authority county

	Basic employability training	*Longer occupational training*	*Short job focused training*	*Self employment*
Starts				
2001 (from April)	50	140	170	150
2002	40	200	80	480
2003	90	170	50	740
2004	130	210	50	810
2005	120	140	50	790
2006 (to February)	20	—	—	20
Leavers				
2001 (from April)	30	80	150	120
2002	60	200	100	450
2003	80	200	40	700
2004	110	180	50	790
2005	120	190	60	780
2006 (to February)	20	—	—	40

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 10.
2. Date on programme completers is not available, data on programme leavers, which includes people who did not complete the programme, is shown in the tables.
3. Jobcentre Plus became responsible for the delivery of Work Based Learning for Adults from April 2001.

Source:
DWP, Information Division Work Based Learning for Adults Evaluation database.

Guildford local authority district

	Basic employability training	*Longer occupational training*	*Short job focused training*	*Self employment*
Starts				
2001 (from April)	—	30	20	20
2002	10	40	10	70
2003	20	30	—	110
2004	20	20	—	180
2005	10	20	—	160
2006 (to February)	—	—	—	—

Guildford local authority district

	Basic employability training	Longer occupational training	Short job focused training	Self employment
Leavers				
2001 (from April)	10	20	20	10
2002	10	40	10	70
2003	—	40	10	110
2004	10	20	—	170
2005	10	20	—	160
2006 (to February)	—	—	—	10

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 10.
2. Data on programme completers are not available, data on programme leavers, which includes people who did not complete the programme, are shown in the tables.
3. Jobcentre Plus became responsible for the delivery of Work Based Learning for Adults from April 2001.
Source: DWP, Information Division Work Based Learning for Adults Evaluation database.

Waverley local authority district

	Basic employability training	Longer occupational training	Short job focused training	Self employment
Starts				
2001 (from April)	10	20	20	30
2002	—	30	10	50
2003	—	20	10	90
2004	10	10	—	80
2005	—	10	—	100
2006 (to February)	—	—	—	—
Leavers				
2001 (from April)	10	10	20	30
2002	10	30	10	40
2003	—	20	10	80
2004	—	10	—	90
2005	—	10	—	100
2006 (to February)	—	—	—	—

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 10.
2. Data on programme completers are not available, data on programme leavers, which includes people who did not complete the programme, are shown in the tables.
3. Jobcentre Plus became responsible for the delivery of Work Based Learning for Adults from April 2001.
Source: DWP, Information Division Work Based Learning for Adults Evaluation database.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding has been available for work based learning for adults schemes in *(a)* Surrey, *(b)* Guildford and *(c)* Waverley in each financial year since 1997; and what funding is projected for 2005-06. [66167]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information on programme spend and projected spend is not available broken down by parliamentary constituency, local authority or county council.

Information on expenditure on work based learning is available at Jobcentre Plus district level for the last three years. The figures for the Surrey and Sussex district, which includes Surrey, Guildford and Waverly, are in the table.

Expenditure on work based learning for adults Surrey and Sussex Jobcentre Plus district

	£
	Work based learning for adults
2003-04	1,771,584
2004-05	2,214,728
2005-06	2,140,167

HEALTH

Abortions

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS of carrying out abortions *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in Gloucestershire was in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [74163]

Caroline Flint: The available information is set out in the following tables.

The cost to the national health service of carrying out abortions in England is shown in table one. For NHS providers data for the period prior to 1997-98 are not held centrally. For non-NHS providers, data for the period prior to 2002-03 are not held centrally. These data do not include personal medical services pilots.

Table two shows the cost to the NHS of carrying out abortions in NHS providers in Gloucestershire. Data are not collected on a geographical basis and the data provided cover the following organisations:

Cotswold and Vale Primary Care Trust (PCT);

Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT;
West Gloucestershire PCT; and
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Equivalent data prior to 2002-03 are not available due to organisation reconfiguration.

No data were submitted for non-NHS providers by these organisations.

Table 1: National schedule of reference costs—Cost of termination of pregnancy

£

	NHS providers	Non-NHS providers
1997-98	20,472,084	n/a
1998-99	28,097,500	n/a
1999-2000	29,308,577	n/a
2000-01	30,990,216	n/a
2001-02	33,425,262	n/a
2002-03	36,349,538	4,762,972
2003-04	36,759,034	8,740,792
2004-05	39,264,951	10,693,466

Notes:
1. NHS providers data based on returns from NHS trusts, foundation trusts and PCTs in England.
2. Non-NHS providers data based on returns from NHS trusts, foundation trusts and PCTs in England for activity they contract out to / directly commission from non-NHS providers.
3. For non-NHS providers collections prior to 2003, this information was not collected separately. It would have been reported in part in the NHS trust own data return.
4. Data also relate to activity carried out for admitted patients (does not include outpatients) and exclude excess bed days.
5. We do not distinguish between trimesters in the above, therefore the above will be an average of all.
6. Figures include market forces factor (MFF).
Sources:
NHS providers:
National schedule of reference costs 1998.
Appendix 4 of National schedule of reference costs 1999 to 2005.
Non-NHS providers:
Appendix 5 of National schedule of reference costs 2003 to 2005.

Table 2: NHS providers in Gloucestershire: cost of termination of pregnancy

	Total cost (£)
2002-03	541,418
2003-04	506,792
2004-05	281,861

Notes:
1. Data based on returns from appropriate NHS trusts and PCTs, including Cotswold and Vale PCT, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT, West Gloucestershire PCT and Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
2. Data also relate to activity carried out for admitted patients (does not include outpatients), and exclude excess bed days.
3. We do not distinguish between trimesters in the above, therefore the above will be an average of all.
4. Figures include MFF.
Sources:
NHS providers: National schedule of reference costs 1998 to 2005.

Alcohol-related Diseases

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were admitted to hospital with alcohol-related diseases in Greater London in *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04 and *(c)* 2004-05. [75750]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on the counts of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) and patients where there was a primary diagnosis for selected alcohol-related diseases by London Strategic Health Authority (SHA) for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are shown in the table.

Counts of FCEs and patients where there was a primary diagnosis code for selected alcohol related diseases[1] in national health service hospitals in London SHAs: 2002-03 to 2004-05

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
SHA	FCEs	Patients	FCEs	Patients	FCEs	Patients
North West London	1,760	1,280	1,951	1,426	2,305	1,533
North Central London	1,358	897	1,386	932	1,828	1,200
North East London	1,376	943	1,697	1,122	1,828	1,183
South East London	2,158	1,572	2,506	1,857	3,349	2,275
South West London	1,049	787	1,306	957	1,930	1,082
Total London SHAs	7,701	5,428	8,846	6,229	10,740	7,145

[1] Alcohol related diseases defined as following ICD-10 codes recorded in primary diagnosis: F10: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol; K70: Alcoholic liver disease; T51: Toxic effect of alcohol. *Notes: Finished consultant episode (FCE):* A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
Patient counts:
Patient counts are based on the unique patient identifier hospital episode statistics identifier (HESID). This identifier is derived based on patient's date of birth, postcode, sex, local patient identifier and NHS number, using an agreed algorithm. Where data are incomplete, HESID might erroneously link episodes or fail to recognise episodes for the same patient. Care is therefore needed, especially where duplicate records persist in the data. The patient count cannot be summed across a table where patients may have episodes in more than one cell.
Diagnosis (primary diagnosis):
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
Primary care trust (PCT) and SHA data quality:
PCT and SHA data were added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all fce finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.
5. Ungrossed data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data, that is the data are ungrossed.
Source:
Hospital episode statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care.

Cannabis (Therapeutic Use)

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to change the status of drugs derived from cannabinoids to allow their wider legal use for pain and spasm control. [75927]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office continues to license clinical trials aimed at developing non-smoked medicines derived from cannabis. We would seek Parliament's agreement to make any necessary changes to the law to enable the prescription of cannabis-based medicine, for the purposes of relieving pain and spasm control, but not before product approval from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The MHRA is responsible for evaluating the safety, quality and effectiveness of all prospective medicinal products. It is a process which is designed to protect public health.

Care Costs

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost of providing free *(a)* personal care and *(b)* long-term care for each year until 2015. [77290]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 8 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 585-86W.

Child Sexual Abuse

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what therapeutic services her Department provides for children who have suffered sexual abuse; [75482]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of *(a)* the psychological effects of child sexual abuse and *(b)* effective treatments for such effects; [75483]

(3) what steps her Department is taking to ensure that children who have experienced sexual abuse receive the therapeutic services they require. [75484]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Specialist services including treatment for sexually transmitted infections, termination of pregnancy and mental health services are available for those children who need them as a result of sexual abuse. For children with less severe mental health problems, it is more appropriate for universal services to provide the psychological support they need than for them to be referred to specialist child and adolescent mental health services.

The Department and the Mental Health Foundation jointly funded a multi-centre study to evaluate the use of psychotherapy with girls aged six to 14 years who had been sexually abused. Two of the main findings were that high rates of depression, anxiety and post traumatic stress disorder were found and both group and individual psychotherapy were effective and improvement in the patients' condition tended to continue after treatment had ended.

It is important that children and maternity health services (CAMHS) are developed in a way that is responsive to the needs of the populations they serve. The CAMHS standard of the children's national service framework (NSF) sets out the requirement for an assessment of the needs of particular groups of children in the locality who are vulnerable or at risk. The NSF also states the commissioners and services should be able to

> "demonstrate multi-agency partnership working in the following areas: the provision of services to children and young people who may or may not have been harmed, as set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', contributing to the assessment of complex child abuse cases; the assessment and provision of post-abuse therapeutic services; and services for looked after and adopted children".

Choose and Book System

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 63-64W on the choose and book system, what budget was set before the system was set up for adding the choose and book system to the other systems that send messages through the care record spine. [73257]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A key element of the national health service care records service is to provide a transaction messaging capability to support the messaging requirements of all the systems supported by the spine. The cost of spine services relating to choose and book messaging is not separately identified within the contract cost of the care record spine.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 935W, on the choose and book system, (1) for how many years she expects financial incentives to GPs and GP practices to be necessary for the operation of the scheme; [73277]

(2) what budget has been set to fund the necessary revisions to the general medical service contract in respect of the *(a)* choice and *(b)* choose and book component; [73284]

(3) what estimate she has made of the cost in each of the next five years of providing financial incentives to GPs to use the choose and book system if all GPs were to register and employ the choice and choose and book component. [73285]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The payments available to primary medical care contractors for utilisation of the choose and book service and for delivering choice to patients were agreed as part of the amended contractual arrangements that run from April 2006 to March 2007. Whether there is a need for payments in future years will be a matter for consideration by NHS employers in the context of their continuing review of the contractual arrangements as a whole.

The full value of the directed enhanced service (DBS) is 96 pence per registered patient. There are approximately 53.3 million registered patients in England. Assuming that every practice in England meets the full requirements of both components of the DES, the value of the DES in 2006-07 could be just over £50 million, which is funded as a relatively small part of the growth in overall resource allocations to primary care trusts.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 935W, on the choose and book system, what estimate she has made of the administrative cost of each referral. [73286]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No estimate has been made of the administrative cost of each referral made using the choose and book service. However, the choose and book service should reduce considerably the overall administrative burden of managing referrals.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 935W, on the choose and book system, what budget has been allocated to administer the system in 2006-07. [73287]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This is a matter for individual primary care trusts and strategic health authorities.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 935W, on the choose and book system, what comprises the choice component. [73288]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the second paragraph of the reply given on 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 935W:

> The full value of the directed enhanced service is 96p per registered patient and comprises two equal components, one for choice (48p) and one for choose and book (48p). Half of the choice component, worth 24p will be made as an aspiration payment to those general practitioner practices who make a written commitment to ensure that choice is offered to relevant patients. The remaining half, also worth 24p, will be paid based on the results of a new survey of patient experience.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 935W, (1) what assessment she has made of the likely take up of such a scheme if financial incentives were not available for general practitioners who register and use it; [74253]

(2) on the choose and book system, what assessment she made of likely take-up of the choose and book system without the financial incentives available to GPs who register and use the system; and what definition of relevant patients her Department uses when assessing applications for aspiration payments. [74494]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department strongly believes that both choice and choose and book deliver significant benefits to patients, and both primary and secondary care practitioners. The choice and booking direct enhanced service (DES) is designed to encourage general practitioner (GP) practices to proactively implement choice and the choose and book service in order to realise these benefits early, as opposed to GP practices adopting at their own pace. However, no specific assessment has been undertaken to determine what uptake would have been if financial incentives had not been made available.

In the choice component of the DES, relevant patients for aspiration payments are those referred from primary care to secondary care, where a specialist's opinion is needed and the current nationally agreed guidance on choice exclusions do not apply.

Consultation Costs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the consultation on *(a)* primary care trust, *(b)* ambulance and *(c)* strategic health authority restructuring. [75137]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As the consultations were led by strategic health authorities, the cost of them was financed from local national health service allocations. These figures are not collected nationally.

Dentistry

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health: (1) how many dentists signed the NHS General Dental Services contract in dispute, broken down by primary care trust; [64983]

(2) how many dentists have signed the new NHS dental contract in England; and how many of those have done so in dispute, broken down by primary care trust. [66072]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of dentists who have signed the new contract and the number who have signed in dispute is not available centrally.

Provisional management estimates on the number of signed contracts and, of these, the number signed in dispute has been placed in the Library. A contract may be for either a practice or an individual dentist.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists have left the NHS in Trent Strategic Health Authority in the last 12 months, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [69779]

Ms Rosie Winterton: At 31 March 2006, there were 1,005 dentists in the Trent Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area. The table shows the numbers of national health service dentists who have retired or otherwise left the general dental services (GDS) or personal dental services (PDS) in Trent SHA by parliamentary constituency during the 12 months ending 30 September 2005.

	Number
Trent SHA	48
Amber Valley	2
Ashfield	7
Bassetlaw	1
Bolsover	1
Boston and Skegness	1
Broxtowe	3
Chesterfield	3
Derby North	2
Derby South	3
Erewash	1
Gainsborough	0
Gedling	3
Grantham and Stamford	1

	Number
High Peak	2
Lincoln	0
Louth and Horncastle	0
Mansfield	2
Newark	0
North East Derbyshire	0
Nottingham East	4
Nottingham North	1
Nottingham South	5
Rushcliffe	0
Sherwood	1
Sleaford and North Hykeham	1
South Derbyshire	3
South Holland and The Deepings	1
West Derbyshire	3

Notes:
1. The latest available data cover the 12 months to 30 September 2005.
2. Leavers indicate that the dentist had an open GDS or PDS contract as at 30 September 2004 but no GDS or PDS contract as at 30 September 2005.
3. A dentist may have left a GDS or PDS contract within more than one parliamentary constituency within Trent SHA, in which case they would appear in figures for each individual constituency.
4. Data include all notifications of dentists leaving the GDS or PDS, received by the NHS Business Services Authority, up to 8 November 2005. Figures for the numbers of dentists at specified dates may vary depending upon the notification period, e.g. data with a later notification period will include more recent notifications of dentists leaving the GDS or PDS.
5. A dentist with a GDS or PDS contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the primary care trust. Information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual GDS or PDS dentists are not centrally available.
6. Dentists consist of principals, assistants and trainees. Prison contracts have been excluded.
7. Data on dentists that work only in private practice are not held centrally.

Sources:
NHS Business Services Authority
The Information Centre for health and social care

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 206W, on dentistry, why the Department has stopped collecting information relating to the number of dentists accepting new patients in Chesterfield since 4 April 2005. [73214]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not collected data on the number of dentists accepting new patients. The Department has in the past asked primary care trusts (PCTs) to provide information to the nhs.uk (web resource) and NHS Direct on which dentists are accepting new patients. The main problem with these data is that they can change at a rapid pace and therefore may not be reliable, thus making them limited in their practical use. That is why the Department has given PCTs more flexibility in deciding how they most effectively inform the local public about access to dental services. The implementation review group, which includes patient representatives, dentists and national health service organisations, has been set up to monitor the NHS dental reforms; as part of this they will be assessing the level of information that is on the website.

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reasons a transitory maternity pay arrangement was not put in place for dentists who were pregnant but not yet on maternity leave in April 2006; [75316]

(2) what representations she received prior to the introduction of the new dental contract in April 2006 requesting a transitory arrangement for dentists who became pregnant while the former general dental services contract was operational. [75317]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In England, we made transitional provisions for parental leave payments equal to the general dental services payments paid immediately before 1 April 2006 and pensionable earnings for leave periods which commenced after 1 April 2006. These are a minimum and primary care trusts may use their powers of assistance and support, under new section 28Y of the national health service 1977 Act, if they deem it appropriate to pay more.

The arrangements for parental leave payments are set out in the Statement of Financial Entitlements, on which we consulted with the British Dental Association.

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1558W, on dentistry, whether a dentist who was pregnant but had not started a period of maternity leave before the new dental contract was introduced on 1 April 2006 is able to claim maternity pay at the levels prescribed in the former general dental services contract. [75318]

Ms Rosie Winterton: For a dentist in England who starts a period of maternity leave after 1 April 2006, the amount to which they are entitled in respect of parental leave payments is calculated on the basis of their estimated monthly pensionable earnings immediately before the parental leave is taken.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost was of *(a)* staff away days and *(b)* staff team building exercises in her Department in each of the last three years. [69215]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally. Obtaining the data would incur disproportionate costs.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff from her Department attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha in London in 2005; and what the total cost was to her Department of their attendance. [72989]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will write to the hon. Member with details of the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-Ul-Adha event. Copies of her letter will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men are employed in the Department; what the average pay was for (i) women and (ii) men in the Department in (1) 1997 and (2) 2006; what women's average pay is as a percentage of men's average pay; and how many (A) women and (B) men the Department employed in each of the last five years, broken down by grade. [67787]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the tables.

Women and men employed by the Department

Grade	Male	Female
Administrative officer (A0)/administrative assistant (AA)	63.0	138.0
Executive officer (EO)	145.4	311.4
Senior executive officer (SEO)/higher executive officer (HEO)	334.1	373.8
Grades 6/7	336.0	311.8
Senior civil servant (SCS) level	132.3	92.1
Total	1,010.8	1,227.1

Average basic pay

£

	1997	2006
Women	—	37,792
Men	—	43,760
Percentage women's pay of men's	—	86.4

Note:
Information for 1997 is not available.

Women and men employed by the Department, 2002 to 2006

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
Grade	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
SCS level	—	—	170.4	105.7	164.6	105.7	145.5	92.8	132.3	92.1
Grades 6/7	—	—	390.0	347.4	330.8	307.2	282.0	273.9	336.0	311.8
SEO/HE level	—	—	478.3	489.5	420.5	461.8	348.4	368.8	334.1	373.8
EO level	—	—	211.8	480.2	181.4	428.0	151.1	306.5	145.4	311.4
AO/AA level	—	—	169.3	406.7	147.4	298.8	84.8	190.5	63.0	138.0
Unknown	—	—	0	0	0	0	3.9	4.0	0	0

Note:
Information for 2002 is not available.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of her private office staff is *(a)* male, *(b)* female and *(c)* disabled. [69223]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the six ministerial private offices, 37.5 per cent. of the staff are male and 62.5 per cent. are female. The declaration of disability is voluntary and no current staff have declared a disability.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the staff in her Department is *(a)* male, *(b)* female and *(c)* disabled, broken down by grade. [69224]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the table.

Responsibility level	Male	Female	Percentage Declared disabled
SCS Level	59	41	6
Grade 6/7	52	48	4
SEO/HEO	47	53	5
EO	32	68	8
AO/AA	31	69	11
Total	45	55	6

Note:
Proportions for disabled are based on staff whose disability status is known.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what incentives her Department offers to encourage staff to share vehicles when travelling to work. [72991]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The promotion of car-sharing depends upon the circumstances of the employee site—the majority of departmental staff work in central London and, as such, very few employees drive to work.

Car-sharing is only one of a number of measures which organisations can include in their workplace travel plan to encourage staff to travel more sustainably. The Department promotes the use of public transport by offering interest-free season ticket loans. Loans are also available to purchase bicycles, and departmental buildings offer secure cycle parking and showers.

East Lancashire Hospital Trust

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether undertakings were given at the time that the East Lancashire Hospital Trust was formed regarding the future location of accident and emergency services; and if she will make a statement. [68716]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No undertakings were given at the time that the East Lancashire Hospitals National Health Service Trust was formed regarding the future location of the accident and emergency services. The services available at the hospitals managed by the trust need to be agreed locally. A consultation exercise is currently underway following the East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust review of clinical services.

English Patients (Devolved Administrations)

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients from England were treated in hospitals in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Scotland in each of the last three years. [75877]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not hold this information. The information may be available from the devolved Administrations.

Foundation Trusts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions she has had with Monitor on financial deficits in foundation trusts; what the content of those discussions were; and if she will make a statement. [75056]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I am advised by the chairman of Monitor, whose statutory name is the Independent Regulator of NHS foundation trusts, that national health service foundation trusts delivered an encouraging financial performance in the 2005-06 financial year.

Monitor published on 5 June its full-year update on the unaudited financial performance of NHS foundation trusts, which is publicly available on its website (www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk). The chairman of Monitor has advised me that, in aggregate, the 32 NHS foundation trusts in operation during the 2005-06 financial year made a deficit of £24 million on a turnover of £6.8 billion. This figure includes the substantial deficit incurred by University College London Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH).

Excluding the performance of UCLH, which made a £35.9 million deficit and is implementing a financial recovery plan that will return it to break-even by 2007-08, the remaining 31 NHS foundation trusts generated a £12 million surplus.

Monitor attributes the strong performance of the NHS foundation trust sector principally to the rigours of foundation status.

Gershon Report

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants were employed in her Department before the Gershon Report; what net reductions are proposed in the Gershon Report; how many reductions have been made; and how many civil servants are expected to be employed in her Department in the Gershon target month of April 2008. [74290]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Gershon Report, confirmed by the 2004 Spending Review, set the Department a target net reduction of 720 in its number of full-time equivalent (FTE) posts. As the Department had already embarked on its change programme, it was agreed that reductions made since the programme was announced in March 2003 would be included and the 720 target was calculated and agreed on this basis. The baseline level of staffing was therefore the 3,645 FTE posts that had previously been budgeted for in 2003-04. The Change Programme anticipated an eventual staffing level of 2,245 FTE posts, a reduction of 1,400 FTE posts. This consisted of the 720 Gershon target and a further 680 to be achieved through the transfer of work to other organisations.

As at 31 March 2006, the Department's staffing was 2,387 FTE (this may not correspond with other published figures because of the way secondments into and out of the Department are counted). This represented a reduction of 1,258 FTE from the baseline of 3,645 FTE, and consisted of a 635 net reduction and 623 transfers to other organisations. The Department is therefore well on the way to meeting its April 2008 targets in terms of both net reductions and transfers.

Health Treatment Centres

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 937-38W, on health treatment centres, what cost has been met by her Department for commissioning procedures from independent sector treatment centres that is in excess of the NHS equivalent *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by primary care trust; and how much the NHS has paid in total to independent sector treatment centres. [73263]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is commercially sensitive and could impact upon the Department's ability to obtain best value from phase two of the independent sector procurement.

Health White Paper

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1821W, to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on the Health White Paper, when she expects to publish the conclusions of the review announced in paragraph 3.34 of the Health White Paper and referred to in the answer; [66723]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 452W, on the Health White Paper, when she expects the review of NHS walk-in centre funding arrangements to report; and when she expects to publish it. [68053]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The matters are still under consideration.

Hospital Negligence Cases

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital negligence cases have been *(a)* filed and *(b)* upheld in each of the last five years, broken down by hospital. [74560]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected by hospital. However, the information is available by national health service organisation which has been placed in the Library.

Hospital Travel Costs

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the cost to a hospital trust of reimbursing the travel costs of patients eligible under the hospital travel costs scheme is *(a)* included in the reference cost or national tariff payment to the hospital trust and *(b)* forms an additional cost which may be invoiced to the patient's primary care trust; and if she will make a statement. [75502]

Andy Burnham: Where the service provided to a patient falls within the scope of payment by results the national tariff applicable to that service includes an element in respect of the hospital travel costs scheme (HTCS) and hospital trusts should not receive additional funding from primary care trusts (PCTs) in respect of that patient. Where the service is outside the scope of payment by results the trust will need to recover its outlay in respect of HTCS from the PCT in the normal way.

ISTCs

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* name and *(b)* location is of (i) each of the independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) which were established at part of the first wave of the ISTC programme and (ii) each ISTC which is planned in the second wave; and if she will make a statement on the progress of the programme. [67861]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The names and addresses of the fully operational wave one independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) are shown in the table.

Independent sector treatment centre	*Address*
GC4 spine chain	
East Cornwall, Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre	Bodmin, Cornwall, PL31 2QT
East Lincolnshire, Boston NHS Treatment Centre	Boston West Business Park, Sleaford Road, Boston, PE21 8EG
West Lincolnshire, Gainsborough NHS Treatment Centre	Ropery Road, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, DN21 2TJ
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire, Clifton NHS Treatment Centre	Bluebeck Drive, Shipton Road, York, YO30 5RA
Northumberland Tyne and Wear, Cobalt NHS Treatment Centre	The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside NE27 0BY
Southampton, Capio New Hall Hospital NHS Treatment Centre	Bodenham, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 4EY
Thames Valley, Woodland Hospital NHS Treatment Centre (interim site)	Rothwell Road, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN16 8XF
Thames Valley, Reading NHS Treatment Centre	Swallows Croft, Reading, RG1 6UZ,
GC5 west chain	
Kidderminster, Kidderminster Treatment Centre	Bewdley Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 6RJ
GC8 chain	
Portsmouth, St. Mary's NHS Treatment Centre	Milton Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, P03 GAD
Medway, Will Adams NHS Treatment Centre	Beechings Way, Gillingham, Kent ME8 GAD
Wycombe, Mid and South Buckinghamshire NHS Diagnostic Centre (diagnostic services only)	Unit 2, The Merlin Centre, Cressex Business Park, High Wycombe HP12 3QL
Local projects	
Bradford, Eccleshill NHS Treatment Centre	45 Harrogate Road. Eccleshill Bradford BD10 0JE
Trent, Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre	2 Lindrick Way, Barlborough, Chesterfield, S45 4XE
Shepton Mallet, Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre	St. Peters Road, Shepton, BA4 4PG
Greater Manchester, Greater Manchester Surgical Centre	Bowers Avenue, Davyhulme, Manchester, M41 SSL
Plymouth, Peninsula NHS Treatment Centre	Building 3, Derriford Business Park, Plymouth, PL6 5QZ
OC123 ophthalmology chain	
Mobile Cataract Unit	n/a

Phase two of the ISTC procurement is in progress. Invitations to negotiate (ITNs) have been issued for 12 schemes for electives procedures in the following areas:

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear;
Cumbria and Lancashire (two schemes);
Cheshire and Merseyside;
Essex;
West Midland South;
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire;
Greater Manchester (two schemes);
South London;
Hampshire and Isle of Wight; and
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

We expect a further tranche of ITNs to be issued in the summer.

Negotiations are also under way with bidders on seven regional diagnostics schemes. These are in the following areas:

London;
the North East;
the West Midlands;
the North West;
the South East;
the South West; and
the East.

By the end of 2005, patients had benefited from over 250,000 procedures centrally procured from the independent sector including those from ISTCs, the general supplementary contract and the magnetic resonance imaging contract. ISTCs are now firmly part of the national health service family, delivering NHS services to NHS patients. Phase two of the programme is currently underway which will further increase NHS capacity, reduce waits for treatment and diagnostic tests, and increase patient choice.

Leased Land

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* land and *(b)* property her Department (i) leases and (ii) leased in (A) 1979, (B) 1983, (C) 1987, (D) 1992 and (E) 1997 in (1) the Southend West constituency, (2) Essex, (3) Hertfordshire and (4) the Metropolitan Police area of London. [72113]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not hold any land.

The Department does not have details of leases prior to 1996.

In 1997 the leases held were as follows:

	Land/property
Southend West Constituency	None held
Essex	St. Charles School, Weald Road, Brentwood, Essex CM 14 4SN
Hertfordshire	None held
Metropolitan Police area of London	Skipton House, 80 London Road, London SE1 6LH Hannibal House, London SE1 6TE Health Control Unit, Waterloo, International Terminal, London SE1 Eileen House, Newington Causeway, London SE1 6EF 40 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 3QR Market Towers, 1 Nine Elms Lane, London SW8 5NQ

Marfan Syndrome

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from *(a)* medical staff and *(b)* others regarding provision for people with Marfan syndrome. [77233]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I am not aware of receiving any recent representations regarding the provision of health and social care for those living with Marfan syndrome.

Mental Health (Barnet)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on funding for mental health services in Barnet. [75999]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The resources that are necessary to deliver mental health services are included in the unified allocations made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs). It is for PCTs in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use these resources to deliver services in line with their assessment of local need.

Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the potential risks to public health associated with the use of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether as an additive in gasoline; [76663]

(2) what assessment she has made of whether Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether presents a greater risk to public health than alternative gasoline additives. [76664]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not undertaken a formal comparison of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) with other fuel additives. However MTBE has been assessed separately.

The Department's committee on the medical effects of air pollutants (COMEAP) published a statement on the air quality and health implications of MTBE in September 2000[1]. This concluded that

> "The addition of MTBE to petrol is unlikely to increase significantly the health risks associated with exposure to ambient air in the UK".

This conclusion was very similar to that of a major review of the potential health effects of oxygenates, including MTBE, carried out by the Health Effects Institute in 1996 in the United States of America (USA). This concluded that 'it is unlikely that fuel containing oxygenates would substantially increase the overall health risk from fuel used in motor vehicles' (levels of MTBE use in the USA are higher than in the United Kingdom).

MTBE has also been evaluated under the existing substances regulations[2]. This concluded that risks to consumers were not expected as risk reduction measures already being applied are considered sufficient. There were concerns for the potability of drinking water in respect of taste and odour as a consequence of leakage from underground storage tanks and actions to reduce this were recommended. Recommendations were also made to reduce repeated dose local skin effects in workers involved in maintenance operations and automotive repair.

[1] www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/statementsreports/mtbe.htm

[2] *Official Journal* of the European Communities, Commission Recommendation, 7 November 2001.

Midwifery

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent studies she has carried out into independent midwife-led birth units, with particular reference to care for mothers with learning disabilities; [75991]

(2) what research she has evaluated on the effects of a normal birth with minimal interventions on the incidence of post-natal depression; and what recent assessment she has made of the comparative rates of normal births in different settings; [76075]

(3) what opportunities there are to increase choice in maternity provision, with particular reference to midwife-led units in acute hospital settings; [76076]

(4) what recent studies she has carried out into the impact on *(a)* ante-natal and *(b)* post natal care of closing independent midwife units; [76078]

(5) what support the National Service Framework offers midwife-led maternity units; [76080]

(6) what research the Department *(a)* is undertaking and *(b)* has commissioned into (i) the effects of maternity provision being placed in the community and (ii) the merits of midwife-led units outside district general hospitals. [76082]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not carried out studies that cover birth settings or their effectiveness on specific client groups or the impact of their closure on antenatal and postnatal care. However, in a survey of patients conducted on behalf of the Department[1], asking for a preference as to where the next delivery would take place, 36.9 per cent. wanted to give birth outside a hospital setting (home—13.1 per cent., midwife unit—20.4 per cent., general practitioner unit—3.4 per cent.).

Through the service delivery and organisation research and development programme, the Department has commissioned a three-year study, 'An Evaluation of Maternity Units in England', about the effectiveness, acceptability and efficiency of maternity units. We expect to be able to make an announcement about the award of the contract shortly.

The maternity standard of the national service framework for children, young people and maternity services is quite clear that maternity services should be designed, reviewed and improved through a programme of consultation with users and that the full range of choices of types of birth, antenatal and postnatal care, and birth environment should be offered. It also advocates that local options for midwife-led care will include midwife-led units in the community. Ultimately, it is for local health communities to decide on the best pattern of service provision, taking into account the needs of local people, evidence of effectiveness and available resources.

We have made commitments in the 2005 manifesto and in the White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' which was published in January 2006, to offer all women a choice over where and how they have their baby, including in hospital, a midwifery-led unit and at home—this will be in place by 2009.

[1] Different models of maternity care: an evaluation of the roles of primary health care workers, Hewison J, Renfrew MJ, Gregson B, Young, G, Braunholtz D, Dowswell T, Hirst J, Ross-McGill H, 2003.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2006 to the hon. Member for Rossendale and Darwen (Janet Anderson), *Official Report*, column 1173W, on midwives, if she will publish the results of the assessment on its completion; [74749]

(2) what estimate she has made of the minimum number of midwives needed in England to enable all women a choice as to where and how to have their baby, broken down by *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust; and if she will make a statement. [74768]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A maternity services outline delivery plan is being developed, which will set out a single vision for choice in maternity services, identify risks and management strategies and also set out the strategy for delivery including performance management arrangements, governance structures nationally, stakeholder engagement and the communication plan to support delivery. This is due to be published in autumn 2006.

Local national health service organisations are responsible for developing maternity services in response to the needs of their local population, and for ensuring that they have sufficient staff, with the right skills, to offer appropriate choices.

Milk Tokens

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many milk tokens were issued *(a)* to pregnant women and *(b)* to mothers for children in each month from January 2005. [72885]

Caroline Flint: The volume of milk tokens issued since January 2005 is summarised in the following table. These numbers do not include Healthy Start vouchers issued in Devon and Cornwall since the introduction of Healthy Start in November 2005.

Milk tokens volumes since January 2005

	Pregnant only[1]	*Pregnant + child/ children*[2]	*Child/ children only*	*Total*
January 2005	16,350	10,323	693,682	720,355
February 2005	15,392	10,331	698,243	723,966
March 2005	14,739	9,672	700,975	725,386
April 2005	14,076	8,735	700,566	723,377
May 2005	13,626	7,607	701,949	723,182
June 2005	14,255	6,715	705,254	726,224
July 2005[3]	13,932	5,557	702,782	722,271
July 2005[3]	13,947	4,688	701,271	719,906
August 2005	14,258	4,334	701,524	720,116
September 2005	14,900	4,734	701,664	721,298
October 2005	15,883	5,446	704,854	726,183
November 2005	16,145	5,740	687,289	709,174
December 2005	16,435	5,960	684,736	707,131
January 2006	15,853	5,968	690,624	712,445
February 2006	16,271	6,325	695,404	718,000
March 2006	16,967	6,767	696,628	720,362
April 2006	17,475	7,155	700,584	725,214
May 2006	18,120	7,426	700,299	725,845

[1] Pregnant only—pregnant women who are eligible for milk tokens.
[2] Pregnant + child/children—pregnant women who have one or more children for whom they receive milk tokens.
[3] Milk tokens are issued on a four-week cycle where the month of July has had two cycles.

Ministerial Visits

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many official visits to hospitals *(a)* she has and *(b)* her ministerial team have made during the night since 1 May 2005. [69948]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health carried out night visits to Ipswich Hospital on 31 May 2005 and to the Greater Manchester Ambulance Service on 3 April 2006. Former Minister of State for Health (Jane Kennedy) visited North East Ambulance Service on the night of 14 September 2005. Lord Warner visited London Ambulance Service and Kings College Hospital on the night of 22 November 2005.

NHS Data

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what duty is placed on primary care trusts to ensure that data submitted to the website www.nhs.uk regarding *(a)* dentists accepting NHS patients and *(b)* other information are kept up to date; how often these data are updated; and whether NHS Direct actively monitors these data to ensure their accuracy. [64183]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to decide how most effectively to provide information to the public and to agree any local arrangements with nhs.uk and NHS Direct.

NHS Direct holds some information on the open and closed status of dental practices but the accuracy of the information is dependent on dentists notifying PCTs of any changes, and PCTs updating the information on nhs.uk.

As a result of feedback from user groups, and following the introduction of the local commissioning of national health service dentistry in April 2006, the information held by nhs.uk (and by extension NHS Direct, as they use the same database) is currently being updated by PCT web editors. Additional information, including best possible information on how patients can get routine, urgent in-hours and urgent out-of-hours care or advice is being added by PCTs to the new format site. The expected date for these changes to go live on nhs.uk is the last week of June 2006.

NHS Direct

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how NHS Direct as an NHS Foundation Trust would be accountable to local communities; [76698]

(2) whether NHS Direct as an NHS Foundation Trust would remain subject to ministerial control; [76699]

(3) whether NHS Direct as an NHS Foundation Trust would be able to outsource its call centres abroad. [76700]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are developing plans for NHS Direct to become a national health service trust from April 2007 with the aim of becoming an NHS Foundation Trust (NHSFT) thereafter. NHS Direct is in the very early stages of considering its application for foundation trust status, including appropriate ways to ensure it can demonstrate that it is accountable to local communities, as other foundation trusts have done.

Legislative provisions establish NHSFTs as independent public benefit corporations, free from Secretary of State powers of direction.

As a NHSFT, NHS Direct will continue to plan delivery of its services in the most effective way. There are no plans to transfer its services abroad.

NHS Staff

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the net change has been in the numbers of *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* midwives, *(d)* physiotherapists and *(e)* cleaners in each London strategic health authority area since 1996; and if she will make a statement. [75693]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The net change in the numbers of doctors, nurses, midwives, and physiotherapists in each London strategic health authority (SHA) area since 1996 is shown in the following tables.

The Department does not collect separate data for the number of cleaners. These are included in the figures for hotel, property and estates support staff.

Specified national health service staff in the London Government office region (GOR) by SHA area as at 30 September each specified year: Doctors

Headcount and percentage headcount

		1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
London GOR total							
All doctors		16,699	17,107	17,374	17,846	18,557	19,048
Hospital and community staff (HCHS)		12,177	12,575	12,859	13,350	14,009	14,503
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]		4,522	4,532	4,515	4,496	4,548	4,545
North West London	Q04						
All doctors		4,147	4,422	4,209	4,273	4,694	4,730
HCHS doctors[1]		3,010	3,213	3,021	3,139	3,569	3,580
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]		1,137	1,209	1,188	1,134	1,125	1,150
North Central London	Q05						
All doctors		3,612	3,680	3,754	3,866	3,933	3,935
HCHS doctors[1]		2,796	2,892	2,952	3,080	3,114	3,131
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]		816	788	802	786	819	804
North East London	Q06						
All doctors		2,762	2,801	2,923	3,019	3,101	3,281
HCHS doctors[1]		1,878	1,913	2,027	2,125	2,176	2,382
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]		884	888	896	894	925	899
South East London	Q07						
All doctors		3,552	3,663	3,904	3,838	3,925	4,279
HCHS doctors[1]		2,666	2,795	3,042	2,937	3,039	3,375
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]		886	868	862	901	886	904
South West London	Q08	2,625	2,541	2,584	2,850	2,904	2,823
HCHS doctors[1]		1,827	1,762	1,817	2,069	2,111	2,035
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]		798	779	767	781	793	788

Headcount and percentage headcount

		2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Change 1996-2005*	*Percentage 1996-2005*
London GOR total							
All doctors		19,872	21,013	22,901	24,034	7,335	43.9
Hospital and community staff (HCHS)		15,263	16,134	17,827	18,814	6,637	54.5

Headcount and percentage headcount

		2002	2003	2004	2005	Change 1996-2005	Percentage 1996-2005
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]		4,609	4,879	5,074	5,220	698	15.4
North West London	Q04						
All doctors		4,907	5,143	5,494	5,625	1,478	35.6
HCHS doctors[1]		3,768	3,967	4,262	4,382	1,372	45.6
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]		1,139	1,176	1,232	1,243	106	9.3
North Central London	Q05						
All doctors		4,120	4,558	4,957	5,315	1,703	47.1
HCHS doctors[1]		3,314	3,708	4,093	4,396	1,600	57.2
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]		806	850	864	919	103	12.6
North East London	Q06						
All doctors		3,445	3,558	3,847	4,085	1,323	47.9
HCHS doctors[1]		2,500	2,572	2,871	3,073	1,195	63.6
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]		945	986	976	1,012	128	14.5
South East London	Q07						
All doctors		4,343	4,514	5,045	5,274	1,722	48.5
HCHS doctors[1]		3,441	3,535	3,982	4,187	1,521	57.1
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]		902	979	1,063	1,087	201	22.7
South West London	Q08						
All doctors		3,057	3,240	3,558	3,735	1,110	42.3
HCHS doctors[1]		2,240	2,352	2,619	2,776	949	51.9
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]		817	888	939	959	161	20.1

Qualified nurses including practice nurses and midwives

Headcount and percentage headcount

		1996 [3, 4]	1997	1998[3]	1999[3]	2000	2001
London GOR total		51,580	51,980	52,700	54,302	54,600	58,000
North Central London	Q05	11,289	11,055	11,076	11,023	11,379	12,107
North East London	Q06	9,259	9,247	9,157	9,160	8,869	9,604
North West London	Q04	12,348	12,602	13,034	13,802	13,404	15,193
South East London	Q07	10,522	10,845	11,583	11,041	11,681	12,122
South West London	Q08	8,162	8,231	7,849	9,276	9,267	8,974

Headcount and percentage headcount

		2002	2003	2004	2005	Change 1996-2005	Percentage change 1996-2005
London GOR total		60,638	66,185	68,239	69,102	17,522	34.0
North Central London	Q05	12,157	12,998	13,505	13,316	2,027	18.0
North East London	Q06	9,963	12,195	12,706	13,023	3,764	40.7
North West London	Q04	15,854	16,317	16,509	16,708	4,360	35.3
South East London	Q07	13,431	14,440	14,784	15,460	4,938	46.9
South West London	Q08	9,233	10,235	10,735	10,595	2,433	29.8

Qualified midwives

Headcount and percentage headcount

		1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
London GOR total		3,243	3,370	3,406	3,581	3,399	3,526
North Central London	Q05	469	535	529	541	528	552
North East London	Q06	746	753	111	763	691	744
North West London	Q04	775	774	780	832	884	890
South East London	Q07	673	721	817	692	666	724
South West London	Q08	580	587	503	753	630	616

Headcount and percentage headcount

		2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*1996-2005*	*1996-2005*
London GOR total		3,601	3,981	3,950	4,338	1,095	33.8
North Central London	Q05	628	638	689	739	270	57.6
North East London	Q06	724	871	927	916	170	22.8
North West London	Q04	842	842	844	1,001	226	29.2
South East London	Q07	769	988	861	1,003	330	49.0
South West London	Q08	638	642	629	679	99	17.1

Qualified physiotherapy staff

Headcount and percentage headcount

		1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
London GOR total		1,989	1,985	2,071	2,179	2,296	2,317
North Central London	Q05	426	443	431	453	459	476
North East London	Q06	337	318	334	352	366	346
North West London	Q04	468	492	491	505	568	556
South East London	Q07	396	394	427	431	440	457
South West London	Q08	362	333	388	438	463	482

		2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*1996-2005*	*1996-2005*
London GOR total		2,328	2,486	2,630	2,847	858	43.1
North Central London	Q05	471	510	524	566	140	32.9
North East London	Q06	390	421	464	516	179	53.1
North West London	Q04	565	597	614	672	204	43.6
South East London	Q07	491	516	553	585	189	47.7
South West London	Q08	411	442	475	508	146	40.3

Hotel, property and estates support staff

Headcount and percentage headcount

		1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
London GOR total6		4,651	4,378	3,727	3,777	3,431	3,470
North Central London	Q05	953	1,027	721	766	804	720
North East London	Q06	782	624	595	769	709	750
North West London	Q04	432	434	443	327	395	405
South East London	Q07	1,701	1,540	1,462	1,380	1,023	1,044
South West London	Q08	740	714	471	509	495	547

Headcount and percentage headcount

		2002	2003	2004	2005	Change 1996-2005	Percentage change 1996-2005
London GOR total[6]		3,393	3,576	3,907	4,071	-580	-12.5
North Central London	Q05	755	808	1,010	1,048	95	10.0
North East London	Q06	786	854	898	1,106	324	41.4
North West London	Q04	353	402	466	463	31	7.2
South East London	Q07	1,002	1,032	1,034	1,024	-677	-39.8
South West London	Q08	497	480	499	428	-312	-42.2

[1] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are general practitioners (GPs) working part time in hospitals.
[2] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers) includes contracted GPs, GMS others, PMS others and GP registrars. Prior to September 2004 this group included CMS unrestricted principals, personal medical services (PMS) contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, GP registrars, salaried doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP
[3] Practice nurse data as at October 1996.
[4] Includes estimated data for Buckinghamshire.
[5] Headcount practice nurse figures are estimated for these years.
[6] London GOR includes a small number of staff from the London Ambulance Service who cannot be attributed to a specific strategic health authority area.

Notes:
GP retainers were first collected in 1999 and have been omitted for comparability purposes.
All data as at 30 September except GP data for 1996-1999 as at 1 October.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.
The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics.
The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce cens...

Nurses

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses are employed by NHS Direct in *(a)* England and *(b)* the North West region; and if she will estimate how many nurses will be employed by NHS Direct in (i) England and (ii) the North West region in April 2007. [75660]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at 30 September 2005, the most recent centrally collected information available, there were 1,909 qualified non-medical nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff employed by NHS Direct in England. Regional information is not collected centrally but may be available from the Chairman of NHS Direct Special Health Authority.

NHS Direct began a 12-week consultation period with staff and staff side representatives on 16 May 2006 on proposals to ensure that its organisational structure, estates and staffing are fit for purpose to meet future developments and demand. The consultation period is due to end on 16 August 2006. The outcomes of the consultation will be made public thereafter.

OFT Annual Plan

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is responsible for progress on each of the objectives set out on pages nine to 21 of the Office of Fair Trading Annual Plan 2006-07; to whom each person reports; what recent discussions he has had about implementation of each objective; and if he will make a statement. [71960]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government's response to the recommendations made by the Committee of Public Accounts in their "Nineteenth Report Tackling Cancer: improving the patient journey" (HC 790) was made in "Treasury Minutes on the Eighteenth to Twenty-first Reports from the Committee of Public Accounts 2005-06".

The Treasury Minutes detail on-going actions and discussions in response to the recommendations made in HC 790. Sir Ian Carruthers, as the acting Permanent Secretary and Accounting Officer, is responsible for progress on the actions set out in that response.

Obesity

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the likely cost to the NHS of the consequences of childhood obesity in the next 20 years. [74430]

Caroline Flint: The joint report from the Audit Commission, Healthcare Commission and the National Audit Office (NAO) published in 2006 estimated that, at present, the direct cost to the NHS is £1 billion a year and the indirect cost to United Kingdom the economy is a further £2.3 to £2.6 billion. Furthermore, it estimated that should the present trend continue, the annual cost to the economy could be £3.6 billion a year by 2010.

The Health Select Committee revisited the NAO figures in 2004, and they estimated the overall cost for overweight and obesity to be nearer £6.6 to £7.4 billion per year.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the percentage of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children who are (i) obese, (ii) overweight and (iii) underweight in (A) each region in England and (B) the Tees Valley. [67197]

Caroline Flint: The main source of data on the prevalence of obesity is the Health Survey for England (HSE). The data is not available in the format requested. However tables 1 to 4 provides the most comparable data.

Table 1: Age-standardised overweight and obesity prevalence among adults aged 16 and over, by Government office region and sex, England 2003

Percentage

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East England	London	South East	South West	England
Male										
Obese	21.5	23.0	24.6	22.8	22.5	23.6	17.8	18.9	21.2	22.2
Overweight including obese	62.0	63.7	65.3	67.6	65.2	66.0	58.6	62.4	65.5	65.4
Female										
Obese	24.9	23.8	23.8	23.3	28.8	23.5	20.7	18.5	20.1	23.0
Overweight including obese	59.7	58.8	53.0	56.3	60.2	55.4	49.0	49.5	53.5	55.5
Bases (weighted)										
Men	339	878	634	591	676	755	930	1052	663	6519
Women	376	901	650	582	696	735	876	1071	683	6570

Source:
Health Survey for England 2003.

Table 2: Overweight and obesity prevalence among adults aged 16 and over, by sex, England 2004

Percentage

Male	
Underweight	1
Overweight	44
Obese	23
Overweight including obese	67
Female	
Underweight	2
Overweight	34
Obese	23
Overweight including obese	57
Bases (weighted)	
Males	39244
Females	39803

Source:
Health Survey for England 2004.

Table 3: Age-standardised overweight and obesity prevalence[1] among children aged 2-15, by Government office region and sex, England 2001-02

Percentage

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East England	London	South East	South West	England
Boys										
Overweight	17.1	15.8	14.8	16.8	16.1	15.7	19.4	14.9	16.9	16.3
Obese	7.6	4.4	4.1	6.1	5.9	6.6	7.1	4.5	4.5	5.5
Overweight including obese	24.8	20.2	18.8	22.9	22.0	22.2	26.5	19.4	21.5	21.7
Girls										
Overweight	23.5	19.6	22.9	21.8	20.6	24.3	18.5	22.8	19.6	21.4

Table 3: Age-standardised overweight and obesity prevalence[1] among children aged 2-15, by Government office region and sex, England 2001-02

Percentage

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East England	London	South East	South West	England
Obese	10.6	9.7	12.3	15.1	17.3	13.0	9.3	8.8	12.7	11.7
Overweight including obese	34.2	29.3	35.3	36.8	37.9	37.3	27.7	31.5	32.2	33.1
Bases (weighted)										
Boys	362	783	589	519	574	597	631	845	542	5442
Girls	327	753	569	490	582	621	672	833	541	5389

[1] International classification for children.

Source:
Health Survey for England 2002.

Table 4: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children aged 2-15 by sex, England 2004

Percentage

Boys	
Overweight	13.9
Obese	19.2
Overweight including obese	33.0
Girls	
Overweight	16.6
Obese	18.5
Overweight including obese	35.1
Bases (weighted)	
Boys	8833
Girls	8228

Source:
Health Survey for England 2004.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rates of *(a)* overweight and *(b)* obese (i) children *(A)* under 11 years and *(B)* aged between 11 and 18 years and (ii) adults were in England, broken down by (1) strategic health authority and (2) primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [69602]

Caroline Flint: The main source of data on the prevalence of obesity is the Health Survey for England (HSE). The data is not available in the format requested. However, tables one to four provides the most comparable data.

Table 1: Prevalence of overweight and obesity among children aged 2-10 by sex, England 1997-2004

Percentage

	Unweighted								Weighted	
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2003	2004
Boys										
Overweight	13.1	14.6	14.1	13.6	15.6	13.3	14.7	14.2	14.6	14.6
Obese	11.1	11.4	16.1	12.2	13.5	15.2	14.9	16.2	15.1	15.9
Girls										
Overweight	12.0	12.5	13.5	11.6	14.0	13.1	13.4	14.2	13.4	14.8
Obese	10.7	11.8	13.0	11.8	12.7	15.8	12.5	11.9	12.4	12.8
Bases										
Boys	2,007	1,336	633	570	1,035	2,364	876	416	878	5,368
Girls	2,082	1,216	628	523	1,094	2,290	897	343	858	4,901

Notes:
From 2003 data are weighted for non response. Data weighted for child selection only are provided for consistency with previous years.

Source:
Health Survey for England 2004—updating of trend tables to include 2004 data, The Information Centre For Health and Social Care.

Table 2: Prevalence of overweight and obesity among children aged 11-15 by sex, England 1997-2004

Percentage

	Unweighted								Weighted	
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2003*	*2004*
Overweight	12.7	14.7	14.9	10.0	14.1	14.4	14.4	12.8	14.5	12.8
Obese	15.6	16.3	16.9	18.8	18.8	19.8	20.4	23.7	20.0	24.2
Girls										
Overweight	15.4	15.7	13.7	14.4	17.5	15.1	16.0	19.4	16.4	19.3
Obese	16.2	17.5	15.2	18.1	17.7	19.2	21.9	26.2	22.1	26.7
Bases										
Boys	1,056	645	343	306	618	1,381	533	230	574	3,466
Girls	987	656	322	318	605	1,346	547	236	535	3,328

Boys

Notes:
From 2003 data are weighted for non response. Data weighted for child selection only are provided for consistency with previous years.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2004—updating of trend tables to include 2004 data, The Information Centre For Health and Social Care.

Table 3: Age standardised[1] proportion of adults aged 16 and over who are overweight, by Strategic Health Authority (SHA) (3-year moving average) England, 1995-2002

Percentage

Area Code	*Name*	*1995-97*	*1996-98*	*1997-99*	*1998-00*	*1999-01*	*2000-02*
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley	40.4	37.3	38.5	38.5	39.0	36.7
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	40.0	39.5	37.5	37.9	37.5	38.0
Q24	Trent	38.9	39.9	40.0	36.7	37.2	37.1
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country	39.9	40.0	40.5	39.5	38.9	39.0
Q08	South West London	37.7	35.9	34.1	35.0	37.9	37.1
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	39.8	39.3	40.6	39.0	37.9	36.3
Q18	Kent and Medway	35.4	37.1	37.9	38.5	38.2	36.5
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire	37.7	40.0	40.8	42.1	41.1	40.6
Q28	West Midlands South	40.3	39.6	38.2	38.3	38.1	39.7
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire	39.2	39.8	41.7	40.4	41.4	39.9
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	38.8	38.9	37.4	38.5	38.7	41.6
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	37.1	37.5	36.8	38.1	38.3	39.9
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	38.4	38.5	36.8	39.4	38.9	40.4
Q14	Greater Manchester	38.3	38.0	36.5	37.3	39.1	40.4
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside	39.3	39.8	39.0	40.6	40.0	39.7
Q12	West Yorkshire	39.9	39.8	39.8	37.2	38.1	37.0
Q06	North East London	37.3	36.2	37.8	37.2	37.0	37.6
Q03	Essex	40.4	39.6	38.6	39.4	41.0	42.5
Q21	South West Peninsula	38.0	38.7	37.4	36.1	36.1	37.4
Q23	South Yorkshire	40.4	38.5	38.6	37.3	39.3	35.6
Q22	Dorset and Somerset	38.0	38.6	39.6	41.3	41.1	39.2
Q07	South East London	33.7	33.7	34.9	36.8	38.5	38.2
Q16	Thames Valley	39.0	39.3	39.6	39.6	41.5	39.3
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	39.8	39.9	39.1	38.1	37.8	41.4
Q04	North West London	37.7	40.0	38.8	37.8	35.8	35.2
Q05	North Central London	35.9	36.1	36.1	35.6	36.4	35.3

Table 3: Age standardised[1] proportion of adults aged 16 and over who are overweight, by Strategic Health Authority (SHA) (3-year moving average) England, 1995-2002

Percentage

Area Code	Name	1995-97	1996-98	1997-99	1998-00	1999-01	2000-02
Q19	Surrey and Sussex	38.8	37.8	36.4	35.4	35.4	37.1
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	40.2	39.8	40.7	40.0	41.3	41.7

[1] Age standardisation is a weighting technique used to give all SHAs the same age profile. This removes the effect of age from comparisons between SHAs.

Source:
Health Survey for England: Health & Lifestyle indicators for Strategic Health Authorities 1994-2002, Department of Health.

Table 4: Age standardised[1] proportion of adults aged 16 and over who are obese, by Strategic Health Authority (SHA) (3-year moving average) England, 1995-2002

Percentage

Area Code	Name	1995-97	1996-98	1997-99	1998-00	1999-01	2000-02
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley	18.9	19.2	19.1	19.3	23.8	27.3
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	18.6	19.7	20.2	21.7	23.9	26.1
Q24	Trent	18.9	19.5	19.1	21.7	23.0	25.1
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country	20.7	21.3	21.3	23.4	24.0	24.9
Q08	South West London	12.5	14.8	15.4	20.2	19.9	24.3
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	16.5	16.8	18.2	20.5	22.1	24.3
Q18	Kent and Medway	20.0	20.3	19.7	20.0	21.5	23.1
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire	19.3	19.0	20.6	21.5	22.1	22.9
Q28	West Midlands South	17.7	19.3	21.9	21.1	23.1	22.6
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire	17.4	18.7	19.3	21.2	21.5	22.4
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	17.2	19.5	19.9	20.1	20.6	21.6
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	17.1	17.9	18.8	19.4	20.9	21.4
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	18.4	19.9	21.0	20.8	21.3	21.3
Q14	Greater Manchester	15.3	17.0	19.0	20.3	20.2	21.1
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside	16.1	17.0	18.6	19.4	20.9	21.0
Q12	West Yorkshire	16.1	18.1	18.2	18.1	18.5	20.8
Q06	North East London	17.7	18.0	20.1	20.7	20.9	20.7
Q03	Essex	16.5	18.3	17.9	19.4	19.2	20.2
Q21	South West Peninsula	18.1	17.8	18.9	18.5	19.9	19.9
Q23	South Yorkshire	17.9	18.6	17.1	18.0	17.1	19.6
Q22	Dorset and Somerset	18.6	19.1	19.3	18.9	19.7	19.3
Q07	South East London	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.6	18.2	19.2
Q16	Thames Valley	17.1	16.7	16.5	17.3	17.3	18.9
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	16.1	16.3	18.4	18.1	20.1	18.8
Q04	North West London	17.1	17.1	18.8	19.8	21.0	18.4
Q05	North Central London	14.8	15.5	14.1	17.9	17.5	18.4
Q19	Surrey and Sussex	14.9	16.9	17.4	17.4	17.3	17.6
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	15.4	15.8	16.1	17.8	19.4	17.3

[1] Age standardisation is a weighting technique used to give all SHAs the same age profile. This removes the effect of age from comparisons between SHAs.

Source:
Health Survey for England: Health & Lifestyle indicators for Strategic Health Authorities 1994-2002, Department of Health.

Overseas Doctors

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultations have been held with the Community Relations Council on the implications of the new immigration rules for the employment of Commonwealth doctors, with particular reference to those from Pakistan and India. [65031]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1166W.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation process was undertaken on the requirement for work permits for trainee doctors from overseas before the new regulations came into force; who was consulted; and what the duration of the consultation period was. [74602]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The immigration rules for permit free training were amended in July 2005 and the implications were discussed with the British Medical Association (BMA), postgraduate deans and overseas doctors groups.

Departmental officials discussed proposals to amend the regulations further at a meeting in January held by NHS Employers which was attended by the Home Office, and medical stakeholders, including British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, British International Doctors Association, the BMA and representatives from the national health service.

People with Disabilities

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which are the *(a)* best and *(b)* worst performing councils in England in terms of their provision of assistance with aids and adaptations to people with disabilities; and if she will make a statement on the performance of Luton borough council in this area; [75924]

(2) what *(a)* maximum and *(b)* average time a person with a disability has had to wait for assessment and assistance with occupational aids and adaptations in the last 12 months. [75926]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The social services performance framework indicator AO/D54 sets out the percentage of items of equipment and adaptations delivered within seven working days. The most recent figures for 2004-05 indicate that Luton unitary authority is the highest performing council; and Surrey the lowest.

The figures for 2004-05 indicate that Luton unitary authority delivered 3,900 items of equipment and adaptations; the percentage of items of equipment and adaptations delivered within seven working days was 97.9 per cent. This was the highest percentage of any council for this period.

Information on the maximum and average amount of time that a person with a disability has had to wait for assessment and assistance with occupational aids and adaptations is not collected centrally.

It is for local social services departments to prioritise assessments for people with disabilities, based on need.

Photodynamic Therapy Treatment

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps her Department is taking to speed up the fast track referral pathways for photodynamic therapy patients *(a)* in the Richmond and Twickenham primary care trust and *(b)* in England; [75333]

(2) how many patients have been referred for photodynamic therapy treatment *(a)* in England and *(b)* in the Richmond and Twickenham primary care trust area in each of the last five years for which records are available; [75332]

(3) what percentage of the available capacity at the Kingston photodynamic therapy treatment centre has been used in each month since November 2005. [75331]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS Specialised Services Commissioners are responsible for commissioning photodynamic therapy. Guidance to commissioners has stressed the importance of ensuring the development of fast track systems to ensure that the time between the initial referral and the treatment is as short as possible. Locally, commissioners and clinicians have worked to raise awareness and speed the patient's passage from first contact with a health care professional to treatment. Where there is a need we look to Commissioners to continue to work for improvements.

Data for the available capacity at the Kingston photodynamic therapy (PDT) treatment centre are not collected centrally nor are figures for the number of patients referred for PDT locally or nationally. However, the table shows the count of finished consultant episodes and patients for selected diagnosis and operations where the primary diagnosis was degeneration of macula and posterior pole and the main operation was an eye operation for Richmond and Twickenham Primary Care Trust and England.

Count of Finished Consultant Episodes and Patients for Selected Diagnosis and Operations, Primary diagnosis: Degeneration of Macula and Posterior Pole (ICD-10 Code H35.3), Main Operation: Eye Operations (OPCS-4 between C01-C86), NHS Hospitals in England 2000-01 to 2004-05

	Richmond and Twickenham PCT		*England*	
	Finished Consultant Episodes	*Patients*	*Finished Consultant Episodes*	*Patients*
2000-01	*	*	2,983	2,788
2001-02	*	*	3,319	2,939
2002-03	7	7	3,029	2,752

Count of Finished Consultant Episodes and Patients for Selected Diagnosis and Operations, Primary diagnosis: Degeneration of Macula and Posterior Pole (ICD-10 Code H35.3), Main Operation: Eye Operations (OPCS-4 between C01-C86), NHS Hospitals in England 2000-01 to 2004-05

	Richmond and Twickenham PCT		England	
	Finished Consultant Episodes	Patients	Finished Consultant Episodes	Patients
2003-04	6	6	3,264	2,917
2004-05	10	9	3,822	3,392

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
Patient counts
Patient counts are based on the unique patient identifier HESID. This identifier is derived based on patient's date of birth, postcode, sex, local patient identifier and NHS number, using an agreed algorithm. Where data are incomplete, HESID might erroneously link episodes or fail to recognise episodes for the same patient. Care is therefore needed, especially where duplicate records persist in the data. The patient count cannot be summed across a table where patients may have episodes in more than one cell.
Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
Main Operation
The main operation is the first recorded operation in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, e.g. time waited, but the figures for "all operations count of episodes" give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.
Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Strategic Health Authority (SHA) Data Quality
PCT and SHA data were added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of Treatment and SHA of Treatment are poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of GP practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 are also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.
Low Numbers
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk).
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Porphyria

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate how many people suffer from each of the forms of porphyria. [77283]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made no estimates for the number of people living with the seven different forms of porphyria.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations she had received on the reconfiguration of primary care trusts in Cambridgeshire, up to 22 March 2006; how many of these were supportive of the proposals outlined by the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire strategic health authority; and if she will make a statement. [67443]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge primary care trust (PCT) consulted on having three PCTs (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) or five PCTs (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Great Yarmouth and Waveney).

Secretary of State and other Health Ministers received 18 representations on the reconfiguration of PCTs in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire up to 22 March 2006.

The 18 representations were made against the strategic health authorities and were broken down as follows:

two lobbied for single PCT for Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT;

11 lobbied for a single PCT for Huntingdon;

three lobbied for a single PCT for Peterborough;

two suggested alternatives to the options that were being consulted on.

An announcement on PCT reconfiguration was made on 16 May. The new configuration of PCTs in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge will be five PCTs. The new PCTs are expected to come into force in October.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the private Members' Bills in respect of which her Department adopted a policy of neutrality in each session since 2001-02; and if she will make a statement. [72112]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Where private Members' Bills receive a second reading Ministers indicate the Government's position at that point.

Racial Abuse

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints of racial abuse in her Department have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in each of the last five years. [72858]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been no complaints of racial abuse in the last five years.

Recruitment

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on recruitment, search and selection agencies in each of the last five years. [68340]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally. Obtaining the data would incur disproportionate costs.

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the final financial position of the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust will be for financial year 2005-06; and what assessment she has made of the implications of this for the *(a)* patient services and *(b)* health economy in Cornwall. [75013]

Caroline Flint: I am advised that South West Peninsula Strategic Health Authority has commissioned an independent review to work with the trust to understand the size and causes of the deficit. This work is due to be concluded in early June and the report being presented to the public trust board meeting on 13 June.

The trust is part of the national National Health Service turnaround programme for organisations experiencing financial difficulty. The results of the independent review will be incorporated into a turnaround plan. This plan will also make clear what the implications of turnaround will be on local services and the health economy in Cornwall.

Section 64 Grants

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations were *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful in their bids through the section 64 Scheme of Grants for 2006-07. [72823]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* A list of those organisations who were successful in their application for a Section 64 General Scheme of Grants in the 2006-07 application round is available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/section64.

A copy of the list of those organisations that were unsuccessful has been placed in the Library.

Tuberculosis

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of tuberculosis there have been in each London borough in each of the last five years. [75621]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the table.

Cases of tuberculosis in each London borough, 2000-04

Local authority	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Barking and Dagenham	39	30	35	42	43
Barnet	87	79	103	102	94
Bexley	14	17	21	25	29
Brent	221	229	204	217	233
Bromley	23	18	24	31	28
Camden	67	93	117	106	77
City of London	2	4	1	2	2
Croydon	96	96	108	113	119
Ealing	215	191	197	187	256
Enfield	78	94	80	97	96
Greenwich	49	69	73	72	88
Hackney	130	137	143	155	155
Hammersmith and Fulham	84	80	82	64	69
Haringey	136	152	139	127	149
Harrow	93	101	115	115	99
Havering	30	17	19	13	12
Hillingdon	71	95	95	116	118
Hounslow	81	127	121	98	117
Islington	84	87	105	94	89
Kensington and Chelsea	46	41	30	51	48
Kingston-upon-Thames	11	16	18	19	23
Lambeth	108	135	159	155	127
Lewisham	62	73	91	79	77
Merton	43	35	54	40	62
Newham	245	210	215	246	242
Redbridge	89	92	92	110	111
Richmond-upon-Thames	9	11	14	12	12
Southwark	84	103	106	101	133
Sutton	11	17	31	30	23
Tower Hamlets	89	69	123	146	118

Cases of tuberculosis in each London borough, 2000-04

Local authority	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Waltham Forest	90	69	103	99	99
Wandsworth	62	51	93	96	96
Westminster, City of	89	76	75	89	85
Missing	3	3	0	0	0
Total	2,641	2,717	2,986	3,049	3,129

Notes:
Data as at 6 June 2006.
Data on 2005 cases are not yet available.
Source:
Health Protection Agency enhanced tuberculosis surveillance scheme.

Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated total cost saving to the NHS is of setting up the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust, broken down by main budget heading. [71260]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The County Durham and Tees Valley strategic health authority has set the trust the target of achieving £1 million of cost savings following the merger.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 14 June 2006

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, (Sir Stuart Bell) representing the Church Commissioners what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the Commissioners' chief accounting officer. [76815]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Secretary, appointed by the Church Commissioners, is the principal officer responsible to the Commissioners for the conduct of all business in their name and on their behalf. The current Secretary is Andrew Brown BSc (Hons) FRICS. He qualified as a chartered surveyor in 1982 and after 13 years in private practice, the last three as a partner, he joined the Church Commissioners as their first chief surveyor. He was appointed Secretary in 2003.

TRANSPORT

A3 Hindhead Improvement Scheme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects a decision to be made on the A3 Hindhead improvement scheme; and if he will make a statement. [77521]

Dr. Ladyman: We are continuing to consider the inspector's report into this scheme alongside the advice from the south east region on the priority it attaches to the improvement of the A3 at Hindhead within the indicative funding allocation for major transport schemes in the south east. We hope to make an announcement on the way forward for this scheme before the summer recess.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the criminal offences created in legislation sponsored by his Department since April 2005, broken down by Act. [76906]

Gillian Merron: The question is taken to refer to criminal offences created directly in primary (rather than subordinate) legislation sponsored by the Department for Transport that received Royal Assent in the period 1 May 2005 to 9 June 2006.

No criminal offences have been created directly by such legislation during this period.

Departmental Pension Liability

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the pension liability of his Department over the next 30 years. [75273]

Gillian Merron: Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual Departments. They are estimated for individual pension schemes.

HM Treasury have produced a technical note which shows the breakdown in liabilities per pension scheme. This note was placed in the Library of the House on 2 March 2006 following an oral statement in Parliament by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Government Car Service

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles in the Government car service fleet were made by *(a)* Peugeot and *(b)* Citroen. [77141]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government car service operates eight cars made by Peugeot/Citroen.

Highways Agency

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles are operated by the Highways Agency, broken down by model. [77187]

Dr. Ladyman: Vehicles operated by Highways Agency employed staff as part of the traffic officer vehicle fleet are as follows:

Model	*Number*
Land Rover Range Rover TD6 SE Auto	7
Land Rover Discovery 2.7 TDV6 S Auto	31
Mitsubishi Shogun 3.2 DiD Classic Auto	50
Nissan Pathfinder 2.5 dci SE Auto	26
Toyota Land Cruiser 3.0 D4d Lc3 Auto	36
Total	151

Motor Traders

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will issue guidance to post offices to ensure that they permit motor traders to present the different names on insurance documents and registration certificates when applying for a tax disc. [77079]

Dr. Ladyman: There is no intention to accept motor trade policies as evidence of insurance for vehicles registered in different names, unless a satisfactory link between the policy and the keeper can be established.

When a vehicle is licensed, the law requires evidence that there is insurance in force in relation to the keeper's use of the vehicle. Motor trade policies provide cover for vehicles in the policyholder's possession, allowing the trader to drive a vehicle in the course of business. This cover does not extend to the re-licensing of vehicles except when a vehicle is registered in the policyholder's name.

Road Safety

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to complete his review of speed limits on roads; and if he will make a statement. [77701]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department's revised guidance to local traffic authorities on setting local speed limits will be published in the coming weeks.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Badgers

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he has taken to ensure that any badger cull in Shrewsbury and Atcham is not undermined by different procedures in Wales; [76185]

(2) whether he plans to start the cull of badgers on the same date in England as in Wales. [76628]

Mr. Bradshaw: No decision has yet been made on whether to cull badgers. However, given the seriousness of the disease situation. We aim to proceed as quickly as possible while giving the issue the thorough consideration it requires. The decision is not a simple one and we are taking into account all the evidence.

In considering this decision we will liaise closely with the Welsh Assembly Government.

Coastal Access

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in which locations there is no access to the UK coastline; and for what reason in each case. [76656]

Barry Gardiner: We do not hold information on the exact number of locations where the UK coastline is inaccessible, or the reasons for this. It would be at disproportionate cost to gather this information.

Commons Bill

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the judgment by the House of Lords in the Trap Grounds case; and what assessment he has made of its implications for the current drafting of the Commons Bill. [76324]

Barry Gardiner: The Trap Grounds judgment has clarified rights and protections over greens, and reversed the earlier ruling that action taken on land after a registration application can affect the determination of the application.

The judgment has no significant implications for the current drafting of the Commons Bill, but we intend to clarify the term "local inhabitants" in clause 15 in the light of relevant remarks on the judgment.

Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will reply to the letter of 6 February 2006 from the hon. Member for Aylesbury on behalf of Weston Turville parish council, which was referred to his Department by the Home Office on 15 March 2006. [76341]

Barry Gardiner: I apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member's letter. A response was issued on 9 June 2006.

Deceased Horses

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on proposals to recover microchips from deceased horses. [76073]

Barry Gardiner: We have recently consulted on proposals to recover microchips from dead horses in line with Council Directives 90/426/EEC and 90/427/EEC. The consultation closed on 2 June and a response will be issued shortly.

Departmental Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from his Department in each of the last five years. [71794]

Barry Gardiner: The information requested is in the following tables.

FY 2001-02

Vendor name	*Total (£)*
Snowie	52,104,548.54
ADAS Consulting Ltd.	43,116,767.38
J D M Midlands Ltd.	32,422,787.45
Carillion Building	22,888,509.96
Cumbria Waste Management Ltd.	19,279,807.43
Greyhound Plant Services	18,547,297.02
Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd.	17,713,023.32
Citex Property & Facilities	16,612,220.86
Sungard Sherwood Systems Ltd.	15,908,892.90
Barr Ltd.	15,037,846.27

FY 2002-03

Vendor name	*Total (£)*
T X U Warm Front Ltd.	51,076,421.84
Fujitsu Services Ltd.	25,701,067.05
ADAS Consulting Ltd.	20,509,113.40
Sema UK Ltd.	19,866,954.53
Sherwood International Group Ltd.	16,244,929.20
Ineos Fluor Ltd.	8,599,347.99
Prudential Prop Investment Managers Ltd.	8,072,617.52
Citex Professional Services Ltd.	7,640,578.10
L G C Limited	6,524,579.54
Walter Lilly & Co Ltd.	6,475,931.82

FY 2003-04

Vendor name	*Total (£)*
T X U Warm Front Ltd.	42,339,918.28
Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd.	25,427,385.15

FY 2003-04

Vendor name	*Total (£)*
Fujitsu Services Ltd.	22,523,122.39
Shepherd Construction Ltd.	22,032,872.75
Sungard Sherwood Systems Ltd.	20,606,648.32
ADAS Consulting Ltd.	17,947,361.18
L G C Limited	11,869,607.39
Ineos Fluor Ltd.	8,599,347.99
Prudential Prop Investment Managers Ltd	8,322,218.23
P A Consulting Group	6,899,587.19

FY 2004-05

Vendor name	*Total (£)*
Powergen Warm Front Ltd.	45,608,787.33
Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd.	38,972,053.09
IBM United Kingdom Ltd.	27,553,043.55
ADAS Consulting Ltd.	16,203,252.37
Fujitsu Services Ltd.	14,291,390.70
Sungard Sherwood Systems Ltd.	13,401,396.55
Shepherd Construction Ltd.	11,764,738.01
Overbury Plc.	11,559,685.86
Citex	11,433,165.67
Prudential Prop. Investment Managers Ltd.	10,065,515.29

FY 2005-06

Vendor name	*Total (£)*
IBM United Kingdom Ltd.	76,494,621.18
Carillion Services Ltd.	12,520,824.53
ADAS Consulting Ltd.	10,891,788.70
Walter Lilly & Co Ltd.	9,968,584.41
Shepherd Construction Ltd.	8,988,503.71
Prudential Prop Investment Managers Ltd.	8,435,480.73
Overbury Plc.	6,506,083.88
Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd.	5,949,934.53
Barclaycard Business Issuing	5,751,629.76
Lombard North Central Plc.	5,099,360.68

Fisheries

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to the request from English Nature for him to close an area of 60 square miles off Lyme Regis to fishing; what consultations he has held with scallop fishermen on this request; if he will take into account the social and economic implications in his deliberations; when he expects to make a decision; and if he will commission research to determine density and location of scallop beds in relation to those of protected seabed fauna. [76702]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* I regard the request from English Nature very seriously. I also recognise that Lyme Bay represents an extremely important fishery for the south west and the socio-economic impact of any action needs to be taken into account in reaching a decision. My officials have attended meetings with English Nature and Southern and Devon Sea fisheries Committees and, more recently, with the newly formed South West Scallopers Association. This dialogue is continuing.

I hope we can urgently broker a local solution to this issue which will be acceptable both for the marine environment and the livelihoods of fishermen. If this is not possible, or if individual scallopers choose not to respect any negotiated agreement, I will not hesitate to accede to English Nature's request.

Fungaflor

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the *(a)* licensing and *(b)* availability of (i) the product fungaflor and (ii) a substitute for it in the last 12 months. [76748]

Ian Pearson: My Department has received representations from the Horticultural Development Council, the Cucumber Growers Association and a cucumber grower about both fungaflor and a possible substitute product.

GM Crops

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy of the European Commission is on co-existence of GM and non-GM crops. [76070]

Ian Pearson: The Commission's general policy is that coexistence measures should be proportionate and science-based, and that they are best determined and implemented at member state level. This is confirmed in the recommended guidelines that the Commission has issued to help member states develop their national coexistence strategies. These are available at http://ec.europa.eu/comm/agriculture/publi/reports/coexistence2/guide_en.pdf. More up to date background on the Commission's thinking in this area is contained in the report that it issued earlier this year on the implementation of national coexistence measures. This can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/comm/agriculture/coexistence/com104_en.pdf.

Ivory

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Article 10 certificates for ivory have been granted under Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 since 2004; and what the nature was of the items under each certificate. [76085]

Barry Gardiner: Since 2004, 174 Article 10 certificates for ivory have been granted under Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97. The certificates cover a range of products including jewellery, walking sticks, chess sets and carved figures. Items under each certificate are detailed in the following table.

Item	*Number*
Five items of carved ivory jewellery:	
Ivory solid bangle	1
Ivory-beaded necklace	1
One ivory heart-shaped pendant	1
Two ivory drop earrings	2
Ivory tusk carved into a group of elephants	1
Chess set with sixteen carved ivory pieces	1

Item	*Number*
Carved ivory figure of a Japanese woman carrying a fan.	1
Ivory carving of a group of three rhinos.	1
Ivory carving of hippo.	1
Carved ivory head of a woman.	1
Ivory carving of a man carrying a pack.	1
Carved ivory pots with lids.	2
Decorated ivory vase.	1
Ivory carving of a man sitting on a decorative sphere.	1
Ivory carving of an African woman carrying a pot on her head.	1
Ivory carving of a crocodile.	1
Brooch with a carved ivory rose bud feature?circa 1950.	1
Gold mounted cello bow with an ivory face plate.	1
Pair of ivory salad servers (two in total) acquired approx. 1958	1
Thorn walking stick with horn knob handle and ivory spacer.	1
Ox horn walking stick with silver cap handle and ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with ebony dog handle with ivory eyes and ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with carved walnut lion head handle on Malacca with ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with ebony crook with ivory insets and ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with walnut pear cap and ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with snake wood crook and large ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with ebony crutch and ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with rosewood crutch and ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with rosewood crosshead and ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with carved ebony dog handle and ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with snake wood crutch and ivory spacer.	1
Certificates, each for one walking stick with violet wood trumpet top and ivory spacer.	2
Walking stick with walnut pistol butt on rosewood and ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with ebony crutch and ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with rosewood greyhound and ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with ox horn knob and ebony and ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with buffalo horn, ducks head and ivory washer and spacer.	1
Certificates, each for one walking stick with walnut boars head, ivory washer and tusks with ivory spacer.	2
Walking stick with carved sheep head on hazel, ivory washer with ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with carved staghorn, ivory washer with ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with buffalo shepherds crook, ivory washer with ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with carved wood boar, ivory tusks with ivory spacer	1
Walking stick with carved ivory dog head on ebony with gilt collar.	1
Walking stick with carved ivory skull on ebony.	1
Walking stick with carved ivory elephant on ebony.	1
Walking stick with carved ivory deer on Palmyra, gilt collar.	1
Walking stick with carved ivory bulldog head on snakewood, silver collar.	1
Walking stick with ivory and hardwood spacer stick.	1
Walking stick with rosewood, walrus ivory handle with elephant ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with ebony, walrus ivory handle with elephant ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with lancewood, walrus ivory handle with elephant ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with ebony, with elephant ivory handle and spacer.	1
Certificates, each for one walking stick with rosewood, walrus ivory handle with elephant ivory spacer.	2
Walking stick ebony, elephant ivory handle and walrus ivory spacer.	1
Walking stick with ebony, ivory handle and spacer.	1
Silver mounted viola bow by J. Finkel with ivory head plate circa 1960	1
Silver mounted viola bow by R. Grunke with ivory head plate circa 1950.	1
Ivory carving representing four standing revolutionary figures .circa 1966-70.	1
Carved wood boars head with ivory tusks, on rosewood stick.	1
Horn thimble cap on ebony stick with ivory spacer.	1
Certificates, each for one carved horn hoof on hazel stick with ivory spacer.	2
Carved wood boars head with ivory tusks on hazel stick, with ivory spacer.	1
Carved wood ox head with ivory horns on hazel stick, with ivory spacer.	1
Carved horn toad on log, on a blackthorn stick, with ivory spacer.	1
Carved wood hares head, on a Palmyra stick, with ivory spacer.	1
Gents maple crook stick, inlay ivory pattern on nose.	1
Ladies maple crook stick, inlay ivory pattern on nose.	1
Gents acacia crook stick, ivory slipper cap on nose.	1
Ladies acacia crook stick, ivory slipper cap on nose.	1
Gents rosewood crutch handle on maple stick with ivory spacer.	1
Gents olive wood crutch handle on maple stick with ivory spacer.	1
Certificates, each for one carved wood duck head umbrella with ivory spacer	2
Certificates, each for one carved ivory whistle	3
Carved ivory figures representing men holding ritual objects.	8
Ivory and silver paper knife.	1
Ivory tusk carved with the figure of a woman with a headdress.	1
Silver and ivory mounted violin bow by Louis Gillet.	1
Gold and ivory mounted violin bow by Marcel Lapierre.	1
Gold and ivory mounted violin bow by Johanned Finkel.	1
Silver and ivory mounted violin bow by Percival Wilfred Bryant	1
Silver and ivory mounted violin bow by H.R Pfreteschner	1
Silver coloured metal and ivory ewer.	1
Silver coloured metal and ivory peppermill.	1
Gold and ivory mounted viola bow, by Malcolm Taylor. Circa 1975.	1
Certificates, each for one ivory bracelet polished and worked into torus shape with roughly square profile.	12
Certificates, each for one ivory bracelet polished and worked into torus shape with d profile.	2
Ivory bracelet polished and worked into torus shape with triangular profile.	1
Certificates, each for one ivory bracelet polished and worked into torus shape with flattened u profile.	2
Silver mounted violin bow with an ivory head plate, W.E. Hill and Sons, circa 1948.	1

Item	Number
Silver and ivory mounted violin bow. Circa 1950.	1
Carved ivory magic ball and one carved ivory base of three horses.	1
Carved hollow tusk depicting three giraffes.	1
Silver mounted violin bow by Jacques Audinot. Circa 1960.	1
Gold mounted violin, the bow has an ivory head plate.	1
Ivory carving of a male head, with cracks in base and on side of head.	1
Carved ivory horse, circa 1957.one carved Hindu goddess, circa 1957.	1
Carved ivory horses, purchased in United Arab Emirates circa 1971.	7
Certificates, each for one ivory tusk carved with people.	2
Ivory tusk carved with elephants.	1
Walking stick with carved buffalo horn and elephants head mounted on ebony.	1
Elephant tusk with carved animals.	1
Ivory thermometer acquired circa, 1947	1
A metal tea set comprising teapot, sugar bowl and milk jug. Teapot contains ivory, circa 1957	—
Silver jug with rosewood and ivory handle, circa 1957	1
A metal tea set comprising coffee pot and cover, sugar bowl and milk jug. Coffee pot contains ivory.	—
Necklace containing ivory, moonstone and pewter, circa 1972-1973	1
Ivory and silver necklace by Caroline Broadhead with matching earrings, circa 1973	1
Gold and ivory mounted violin bow by Garner Wilson, circa 1970.	1
Nickel mounted child's violin bow with ivory head plate by Morizot Freres. Circa 1950.	1
Silver mounted cello bow, with ivory head plate by Albert Nurnberger	1
Silver mounted cello bow with ivory head plate by Roger Francois Lotte. Circa 1950.	1
Ivory walking stick acquired pre-1972	1
Certificates, each for one carved ivory knife acquired pre-1972	2
Certificates, each for one carved ivory crocodile acquired pre-1972	5
Carved ivory figure of a woman acquired pre-1972	1
Carved ivory tusk with a number of figures acquired pre-1972	1
Carved ivory head acquired pre-1972	1
Carved ivory ornament acquired pre-1972	1
Certificates, each for one small elephant tusk with small leaves carved at the lip end.	2
A thirty two piece ivory chess set, circa 1960.	—
Ivory pieces.	—
Certificates, each for one ivory tusk.	2
Certificates, each for one juvenile elephant tusk.	2
Certificates, each for one elephant tusk	17
Worked ivory tusk depicting five elephants moving through bush.	1
Certificates, each for one silver mounted ivory tusk.	2
Certificates, each for two uncarved ivory tusks mounted on a wooden plinth with a gong.	2
Portions of elephant tusks in stands.	2
Carved elephant tusk.	1
Unworked elephant tusk with branded markings.	1

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in each of the last three years. [69093]

Barry Gardiner: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department records expenditure as either for the UK or other countries. The core Department and most of its agencies differentiate between overnight accommodation costs and other travel expenses.

			£000
(a) Civil Servants	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
UK	345	326	513
Abroad	474	570	603
(b) Special Advisers			
UK	1,220	2,044	2,487
Abroad	698	702	910

Note:
These figures exclude the Rural Payments Agency and the Central Science Laboratory.

Payment Schemes

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claims for the Single Payment Scheme were submitted by 31 May; and what proportion this represents of claims for entitlements made in 2005. [76360]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The information is as follows:

103,005 applications were received by 31 May.

120,367 applications were received for 2005 (this is up to the final deadline on 10 June 2005).

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what budget sum he has allocated for payments under *(a)* Entry Level Stewardship, *(b)* Higher Level Stewardship, *(c)* Hill Farm Allowance and *(d)* all other environmental and rural development policies for 2006-07. [76362]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The current planned budget sum to cover payments for these schemes, which form part of the England Rural Development Programme (including domestic and European funds) during 2006-07, is:

	£ million
Entry Level Stewardship (includes Organic Entry Level Stewardship)	66
Higher Level Stewardship	3
Other environmental and rural development policies which come under the umbrella of the England Rural Development Programme	[1]342.7

[1] Includes Countryside Stewardship Scheme, Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme, Energy Crops Scheme, Organic Farming Scheme, Woodland Grant Scheme, Farm Woodland and Farm Woodland Premium Scheme Rural Enterprise Scheme, Vocational Training Scheme and Processing and Marketing Grant.

Due to the nature of Entry and Higher Level Stewardship, payments commence some time after agreements are entered into. Consequently, the value of payments shown above for 2006-07 reflects scheme uptake activity from the previous financial year (2005-06).

Arrangements for the Hill Farm Allowance for this financial year are currently being considered, in light of the recently closed public consultation on support for upland areas.

The transition between the current and new England Rural Development Programme takes place on 1 January 2007. Funding arrangements from 2007 onwards are currently being discussed within government. The above figures should be seen as indicative only until these discussions have concluded.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claimants have received interim payments of less than 80 per cent. under the Single Farm Payment arrangements since April 2005. [76605]

Barry Gardiner: All partial payments under the Single Payment scheme have been calculated at a rate of 80 per cent. However, the calculation took account of data held in RPA's validation system at a specific point in time, which in some cases meant payment was reduced to reflect late claim penalties.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1311W, to the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster), on single farm payments, *(a)* on what basis and *(b)* in what form data on regional farm payments is held. [77043]

Barry Gardiner: Details of payments made in England up to 30 June 2006, including by constituency and county, will be published in due course.

Poultry Culling

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the agreed levels of poultry culling capability are; when these levels were agreed; what methods of poultry culling have been agreed; and what the poultry culling capacity was in each month since January 2001. [76338]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no formally agreed levels of poultry culling capability. However, there are a range of culling methods available to the state veterinary service. These include maceration (for day old chicks only), lethal injection, neck dislocation, percussion killers, gassing in containers, whole-house gassing and, as a last resort when no other method is practicable, ventilation shutdown.

Killing capacity has been progressively increased over the last two years through the establishment of contingency contracts with catchers and equipment suppliers. Capacity has been further increased since January 2006 through the development of a system based on the gassing of poultry in containers using a mixture of argon and carbon dioxide; the Department has commissioned 50 of these units, each capable of killing 2,000 chickens per hour. In addition, we have purchased a number of percussion killers for use on larger birds and plan to further increase our capability to gas poultry in their sheds.

However, it is not possible to state the total killing capacity per month because this figure depends on a variety of factors. These include the age and species of poultry, the housing system, the size, location, quantity and geographic spread of the affected holdings, and the availability of catchers, gas and resources.

Rural Payments Agency

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Rural Payments Agency, *(b)* farmers' unions and *(c)* the European Commission on the use of partial payments to farmers in England for the Single Payment Scheme for 2006. [71531]

Barry Gardiner: Arrangements for the 2006 Single Payment Scheme, including the possible use of partial payments, are discussed regularly at the fortnightly meetings that my noble Friend Lord Rooker, and the Interim Chief Executive of the Rural Payments Agency have with industry leaders. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has also had a useful discussion on the issue with the Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner, Mariann Fischer Boel.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* permanent staff and *(b)* temporary staff were employed by the Rural Payments Agency in each month since October 2001 expressed in terms of (i) actual staff numbers and (ii) full-time equivalent staff; and if he will make a statement. [71536]

Barry Gardiner: The following tables show the staff numbers, broken down as requested.

Staff Employed by RPA in each month since October 2001

	2001-02					
	October	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
Permanent	2,940	2,950	2,915	2,904	2,934	2,954
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	70	77	93	110	126	149
Casuals	231	252	278	290	270	248
Total (Actual Staff numbers)	3,341	3,279	3,286	3,304	3,330	3,351
Permanent	2,845.28	2,839.25	2,801.31	2,788.97	2,816.02	2,834.72

Staff Employed by RPA in each month since October 2001

2001-02

	October	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	70.27	76.81	92.55	108.91	124.91	146.88
Casuals	230.81	249.73	275.27	287.00	268.00	246.05
Total (Full-time equivalent)	3,146.36	3,165.79	3,169.13	3,184.88	3,208.93	3,227.66

Note:
During this period the Intervention Board (IBEA) amalgamated with the Rural Development Service (RDS)

2002-03

	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
Permanent	2,935	2,902	2,868	2,830	2,828	2,811
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	187	208	213	212	213	211
Casuals	265	255	278	358	364	399
Total (Actual Staff numbers)	3,387	3,365	3,359	3,400	3,405	3,421
Permanent	2,816.39	2,782.36	2,759.32	2,719.02	2,715.03	2,699.59
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	184.30	204.78	210.54	209.54	209.78	209.78
Casuals	263.22	252.82	276.20	355.42	361.23	397.09
Total (Full-time equivalent)	3,263.91	3,239.97	3,246.06	3,283.98	3,286.05	3,306.46

	October	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
Permanent	2,796	2,782	2,761	2,757	2,752	2,741
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	250	282	311	311	348	379
Casuals	334	393	373	363	359	339
Total (Actual Staff numbers)	3,380	3,457	3,445	3,431	3,459	3,459
Permanent	2,683.14	2,675.05	2,649.30	2,645.26	2,638.22	2,627.69
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	247.05	278.67	307.48	307.48	344.48	375.29
Casuals	331.59	390.49	370.55	359.55	354.90	335.99
Total (Full-time equivalent)	3,261.79	3,344.21	3,327.33	3,312.29	3,337.60	3,338.97

2003-04

	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
Permanent	2,717	2,680	2,677	2,637	2,611	3,076
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	379	382	387	454	467	495
Casuals	303	280	291	314	310	318
Total (Actual Staff numbers)	3,399	3,342	3,355	3,405	3,388	3,889
Permanent	2,605.16	2,567.80	2,565.33	2,524.84	2,499.17	2,948.51
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	374.90	377.90	382.44	449.25	462.17	489.96
Casuals	300.25	277.60	286.70	310.89	307.08	315.21
Total (Full-time equivalent)	3,280.31	3,223.30	3,234.47	3,284.98	3,268.42	3,753.68

	October	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
Permanent	3,058	3,025	3,003	2,982	2,972	2,962
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	499	490	492	488	516	507
Casuals	274	276	304	315	312	321
Total (Actual Staff numbers)	3,831	3,791	3,799	3,785	3,800	3,790
Permanent	2,925.31	2,890.04	2,868.36	2,847.48	2,835.56	2,819.40
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	494.42	485.78	488.17	483.85	511.70	502.12
Casuals	271.60	274.06	300.20	311.20	307.25	316.28
Total (Full-time equivalent)	3,691.33	3,649.88	3,656.73	3,642.53	3,654.51	3,637.80

Note:
The large rise in staff numbers between August and September is due to the amalgamation of BCMS into RPA

2004-05

	April	May	June	July	August	September
Permanent	2,944	2,916	2,900	2,894	2,889	2,874
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	501	467	464	479	482	465
Casuals	323	323	339	380	424	436
Total (Actual Staff numbers)	3,768	3,706	3,703	3,753	3,795	3,775
Permanent	2,802.82	2,776.96	2,764.02	2,758.97	2,753.95	2,738.76
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	496.19	460.75	457.35	470.55	473.71	455.65
Casuals	317.82	318.21	334.22	375.93	420.19	431.78
Total (Full-time equivalent)	3,616.83	3,555.92	3,555.58	3,605.45	3,647.85	3,626.20

	October	November	December	January	February	March
Permanent	2,838	2,824	2,791	2,751	2,718	2,695
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	437	426	422	417	403	399
Casuals	449	458	486	502	509	512
Total (Actual Staff numbers)	3,724	3,708	3,699	3,670	3,630	3,606
Permanent	2,700.93	2,685.32	2,651.86	2,611.94	2,581.54	2,560.12
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	427.36	416.53	411.98	406.73	393.67	389.62
Casuals	443.86	451.57	479.57	495.57	502.62	[illegible]24
Total (Full-time equivalent)	3,572.15	3,553.41	3,543.40	3,514.24	3,477.83	3,454.98

2005-06

	April	May	June	July	August	September
Permanent	2,654	2,579	2,527	2,524	2,325	2,290
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	376	357	345	340	295	292
Casuals	515	539	531	576	526	505
Total (Actual Staff numbers)	3,545	3,475	3,403	3,440	3,146	3,087
Permanent	2,521.10	2,449.90	2,399.95	2,396.33	2,209.98	2,174.03
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	367.61	349.37	337.77	333.69	289.20	286.20
Casuals	508.91	534.42	525.92	567.84	521.04	501.32
Total (Full-time equivalent)	3,397.62	3,333.69	3,263.63	3,297.86	3,020.21	2,961.55

	October	November	December	January	February	March
Permanent	2,278	2,262	2,250	2,230	2,235	2,312
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	286	281	280	277	307	314
Casuals	489	571	592	588	591	591
Total (Actual Staff numbers)	3,053	3,114	3,122	3,095	3,133	3,217
Permanent	2,160.84	2,142.79	2,129.95	2,110.66	2,112.26	2,187.72
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	280.09	275.13	273.29	270.24	300.01	307.01
Casuals	480.69	548.84	559.80	557.78	561.04	563.18
Total (Full-time equivalent)	2,921.62	2,966.76	2,963.03	2,938.68	2,973.31	3,057.90

2006-07

	April	May
Permanent	2,301	2,348
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	295	322
Casuals	577	565
Total (Actual Staff numbers)	3,173	3,235
Permanent	2,174.85	2,219.31
FTA (Fixed Term Appointments)	287.41	314.41
Casuals	550.19	538.61
Total (Full-time equivalent)	3,012.44	3,072.33

Note:
The rise in staff numbers between April and May is due to the amalgamation of Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate (HMI) and Defra's Investigation Branch (IB) into RPA.

Single Farm Payments

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the delay in single farm payments upon feed merchants; and if he will make a statement. [73410]

Barry Gardiner: Feed merchants are, to varying effects, likely to be affected by the cash-flow issues faced by farming business waiting for receipt of payments under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS). Over £1.3 billion, representing 89 per cent. of the total value of such payments, has been disbursed and the Rural Payments Agency remains focused on paying the outstanding sums as soon as possible for the benefit of all concerned.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Rural Payments Agency made of the efficiency of the *(a)* historic system and *(b)* regional average area system of calculation for the Single Payment Scheme prior to the implementation of the Single Payment Scheme; and what such assessment the Agency has undertaken since undertaking the implementation of the Single Payment Scheme. [66707]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency contributed to the advice supplied to Ministers before the decision was taken to adopt the flat rate model of the Single Payment Scheme. That advice pointed to a greater degree of challenge in implementing a flat rate, as opposed to a historical, model of the SPS, but at no point was any suggestion made that the chosen model was undeliverable. Given that EU regulations required member states implementing the SPS in 2005 to notify the Commission of their chosen models by 1 August 2004, subsequent assessment of different models would not serve any practical purpose.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average Single Farm Payment is for England; and if he will make a statement. [76026]

Barry Gardiner: As at 6 June 2006 the number of full and partial payments made under the Single Payment Scheme was 96,000, with a total value of £1.33 billion.

The average payment based on the above values is £14,000.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many recipients of single farm payments have yet to receive any payment, broken down by county area. [76044]

Barry Gardiner: The total number of single payment scheme customers is approximately 120,000. As at 6 June 2006, 24,000 customers had not received either a full or partial payment.

Details of payments made in England up to 30 June 2006, including by constituency and county, will be published in due course.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects all single farm payments will have been made in full. [76181]

Barry Gardiner: The payment window for the 2006 Single Payment Scheme opens on 1 December 2006 and runs until 30 June 2007.

The Rural Payments Agency is working hard to ensure that payments are made as soon as possible within this time frame. Staff have already started basic validation checks on a proportion of the 2006 application forms.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that farmers who have now received their single farm payments will receive interest due on the delayed payments. [76183]

Barry Gardiner: The question of interest arises only in respect of payments made after the legal deadline of 30 June. We have not reached that point yet and I do not want to deflect the Rural Payments Agency in the interim period from concentrating on its main priority, which is to ensure that outstanding payments are made as soon as possible.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the European Commission on the UK Government's implementation of the Single Farm Payment Scheme. [76186]

Barry Gardiner: The Department and the European Commission are in regular contact in order to help further our common interest in ensuring that the Single Payment Scheme is implemented as smoothly as possible.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the extent to which the dynamic hybrid system has contributed to the delays in the Single Payment Scheme. [66709]

Barry Gardiner: Experience among member states implementing the Single Payment Scheme in 2005 has indicated that there is a greater degree of challenge in implementing flat rate models. However, the precise timing of payments in each member state will have been dependent on a range of factors.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what processes and for what reasons the decision was reached to use a dynamic hybrid system of calculation for the single payment scheme. [66713]

Barry Gardiner: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South explained her reasons for adopting the flat rate model of the Single Payment Scheme when she announced that decision on 12 February 2004, *Official Report*, column 1585. This followed analysis of advice and supporting data from officials, responses to a public consultation document and discussions with stakeholders.

Tendring Hundred Water Company

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent to which Tendring Hundred Water Co. is conserving water during the present drought. [76205]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency's report, "Drought Prospects 2006—Spring Update", explains the likely consequences of a continuing rainfall deficit and recommends action by water companies. The report recommends that water companies in Norfolk and Suffolk should monitor their water resources carefully and be prepared to take further steps to manage supply and demand if the drought intensifies. This report is available from the Agency's website:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

Each water company has specific plans to manage short-term water shortages depending on the severity of a drought. These drought plans are a statutory requirement, and also subject to public consultation. A consultation on Tendring Hundred Water services draft drought plan is currently in progress. This can be viewed on the company's website at:

http://www.thws.co.uk/

Water Shortages

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to meet water companies to discuss the issue of leaks; and what guidance his Department has issued to water companies on leakages. [74783]

Ian Pearson: The Secretary of State and I met with representatives of the water industry, including water companies, on 1 June. Leakage reduction was discussed and a commitment was reached to keep leakage targets—set by the Economic Regulator—under review, taking account of costs, technology and best practice. All parties are set to meet again before the end of the year.

Ofwat is responsible for leakage target setting and enforcement. A Leakage Study commissioned jointly by Ofwat, the Environment Agency and Defra was published in March 2003, and all water companies were asked by Ofwat to update their appraisals of leakage in line with best practice identified in the study. Ofwat assesses the leakage appraisals to ensure that water companies meet the best practice principles identified in the report.

The study is available at: http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/aptrix/ofwat/publish.nsf/Content/tripartitestudycontents.

Water Supplies

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the leakage of water in each water supply company region in each financial year since 1997. [76452]

Ian Pearson: Water company leakage figures are published annually by the water services regulation authority (publicly known as Ofwat) in the 'Security of supply, leakage and the efficient use of water' reports. Total water company leakage for each year since 1996-97, in megalitres per day, was reported as follows:

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Anglian	242	240	206	190	194	224	192	216	214
Bournemouth and W Hants	29	26	26	23	23	22	22	22	22
Bristol	65	59	56	54	55	55	53	53	53
Cambridge	16	14	13	13	13	14	14	14	14
Dee Valley	13	12	12	13	12	11	11	10	11
Dwr Cymru	357	329	306	288	260	224	192	216	214
Folkestone and Dover	12	9	9	8	9	8	8	8	8
Mid Kent	38	36	30	29	29	29	28	30	29
Northumbrian North	192	184	171	168	164	161	153	160	155
Northumbrian South	85	82	76	73	72	73	67	70	67
Portsmouth	31	32	31	30	30	30	30	30	30
Severn Trent[1]	479	399	344	340	340	340	514	512	502
South East	99	108	98	97	85	75	72	69	69
South Staffordshire	90	82	77	76	72	71	71	71	74
South West	129	101	92	84	84	83	84	84	83
Southern	113	99	95	93	92	92	92	92	92
Sutton and East Surrey	27	26	25	24	24	24	24	24	24
Tendring	6	6	6	5	6	5	5	5	5
Thames	108	906	770	662	688	865	943	946	915
Three Valleys	199	172	157	145	140	157	152	152	149
United Utilities	666	579	510	487	463	452	465	479	500
Wessex	129	110	100	88	84	79	75	75	73
Yorkshire	430	377	342	317	304	297	296	295	293

[1] In spring 2003, Severn Trent Water revised its water balance data. The company attributed most of the increase in leakage to methodological changes.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Building Bulletin 100

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on progress with the Building Bulletin 100 review. [77455]

Jim Knight: Public consultation on Building Bulletin (BB) 100, "Designing and Managing Against the Risk of Fire in Schools", concluded in November last year. There were 66 responses to the 12 questions asked and many included additional comments, some extensive. An analysis of these responses has been completed and will shortly be published on the Department's website. This feedback has now been incorporated into a new draft of BB 100, which is being internally reviewed. We hope to publish the final, agreed version before the end of this year.

Class Sizes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on class sizes in the London borough of Havering. [75443]

Jim Knight: Information on class sizes in Havering local authority area is given in the table. This shows that the average size of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes has decreased since 2002. The average size of classes in secondary schools has remained the same.

Classes taught by one teacher in maintained primary schools (by Key Stage 1 and 2) and secondary schools[1,2,3]—position in January each year: 2002 to 2006 (provisional)—Havering local authority area

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006 (provisional)*
Key Stage 1 classes[4]					
Average class size	26.6	26.7	26.6	26.1	26.2
Number of classes	294	291	273	284	277
Percentage of classes with:					
1-30 pupils	99.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.9
31 or more pupils	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Number of pupils	7,823	7,762	7,268	7,416	7,249
Percentage of pupils in classes with:					
1-30 pupils	99.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.7
31 or more pupils[5]	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
Key Stage 2 classes					
Average class size	27.5	27.5	27.6	27.3	26.8
Number of classes	402	392	368	384	390
Percentage of classes with:					
1-30 pupils	71.9	77.6	80.2	81.8	87.2
31 or more pupils	28.1	22.4	19.8	18.2	12.8
Number of pupils	11,058	10,764	10,159	10,501	10,434
Percentage of pupils in classes with:					
1-30 pupils	67.2	73.7	77.3	78.4	84.7
31 or more pupils	32.8	26.3	22.7	21.6	15.3
Classes in primary schools					
Average class size	27.1	27.1	27.1	26.7	26.5
Number of classes	719	706	686	692	686
Percentage of classes with:					
1-30 pupils	83.2	87.0	88.0	89.2	91.7
31 or more pupils	16.8	13.0	12.0	10.8	8.3
Number of pupils	19,506	19,137	18,613	18,509	18,181
Percentage of pupils in classes with:					
1-30 pupils	79.9	84.4	85.8	86.8	89.9
31 or more pupils	20.1	15.6	14.2	13.2	10.1
Classes in secondary schools					
Average class size	21.8	21.7	22.0	21.9	21.8
Number of classes	709	731	732	724	708
Percentage of classes with:					
1-30 pupils	94.6	94.1	94.4	93.2	92.5
31 or more pupils	5.4	5.9	5.6	6.8	7.5
Number of pupils	15,457	15,878	16,087	15,846	15,399

Classes taught by one teacher in maintained primary schools (by Key Stage 1 and 2) and secondary schools[1,2,3]—position in January each year: 2002 to 2006 (provisional)—Havering local authority area

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (provisional)
Percentage of pupils in classes with:					
1-30 pupils	92.2	91.4	91.9	90.2	89.2
31 or more pupils	7.8	8.6	8.1	9.8	10.8

[1] Classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] For secondary schools, excludes sixth form colleges.
[4] Includes reception classes.
[5] Key Stage 1 classes of 31 or more may contain pupils who have been admitted as exceptions.
Source:
Schools' Census

Education Act 1996 (Prosecutions)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many prosecutions were brought under section 7 of the Education Act 1996 in the last year for which figures are available; and how many such prosecutions involved children with cerebral palsy. [76949]

Jim Knight: Home Office data for 2004, the latest year for which figures are available, show 8,140 prosecutions in England and Wales under the Education Act 1996. These include:

3,393 prosecutions for truancy under section 444(1);

1,091 prosecutions for truancy under section 444(1A) (the aggravated offence);

3,654 prosecutions for various offences under the Education Act. These are likely to include some prosecutions under sections 444(1) and (1A); and

two prosecutions for child employment offences.

Prosecutions related to section 7 for truancy are brought under section 444 of the Act. Information is not collected on the characteristics of pupils or their families.

Examinations

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which organisations are permitted to submit *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level examinations for approval by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. [76235]

Jim Knight: The awarding bodies AQA, Edexcel and OCR are the only organisations that currently submit GCSE and A-level specifications to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), which regulates qualifications in England. Any other organisations that wished to submit such a specification would have to show that it could abide by the relevant regulations.

Information and Communication Technology

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress the e-Strategy Programme Board is making on integrating the use of IT in education; and if he will make a statement. [76124]

Jim Knight: The Department established a high level Technology Group in October 2005 to oversee the system wide implementation of the e-Strategy in England. The Department is supported in this role by the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (Becta), and the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC)—lead delivery partners for the e-Strategy.

The e-Strategy is being delivered through four interlinked transformational programmes:

Strategic Technologies—strategic and cost effective deployment of technological infrastructure.

E-Maturity—building people and institutional capacity for effective use of technology.

Personalised Content—multimedia resources adaptable to learners' needs and learning styles.

Knowledge Architecture—improving the way in which information is shared and managed to support more personalised learning.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was allocated to schools for the purchase of information community technology equipment in each year since 1997. [76161]

Phil Hope: There was no specific funding allocated for the purchase of ICT equipment in 1997. ICT funding allocations for schools in England in each year from 1998 to 2006 are detailed in 'Funding for ICT in Schools in England' which is available in the House Library.

From 2006-07 we have moved to a new method of funding for ICT equipment and there is no specific amount for ICT. The amounts previously allocated specifically for ICT have been included in allocations for Devolved Formula Capital and School Development Grant. Schools may use their overall resources, including their Devolved Formula Capital grant and their Schools Development Grant, to purchase ICT equipment and services. This supports schools in their financial management and provides greater flexibility on how they spend funding to target their priorities.

Maintained Schools

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many maintained schools in England offered *(a)* general and *(b)* vocational qualifications at level 3 or above in the national qualifications framework to pupils in the fourth key stage in the latest year for which figures are available. [76493]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on whether schools offer level 3 qualifications to pupils in Key Stage 4.

School Fires

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the annual cost of fires in schools was in each year since 1995. [77454]

Jim Knight: The earliest figures we have from the Department for Communities and Local Government are for 2000 and the latest are for 2004. These cover school fires in England and Wales.

	Number—fires	*Total costs (£ million)*
2000	1,275	45
2001	1,529	67
2002	1,332	67
2003	1,313	61
2004	1,291	52

The costs are rounded to the nearest million and are derived from the (then) ODPM publication "Economic Cost of Fire, estimates for 2004". They cover property damage and the costs of the fire and rescue services attending the fires.

School Sprinkler Systems

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the average additional cost of sprinkler systems in new school buildings built by local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [77456]

Jim Knight: Last autumn, the Department commissioned the Building Research Establishment to carry out a cost benefit analysis study of installing sprinklers in schools. This will include a quantitative assessment of the costs and benefits of fitting automatic fire suppression systems in new schools, based on actual system costs and proposed system costs. It should therefore provide reliable figures for the costs of installing sprinklers in schools.

The study is continuing and we expect to receive the final report within two months.

School Uniform Grants

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which local authorities do not provide school uniform grants. [76723]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected by the Department for Education and Skills.

Science Laboratories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the recall of funding promised for science laboratories. [62969]

Jim Knight: Capital investment underpins the Government's drive to raise standards of education and we are fully committed to taking forward our programme to renew and improve all schools. Funding for investment in schools is £6.8 billion this year and it will rise to over £8 billion by 2010-11. This compares to under £700 million in 1996-97.

Our aims include rebuilding or renewing all secondary schools through the Building Schools for the Future programme, including their science laboratories, in fifteen waves of investment which started last year. Already about 350 schools have been prioritised in the first three waves, and we aim to include up to a further 600 schools in the next three waves. We also aim to have 200 Academies open or in the pipeline by 2010. In all, by 2010 almost a third of all secondary schools will be funded to improve their science teaching facilities.

Building Schools for the Future is only one of our capital programmes, and is allocated just over a third of the total capital funding for schools. All schools and authorities get additional funding for their priorities. This includes the funding which schools get directly—a typical secondary school will get over £100,000 of its own money this year, which can be rolled over to allow larger projects such as science facilities to be addressed.

We are providing the resources to improve school laboratories where this is the priority. What is now important is to ensure that the new laboratories are designed not just to teach the curriculum, but that they have 21st century facilities and are inspiring places to teach and to learn. Our aim is to enthuse pupils with an interest in science, both as a subject and a possible career. Therefore we are planning shortly to launch a "School Science Labs of the Future" project which will bring together teams of leading designers and bodies with specialist interest in, and practical knowledge of, the teaching and learning of science to develop a range of exemplar designs. The most exciting of these will be built in schools around the country so that there is a range of practical examples to act as benchmarks and to disseminate the learning.

Although this is over a longer timescale, we believe that this is the best way of ensuring comprehensively that all young people have the opportunity to learn in high quality facilities which inspire them to pursue their dreams and achieve their potential, and not be turned off by science.

Standards Fund Grant

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the value was of Standards Fund Grant 31a in each year of its existence, broken down by local education authority. [76160]

Phil Hope: Standards Fund Grant 31a existed in 2004-05 and 2005-06. The following table shows the allocations to local authorities in those years (including local authority matched funding).

Grant 31a

LEA name	*DfES grant*	*LA*	*£ Total*
Corporation of London	25,369	23,289	48,659
Camden	638,246	323,313	961,558
Greenwich	929,030	478,680	1,407,709
Hackney	741,338	377,522	1,118,860
Hammersmith and Fulham	514,969	257,240	772,209
Islington	636,481	339,437	975,919

Grant 31a

LEA name	DfES grant	LA	£ Total
Kensington and Chelsea	318,385	165,495	483,879
Lambeth	762,731	413,268	1,175,999
Lewisham	938,417	496,180	1,434,597
Southwark	945,383	508,762	1,454,144
Tower Hamlets	1,034,421	523,747	1,558,168
Wandsworth	785,307	412,339	1,197,646
Westminster	552,410	286,569	838,979
Barking	706,361	380,404	1,086,764
Barnet	1,264,921	667,714	1,932,634
Bexley	974,821	517,191	1,492,012
Brent	964,198	511,352	1,475,550
Bromley	1,185,425	629,196	1,814,622
Croydon	1,333,569	691,847	2,025,416
Ealing	1,015,701	538,310	1,554,011
Enfield	1,194,542	611,064	1,805,606
Haringey	867,567	457,988	1,325,554
Harrow	735,539	394,189	1,129,727
Havering	926,259	509,400	1,435,658
Hillingdon	1,014,820	544,709	1,559,530
Hounslow	890,057	478,190	1,368,248
Kingston upon Thames	520,790	284,070	804,860
Merton	565,146	309,081	874,228
Newham	1,155,307	593,878	1,749,184
Redbridge	1,022,492	528,252	1,550,744
Richmond upon Thames	521,472	278,096	799,569
Sutton	710,360	387,731	1,098,091
Waltham Forest	887,501	488,531	1,376,031
Birmingham	4,638,095	2,451,247	7,089,342
Coventry	1,300,932	687,708	1,988,640
Dudley	1,272,967	673,680	1,946,647
Sandwell	1,270,530	697,660	1,968,190
Solihull	964,300	515,823	1,480,124
Walsall	1,216,430	665,402	1,881,832
Wolverhampton	1,087,966	576,668	1,664,633
Knowsley	728,071	402,322	1,130,392
Liverpool	2,018,060	1,094,479	3,112,539
St. Helens	749,709	408,775	1,158,483
Sefton	1,229,079	655,585	1,884,665
Wirral	1,416,085	752,729	2,168,814
Bolton	1,215,699	667,167	1,882,866
Bury	752,860	425,238	1,178,099
Manchester	1,784,035	966,541	2,750,576
Oldham	1,089,744	607,776	1,697,519
Rochdale	926,326	509,051	1,435,377
Salford	942,423	521,403	1,463,826
Stockport	1,136,873	623,703	1,760,575
Tameside	956,565	537,417	1,493,982
Trafford	929,567	513,540	1,443,108
Wigan	1,308,022	733,488	2,041,510
Barnsley	878,071	505,103	1,383,174
Doncaster	1,362,660	782,926	2,145,586
Rotherham	1,235,495	690,499	1,925,993
Sheffield	1,950,661	1,044,345	2,995,006
Bradford	2,159,533	1,183,949	3,343,483
Calderdale	937,365	540,475	1,477,841
Kirklees	1,702,939	974,683	2,677,622
Leeds	2,922,458	1,609,268	4,531,726
Wakefield	1,355,390	767,751	2,123,141

Grant 31a

LEA name	DfES grant	LA	£ Total
Gateshead	821,693	449,973	1,271,666
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,022,205	539,405	1,561,610
North Tyneside	837,885	437,251	1,275,136
South Tyneside	680,295	368,275	1,048,571
Sunderland	1,222,967	650,513	1,873,481
Isles of Scilly	35,655	31,495	67,150
Bath and North East Somerset	716,583	414,963	1,131,545
Bristol	1,348,544	733,240	2,081,785
North Somerset	742,045	432,521	1,174,567
South Gloucestershire	1,089,066	619,371	1,708,437
Hartlepool	404,872	222,860	627,733
Middlesborough	592,233	313,079	905,312
Redcar and Cleveland	642,454	365,796	1,008,249
Stockton-on-Tees	838,411	450,049	1,288,460
Kingston-upon-Hull	1,029,032	557,049	1,586,080
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,402,450	846,846	2,249,296
North East Lincolnshire	701,278	401,114	1,102,392
North Lincolnshire	724,524	430,809	1,155,333
North Yorkshire	2,882,150	1,805,887	4,688,036
York	678,009	370,565	1,048,574
Bedfordshire	1,797,038	1,079,807	2,876,845
Luton	874,341	436,264	1,310,606
Buckinghamshire	2,052,075	1,216,068	3,268,142
Milton Keynes	919,597	536,020	1,455,617
Derbyshire	3,205,782	1,946,675	5,152,456
Derby City	939,661	532,578	1,472,239
Dorset	1,563,515	945,506	2,509,022
Poole	485,524	260,453	745,976
Bournemouth	515,095	270,055	785,150
Durham	2,288,822	1,341,944	3,630,767
Darlington	404,870	232,427	637,296
East Sussex	1,825,665	1,045,406	2,871,071
Brighton and Hove	790,827	418,483	1,209,309
Hampshire	4,779,980	2,777,432	7,557,412
Portsmouth	707,634	375,228	1,082,862
Southampton	803,848	436,288	1,240,136
Leicestershire	2,598,077	1,521,606	4,119,683
Leicester City	1,260,350	654,614	1,914,963
Rutland	149,431	91,187	240,618
Staffordshire	3,549,366	2,067,269	5,616,635
Stoke-on-Trent	958,068	533,096	1,491,163
Wiltshire	1,942,709	1,222,358	3,165,067
Swindon	750,976	438,539	1,189,516
Bracknell Forest	379,752	213,549	593,301
Windsor and Maidenhead	523,443	307,317	830,760
West Berkshire	706,540	423,433	1,129,973
Reading	478,401	250,418	728,820
Slough	522,917	274,341	797,258
Wokingham	628,608	353,822	982,431
Cambridgeshire	2,157,879	1,316,880	3,474,759
Peterborough	767,752	435,346	1,203,098
Cheshire	2,928,886	1,726,983	4,655,869
Halton	558,327	308,711	867,037
Warrington	821,924	461,644	1,283,569
Devon	2,904,378	1,798,577	4,702,954

Grant 31a

LEA name	*DfES grant*	*LA*	£ *Total*
Plymouth	1,065,968	570,687	1,636,654
Torbay	475,486	261,024	736,509
Essex	5,424,368	3,123,529	8,547,896
Southend-on-Sea	664,733	361,449	1,026,182
Thurrock	584,031	330,670	914,701
Herefordshire	780,095	492,828	1,272,922
Worcestershire	2,247,542	1,328,330	3,575,872
Kent	5,731,717	3,274,868	9,006,586
Medway	1,104,758	624,246	1,729,003
Lancashire	5,036,448	2,943,831	7,980,280
Blackburn with Darwen	660,125	370,570	1,030,695
Blackpool	523,934	275,150	799,085
Nottinghamshire	3,162,661	1,864,656	5,027,318
Nottingham City	1,060,407	588,632	1,649,040
Shropshire	1,238,181	781,591	2,019,773
Telford and Wrekin	1,284,034	972,846	2,256,880
Cornwall	2,169,031	1,332,816	3,501,847
Cumbria	2,418,583	1,518,508	3,937,091
Gloucestershire	2,516,819	1,517,105	4,033,923
Hertfordshire	4,605,862	2,701,081	7,306,942
Isle of Wight	590,765	349,885	940,649
Lincolnshire	2,977,721	1,833,022	4,810,743
Norfolk	3,425,700	2,125,199	5,550,898
Northamptonshire	2,865,912	1,721,213	4,587,125
Northumberland	1,542,598	954,543	2,497,141
Oxfordshire	2,470,822	1,462,164	3,932,987
Somerset	2,154,983	1,307,743	3,462,727
Suffolk	2,964,114	1,769,284	4,733,397
Surrey	3,689,521	2,114,442	5,803,964
Warwickshire	2,149,805	1,263,875	3,413,681
West Sussex	2,851,475	1,629,395	4,480,871
Total	208,110,851	118,650,000	326,760,851

Student Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the total value of payments made by people repaying student loans via the income contingent repayment model but not allocated to student loan accounts has been for each year since 2002; [75322]

(2) what total amount of payments collected via the income contingent model was not allocated to student loan accounts in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [75323]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 1 June 2006.

Student Income and Expenditure Survey

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he plans to repeat the Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2002-03. [75229]

Bill Rammell: The most current Student Income and Expenditure Survey was carried out in the 2004-05 academic year and was published on the 30 March. It can be found on the internet at: www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR725.pdf. The Department plans to repeat the survey in the 2007-08 academic year.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

2012 Olympics

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding she estimates will be spent on improving hotel facilities for the 2012 London Olympics. [76941]

Mr. Woodward: Improving the quality of the UK's hotels, and other visitor accommodation, is a key aim for my Department and its partners in the tourism sector. The grading schemes operated in England, Scotland, and Wales are central to that process of improvement, and to consumer certainty in the quality of the British tourism product.

VisitBritain's net expenditure on accommodation quality grading work in 2005-06 was £2,374,600 (after Value Added Tax). This figure represents payments to the Quality in Tourism division of GSL, which operates VisitBritain's quality scheme under contract, less participation fees received. These figures will change over time, but it is likely that a net minimum of £12.5 million will be spent on the quality scheme by VisitBritain from its grant in aid resources over the life of the 5 year contract, to 2010. VisitScotland and the Wales Tourist Board additionally invest significant amounts in their own quality schemes, which have been fully standardised with those of VisitBritain and the Automobile Association since May 2005.

My Department will shortly start a major consultation of the tourism sector, to inform a comprehensive strategy for making the most of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games of 2012. Funding for any new work on accommodation quality, which may arise as a result of that consultation, will be considered before the tourism strategy is issued.

British Slave Trade

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations have received Government funding for events relating to the 200th anniversary of the Act which abolished the British slave trade; and what events and activities are planned. [77449]

Mr. Lammy: Among other support, my Department is contributing £250,000 per year to the new International Slavery Museum in Liverpool, due to open in 2007. In addition, museums in Hull, Bristol, Liverpool and London will, by 2008, have received £910,000 from my Department and DfES to encourage more informed and effective teaching about slavery as part of the Understanding Slavery Initiative education project, working with schools and communities. Many other museums, galleries, arts organisations, heritage sites, archives and libraries are currently planning their contribution and how best to

involve their local communities. There are plans by faith leaders for a commemoration service in Westminster Abbey; and commemorative stamps and coins. The Heritage Lottery Fund has also funded the following community organisations:

Action Force Africa
African Caribbean Emancipation Trust
African Forum
Anti Slavery Arch group, Stroud
Anti Slavery International
Birmingham and District Local History Association
Birmingham City Archives
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (working with The Equiano Society)
Bristol City Council—Bristol Museums and Art Gallery
Diversity Arts Incubation programme
Durham University
Global Education Milton Keynes
Harewood House Trust
High Street Ltd.
Hull Museums and Art Gallery
Kender Primary School
Kingston upon Hull City Council (City Arts)
Lyric Theatre Hammersmith Ltd.
Merton Black Educational Forum
Milton Keynes Council
National Maritime Museum
National Museums Liverpool
Open Doors Forum
Rendezvous of Victory
St. Pauls Church, Mill Hill
Streetbase
Stroud Brunei Group
Trafford Youth Service
Watford African Caribbean Association
Windrush Foundation
Women in Jazz

Consultations

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 979W, on consultations, why the cost of public consultations is not recorded and kept; and if she will now do so. [77196]

Mr. Lammy: The costs and demands of a public consultation can vary considerably, and as such would be difficult to quantify. As an integral part of policy development, the costs associated with public consultations are met from divisional budgets. I have no plans to record or keep the costs of public consultations.

Criminal Offences Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the criminal offences created in legislation sponsored by her Department since April 2005, broken down by Act. [76908]

Mr. Lammy: Criminal offences are created by the following provisions of the Gambling Act 2005:

s.33(1); s.37(1); s.41(1); s.42(1); s.43 (1); S.44(1); s.46(1); s.47(1), (4), (5), (6) and (7); s.48(1); s.49; s.50(1); s.51(1); s.52; s.53; s.54(1) and (2); s.55(1) and (4); s.56(l); s.57 (1); s.58; s.59(1); s.101(6); s.105(3); s.108(2); s.109(4); s.122(5); s.134(2); s.138(3); s.139(2); s.185(2); s.186(6); s.229(2); s.242(1) and (2); s.243(1) and (2); s.244(1); s.245(1); s.258(1); s.259(1); s.260(2); s.261(2); s.262; s.275(7); s.281(7); s.301(2); s.316(5); s.326(1); s.328(5); 5.330(1); s.331(1); s.337(5); 5.342(1); s.345(5); schedule 10 paragraph 20; schedule 12 paragraphs 13(1) and 15(6); schedule 13 paragraph 10(1); schedule 14 paragraph 20.

Members should consult the texts of the Gambling Act 2005 for full details of the offences.

Gaming Machines

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the impact on seaside economies of the freeze in gaming machine stake and prize levels. [77259]

Mr. Caborn: There is no policy to freeze stake and prize limits. We announced in October 2004 that our policy has been to increase the maximum stake for amusement with prizes (AWP) machines from 30p to 50p, and for jackpot machines in bingo halls from 50p to £1. This would be on full implementation of the Gambling Act in September 2007. The Government made their position clear during the passage of the Gambling Bill through Parliament that these changes would need to be connected with measures to improve social responsibility.

The stake and prize limits are only one factor amongst many affecting seaside economies. The Government are conscious of the issues facing the machine manufacturing industry, and the pubs, clubs and entertainment centres to whom AWP machines, in particular, are so important.

Survey Databases

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have been interviewed by her Department as a result of *(a)* Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport and *(b)* surveys undertaken by her Department since 1997. [76230]

Mr. Lammy: The information is as follows.

(a) To date approximately 22,000 people have been interviewed as a result of Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture Leisure and Sport.

The total, annual sample size for this survey will be about 30,000. This large sample size is needed to measure changes of 2-3 percentage points in participation rates with a high degree of confidence (95 per cent.), in support of the Department's Public service agreement target 3.

Until the launch of Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport in 2005, several of our non-departmental public bodies commissioned their own surveys, for example the sport and leisure module within the General Household Survey. Taking

Part is a collaborative cross-sectoral survey and in many cases replaces the need for our partner bodies to undertake additional surveys.

(b) Aside from Taking Part, the main quantitative surveys of members of the public to which the Department has contributed funding comprise:

the International Passenger Survey of 250,000 people a year from 2000-01. This is run by the Office for National Statistics and funded mainly by a consortium of Departments. These data are required to meet requirements of the European Union directive on tourism statistics.

the General Household Survey of 20,000 people a year between 2000-01 and 2004-05, also run by the Office for National Statistics. This provided the Department with data on specific issues such as digital television; and our funding enabled our non-departmental public bodies to commission a more substantial module of questions on sport and leisure; and

several smaller surveys of 7,500 or fewer, which in total amount to about 50,000 interviews since 1997.

Tourism Tax

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* assessment she has made of *and (b)* research she has commissioned on the potential impact that a bed tax on tourist accommodation would have on the tourism industry. [77531]

Mr. Woodward: I have commissioned neither an assessment nor research on the potential impact of a bed tax. Sir Michael Lyons is considering a wide range of local government role and funding issues, including the potential for local taxes and charges. The Government will not take any decisions on changes to local government finance, until it has had the chance to consider and reflect on Sir Michael's report and recommendations, due at the end of 2006. I will fully assess the potential impact of Sir Michael's recommendations once he has made them, as is appropriate in the case of an independent review, and respond accordingly.

TV Licences (Outlets)

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make representations to the BBC in favour of the continued sale of *(a)* television licences and *(b)* television licence saving stamps at post offices. [77450]

Mr. Woodward: Contractual arrangements for the sale of television licences are a matter for the BBC as licensing authority, taking into account both value for money and the convenience of licence fee payers. It would be inappropriate for the Government to intervene in such matters.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assumptions she has made about the future growth of the number of households in assessing the level of the new BBC licence fee. [77533]

Mr. Woodward: The Government are considering this issue as part of the current review of the future funding of the BBC. Our conclusions will be announced in due course.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Budgetary Support (Developing World)

7. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on providing direct budgetary support to Governments in the developing world; and if he will make a statement. [77026]

Hilary Benn: DFID provides budget support—either direct budget support or sector support—to countries where:

the partner Government's planned budget priorities support the reduction of poverty;

there is commitment to strengthening administrative, financial and technical systems so that UK funds help to reduce poverty effectively and where,

giving aid in this way produces benefits that would be unlikely to be achieved through other forms of aid delivery.

Currently, budget support counts for only 25 per cent. of the UK's bilateral aid programme.

HIV/AIDS

8. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the recent UN General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS. [77027]

Hilary Benn: The United Nations General Assembly high level meeting agreed a political declaration which met virtually all of the UK's objectives, including: committing countries to develop, by the end of 2006, ambitious national plans to work towards universal access by 2010; drawing up comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support, with interim targets for 2008; ensuring that no credible, sustainable national plan should go unfunded, recognising the need to provide from donor countries, national budgets and other sources $20-23 billion annually by 2010 for AIDS responses; and intensifying efforts to develop new technology, especially microbicides and vaccines.

Overseas Aid

9. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of UK aid delivered by his Department compared with that channelled via the European Union. [77028]

Mr. Thomas: Evidence shows that the European Commission has improved its effectiveness substantially since 2000, when a major reform programme commenced. Today, delivery is faster, with implementation undertaken by strengthened field offices. The European Commission is also more active internationally, supporting the UK's push for increased aid volumes. However, there is still a case for further reform, with a focus on impact, quality and more devolution.

Climate Change

10. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to assist developing countries to tackle the impact of climate change. [77029]

Hilary Benn: DFID is working to improve the availability and use of climate risk information in Africa through the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), contributing £5 million over 5 years. We have launched a research programme, with Canada, which aims to improve African countries' capacity to adapt to climate change by building a body of knowledge and research skills which can be incorporated into planning processes, contributing £24 million over 5 years. We are contributing £20 million over 3 years through the United Nations to help countries develop national adaptation strategies. We have started to carry out climate risk assessments of DFID country programmes, starting with Bangladesh.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

11. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to support the forthcoming democratic elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [77030]

Hilary Benn: The UK is the largest bilateral donor to the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), providing more than £23 million over 2 years. This is funding electoral operations through the Independent Electoral Commission, conflict prevention and mediation initiatives, international and national observation projects to ensure the equal participation of men and women, and training and equipping the police to provide security during the elections. The UK has also provided important and sustained political pressure to ensure that the transition remains on track and will continue to do so. I hope to visit the DRC after the electoral process is complete in the autumn.

Zimbabwe

12. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian impact of land clearances in Zimbabwe. [77031]

Hilary Benn: DFID liaises closely with UN agencies and NGOs that closely monitor ongoing vulnerability among the 700,000 people whose homes or livelihoods were destroyed by the Government of Zimbabwe during last year's Operation Murambatsvina (Drive out Rubbish). The UN is also investigating new episodes of evictions.

Last year, DFID committed £1.8 million to the humanitarian response, which reached some 200,000 people with food, blankets and other essentials. For many the situation remains difficult, especially regarding shelter. We recently contributed a further £1.1 million to provide practical assistance to vulnerable urban families. We continue to raise concerns through the UN.

Millennium Development Goals

13. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of progress in meeting the millennium development goals for beneficial health outcomes. [77032]

Mr. Thomas: Improvements in health require progress against all MDGs. Progress is mixed; many countries have made significant gains but massive challenges persist in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. On current trends, many poor countries will not meet the goals. Without underestimating the challenges, the means to ensure that every country achieves the goals are available. The task is to live up to the commitments made by G8 leaders in 2005 to support countries efforts to ensure access to essential health services. DFID is currently revising its health strategy to meet this challenge.

Indonesian Earthquake

14. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to his written statement of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 11WS, on the Indonesian earthquake, what further humanitarian assistance his Department plans to provide. [77033]

Hilary Benn: Immediate relief needs during the emergency phase are largely being met, and we have no plans to commit further humanitarian assistance in addition to the £5 million already announced. The Government of Indonesia are now planning for longer term reconstruction. The UK is ready to support longer term reconstruction, and we will decide on the appropriate level of funding on the basis of an assessment of needs.

Bilateral Aid (Water and Sanitation)

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what basis the figures for the proportion of UK bilateral aid spent on water and sanitation are calculated. [76707]

Hilary Benn: DFID commissions an independent report on its expenditure on water and sanitation, including bilateral expenditure and all spend through other agencies. This report, 'Financial Support to the Water Sector', is produced by Atkins Consultants and is publicly available on the DFID website at http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/water-sector-finance.pdf. Copies have also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report provides detailed estimates of how much DFID spends on water and sanitation. It includes spending on programmes and projects for which water and sanitation improvement is the main objective. It also includes estimated proportions of spend for other programmes in education, health etc., where water and sanitation form part of the overall programme. It includes all themes covered by water and sanitation: water resource management, assessment and protection; urban and rural water supply and sanitation; humanitarian assistance; and water for food. It presents a breakdown of expenditure

by region, country, theme and bilateral aid type. Sensitivity analysis of the necessary assumptions is also presented. An update of the report, with details of expenditure for 2004-05 and 2005-06 will be published in autumn 2006.

Burma

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Burma. [77025]

Mr. Thomas: The humanitarian situation in Burma is very poor. Reliable data are scarce, but many of Burma's 50 million people live in serious poverty—a situation exacerbated by the Government's actions. There are reportedly half a million people internally displaced in Eastern Burma, with around 100,000 in hiding in conflict areas, and more than half a million refugees in neighbouring nations. Communicable disease is an acute problem. Over 70 per cent. of the population live in malaria risk areas and Burma has one of the most serious HIV epidemics in Asia.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of his staff in each of the last three years; and at what total cost. [73005]

Mr. Thomas: The following table gives the number of non-pensionable bonuses awarded to DFID staff over the last three years with total costs for each year.

	Number of awards	*Total cost (£)*	*Percentage of DFID's total paybill*
2003-04	711	475,101	0.77
2004-05	576	497,350	0.79
2005-06	1,171	892,965	1.27

DEFENCE

Arms Trade Treaty

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to increase his Department's efforts, resources and capacity to deliver an Arms Trade Treaty. [74443]

Mr. Ingram: As part of a cross-Whitehall team the Ministry of Defence is fully committed to working together towards an international arms trade treaty.

We continue to play an active role and have committed Defence resource to support the delivery of this treaty.

Army Bases/Personnel (Northern Ireland)

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Army personnel were stationed in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and if he will list the operational Army bases in Northern Ireland. [77132]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. member to the answer I gave to him on 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1320W-1322W. The number of armed forces personnel (Army, Navy and Air Force) stationed in Northern Ireland since then is set out in the following table:

	Number of armed forces personnel
31 October 2005	9,490
31 May 2006	8,890

In addition, other troops can be made available to the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland from Land Command if required, for example during the marching season.

A list of military sites (military bases and installations, joint PSNI/military bases, towers and observation posts) as at 31 January 2006 was given in the ninth report of the Independent Monitoring Commission. This was laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in a written ministerial statement, on 9 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 79WS.

Since 31 January 2006, three observation towers (R21, R13A and G40) have been closed. Work has been completed on R21 and R13A, and the land has been handed back to Defence Estates for disposal. Work is still ongoing on the G40 site.

Army Land Rovers

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many working armoured land rovers the army has in *(a)* total, *(b)* Iraq and *(c)* Afghanistan. [75847]

Mr. Ingram: For UK holdings, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1992W. In respect of Iraq and Afghanistan I am withholding details of the military capability deployed on operations since its disclosure would reveal the strength and capability of UK forces operating in theatre, and could have a bearing on operational security.

Bonuses

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of his staff in each of the last three years; and what the total cost was. [73094]

Mr. Watson: The number and value of annual appraisal related bonuses paid to members of the senior civil service (SCS), to fixed term appointees and to civil servants below the level of the SCS, over the past three years, are listed in the following tables one to three. In addition, the Ministry of Defence awards special bonuses to individuals and teams for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of professional qualifications which benefit MOD and the individual; these are shown in table four. The final table (five) shows the total value of all bonuses paid: in cash terms and as a percentage of the total civilian pay bill.

Table 1: Bonuses paid to senior civil servants

	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Number of bonuses paid	184	136	134
Value of bonuses paid (£)	909,500	711,737	672,460

Table 2: Bonuses paid to fixed term appointees

	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Number of bonuses paid	12	16	13
Value of bonuses paid (£)	80,478	119,668	80,347

Table 3: End of year bonuses paid to staff below the level of the SCS [excluding MOD Trading Fund Agencies]

	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Number of bonuses paid	38,766	36,043	27,497
Value of bonuses paid (£)	37,962,800	29,312,275	20,203,875

Table 4: Special bonuses [excluding MOD Trading Fund Agencies]

	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Number of staff who received bonus(es)	10,131	10,074	11,872
Value of bonuses paid (£)	4,364,400	3,962,482	3,909,531

Table 5: Summary of bonuses paid

	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Value of all bonuses paid (£)	43,317,178	34,106,162	24,866,213
Percentage of total civilian pay bill	Accounts not yet published	1.15	1.01

Casualty Statistics

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether servicemen and women who lost a leg in action would be counted by his Department as wounded if treated by US doctors. [73740]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* The Ministry of Defence publishes casualty information compiled from a number of sources. One of these sources is the UK's main (Role 3) Field hospital in Shaibah in Iraq. The current figure (around 240 personnel) cited for troops wounded as a result of hostile action on Operation Telic is based on the records of those treated at the Shaibah Field hospital. This figure does not therefore include UK forces treated only at US facilities.

To present a more complete picture and to capture UK military and civilian personnel injured in Iraq and not included in the Shaibah figure for those wounded as a result of hostile action, we have published figures on Telic casualties drawn from other sources. These are the Notification of Casualty (NOTICAS) reporting and Aeromed figures.

The Aeromed figure includes all UK military and civilian personnel medically evacuated from Iraq whatever the cause and from any location in Iraq, including Baghdad, to any destination outside that country. This reporting includes all UK service personnel who have lost a leg and have been treated at US medical facilities in Iraq.

The Notification of Casualty reporting is comprehensive from January 2005 onwards, when the Joint Compassionate Casualty Centre (JCCC) was set up, and includes all UK personnel treated at US facilities for serious injuries. But during the early phases of Operation Telic the tempo of operations meant that the paperwork associated with the NOTICAS process was not always completed properly. As a result we cannot be certain that all our NOTICAS records covering this early period are complete.

We are working to cross check historic information to improve our Telic casualty reporting, including records for RFA Argus and 202 Field hospital. Once this information has been verified, I will place a copy in the House of Commons Library.

Criminal Offences Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the criminal offences created in legislation sponsored by his Department since April 2005, broken down by Act. [76900]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence has sponsored no primary legislation since April 2005 and has, therefore, created no criminal offences.

Dartmoor National Park (Firing Ranges)

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which dates were advertised in advance for live army firing in the Dartmoor National Park for the years ending *(a)* 31 December 2003, *(b)* 31 December 2004 and *(c)* 31 December 2005; on what dates firing actually took place on each of the firing ranges in the Dartmoor National Park in those years; and if he will make a statement. [76703]

Mr. Watson: I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Iraq

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel returned from Iraq in 2005 diagnosed with *(a)* mental health and *(b)* physical conditions which required (i) hospital and (ii) rehabilitation treatment in the UK. [72498]

Mr. Watson: Our records show that 732 armed forces personnel were aeromedically evacuated from Iraq in 2005. Of these, 666 were diagnosed with physical conditions, and 309 of them were treated at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak, Birmingham, which is the Ministry of Defence's main receiving hospital for aeromedically evacuated personnel. The others were transferred to other NHS hospitals or referred to community-based care for ongoing treatment. We are unable to determine precisely how many of these patients required hospital treatment or were discharged at the airhead for ongoing care in the community as the relevant database does not contain this information. To provide this information, individual patient records would have to be consulted, and this could only be done at disproportionate cost and with the patient's permission.

Determining the number of personnel who returned from Iraq with a mental health condition is not straightforward. Sixty six personnel were aeromedically evacuated in 2005 specifically because they were diagnosed as suffering from a mental health condition, but the number who were diagnosed, after their return, with psychological problems as a result of their service in Iraq is greater than this. The Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) was notified of 727 personnel who were referred to the MOD's Departments of Community Mental Health in 2005 with possible mental health problems and subsequently identified as having a psychiatric disorder related to their service in Iraq at any date from 2003. It can also be difficult to determine the underlying causes of some mental health problems, some of which could be caused by a combination of other life events that occurred before or after service in Iraq.

MARS Programme

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to ensure that vessels in the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability programme will be constructed by United Kingdom shipyards. [77390]

Mr. Ingram: As indicated in the Defence Industrial Strategy, UK yards and other UK suppliers will be given every opportunity to compete for this shipbuilding work and should see it as a challenge and an opportunity to demonstrate world-class performance. With the high planned workload on CVF and Type 45, the complex warship design and integration capabilities that we intend to sustain in the UK will remain healthy for some years.

New Technologies (Research)

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the Department's budget was spent researching new technologies in the last period for which figures are available. [76808]

Mr. Ingram: The overall spend on research in relation to overall defence spending is available in the UK Defence Statistics 2005 publication. Table 1.1 'Defence Expenditure/Budget 2003-04' of the publication displays the net Defence budget as some £31 billion. Table 1.7 'MOD Research and Development Expenditure 2003-04' records the net budget spent on research as £574 million.

Parliamentary Ombudsman

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list those occasions when the recommendations of a report from the Parliamentary Ombudsman were *(a)* rejected and *(b)* partly rejected by his Department since 1997. [76257]

Mr. Watson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer which my noble Friend Lord Drayson, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, gave in another place on 3 May 2006, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA87.

Public Consultations

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many public consultations his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was *(a)* in total and *(b)* of each consultation. [70615]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence undertook 13 public consultations in the last year.

To obtain the cost of the 12 consultations carried out by Defence Estates (DE)—the Ministry of Defence agency with responsibility for the defence estates—would incur disproportionate costs, but it is likely to be in the thousands.

The thirteenth public consultation was carried out by the Met Office, which is a trading fund of the Ministry of Defence. The total estimated cost in terms of man hours for this consultation was £120,000.

In addition, the Ministry of Defence carried out 10 consultation meetings with local government elected representatives and officials relating to proposed RAF projects within local areas. The total cost of these consultation meetings, on a capitation rate basis, was less than £10,000.

Public Transport (Incentives)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what incentives are available to encourage members of his staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75104]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) encourages the use of more sustainable travel as part its work on sustainable development. MOD offers staff interest free loans to purchase bicycles and public transport season tickets for commuting to and from their place of work. Subject to meeting our business needs the MoD also allows staff to stagger their working hours if that will assist them using public transport before or after the rush hour.

RAF Menwith Hill/Fylingdales

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* US military personnel, *(b)* US contractors, *(c)* US civilians, *(d)* UK military personnel, *(e)* Ministry of Defence Police Agency personnel, *(f)* GCHQ employees and *(g)* UK civilians work at (i) RAF Menwith Hill and (ii) RAF Fylingdales. [76294]

Mr. Ingram: As at 1 June 2006 the figures for RAF Menwith Hill were: 484 US military personnel; 538 US contractors; 458 US civilians, of which 243 are US Department of Defence civillians; 11 UK military personnel; 161 Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency personnel; I am withholding the

number of GCHQ employees in accordance with Government policy of not commenting on intelligence matters; and 231 UK civilian personnel work at the base.

As of 1 June 2006 the figures for RAF Fylingdales were: one US military personnel; 20 US contractors; nine US civilians; 85 RAF personnel; 104 Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency personnel; there are no GCHQ employees working at RAF Fylingdales; and 37 UK civilian personnel work at the base.

Redress of Grievance Cases

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many redress of grievance cases have been withdrawn in each of the armed forces over the last 12 months. [68516]

Mr. Watson: The number of redress of grievance cases that have been withdrawn[1] having reached higher authority or service board level between 30 April 2005 and 1 May 2006 are shown in the following table. Records of grievances raised and withdrawn at unit level are not held centrally.

[1] The term "withdrawn" describes a complaint that was neither settled nor rejected, but was withdrawn by the complainant before action was completed.

Armed force	*Number*
Royal Navy	6
Army	19
Royal Air Force	4

Sexual Relationships (Dismissals)

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers in the armed forces were dismissed for having a sexual relationship with a subordinate in each of the last five years. [67965]

Mr. Watson: Officers would not be dismissed but may be required to resign their commissions or be administratively discharged.

No Royal Navy or Royal Air Force officers have been required to resign for having a sexual relationship with a subordinate in the last five years.

Information for the Army is only available for the last three years and is shown in the following table:

	Number
2003	7
2004	5
2005	3

Submarines

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many decommissioned nuclear-powered submarines are awaiting disposal; where they are located; and what estimate he has made of the amount of *(a)* high, *(b)* intermediate and *(c)* low-level nuclear material present in each submarine. [76288]

Mr. Ingram: There are 13 decommissioned and de-fuelled nuclear powered submarines awaiting disposal that are stored safely afloat—seven at Rosyth and four at Devonport (Plymouth). Two other submarines at Devonport are awaiting de-fuelling prior to being stored afloat pending disposal. The spent fuel is the only high-level radioactive material on these submarines.

On leaving naval service each submarine contains approximately 83 tonnes of intermediate-level waste (ILW) and 81 tonnes of low-level waste (LLW). A proportion of the ILW will decay over time to LLW. For example, after 30 years, the quantity of ILW would have reduced to approximately 19 tonnes and the LLW proportionally increased to 145 tonnes.

Typhoon Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the key spares shortages are for Typhoon aircraft. [76682]

Mr. Ingram: The spares and support arrangements for Typhoon are being built up as the RAF aircraft fleet grows, and the availability of spares varies from day to day depending on the maintenance that is required.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Best Value Surveys

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to councils on the carrying out of Best Value surveys; and if she will make a statement. [75909]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has published detailed guidance for authorities carrying out the Best Value user satisfaction surveys on a dedicated website established for the purpose of administering the surveys.

The website, www.survey.bvpi.gov.uk, serves as a single portal for authorities undertaking the surveys, hosting all materials required and enabling the upload of the data. The Department has been working very closely with the Audit Commission to provide the necessary support to local authorities undertaking the surveys. The Commission is administering the website and providing a helpdesk and the Department is running a series of seminars to field questions on the Best Value surveys.

The website and guidance went live in March 2006 and all authorities were contacted to ensure that they were aware of the publication. All local authorities have either registered on the website or are in communication with the Audit Commission about the surveys; a statement about the availability of the guidance is therefore felt to be unnecessary.

Citizen Information Project

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the written communication sent by the Citizen Information Project to her Department on 10 January 2005. [70641]

Angela E. Smith: We have no record of any correspondence received from The Citizen Information Project on 10 January 2005.

Council Tax

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties are *(a)* designated as second homes and eligible for a council tax discount and *(b)* claiming such a discount in each local authority in Wiltshire. [76983]

Mr. Woolas: The number of properties in Wiltshire designated as second homes and claiming a discount in council tax as at 19 September 2005, the latest date for which figures are available, is shown in the following table.

	Number of properties
Kennet	497
North Wiltshire	43
Salisbury	976
Swindon	79
West Wiltshire	467

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of using the forthcoming council tax revaluation to encourage energy efficiency and waste reduction. [77035]

Mr. Woolas: In September 2005 the Government announced the postponement of council tax revaluation in England, and have made it clear that they do not expect that revaluation will occur during the present Parliament. The Government await the final report of the independent inquiry into local government by Sir Michael Lyons, which is due to be submitted by the end of 2006, before deciding whether any reforms to the council tax system are required.

Debt Collectors

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* her Department or *(b)* its (i) Executive Agencies and (ii) non-Departmental public bodies use the services of private debt collectors. [71064]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government and its Executive Agencies do not currently use the services of private debt collectors. One DCLG non-Departmental body uses a private debt collector.

Fire Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what use the fire service *(a)* has made and *(b)* makes of perfluorooctane sulphonate; and what advice and guidance the Department has issued on its use. [70019]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what use the fire services *(a)* have made and *(b)* make of perfluorooctane sulphonate; and what guidance her Department has issued on its use. [70589]

Angela E. Smith: Perfluorooctane sulphonate, known as PFOS, is used in a number of industrial applications and was used as an ingredient in two particular firefighting foam concentrate ranges for petrochemical fires.

In October 2004 DEFRA consulted on a national action to restrict the use of PFOS following evidence to suggest that it could be harmful in certain circumstance to both the environment and humans. However, before consultations had been completed, the European Commission suspended our unilateral action and subsequently issued its own draft directive to restrict the marketing and use of PFOS. In this draft, all current PFOS uses, including firefighting foam, would be allowed to continue. This would not therefore allow the UK to set regulations to ban its use.

The stocks of foams based on PFOS are diminishing but it is likely that some fire and rescue services do still hold some stocks.

As a result DCLG, jointly with the Environment Agency, are proposing a voluntary phasing out of PFOS-based firefighting foams and will shortly be issuing guidance to the fire and rescue services requesting them to no longer use these foams and instead to consider the use of alternatives once they are satisfied the performance of these alternatives meets their needs. Some fire and rescue services have already voluntarily substituted their stocks of PFOS foams with alternatives, the old foam having been destroyed by incineration.

Home Information Packs (Denmark)

Michael Gove: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the impact of the introduction of non-mandatory home information packs on the property market in Denmark. [65262]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The reforms to the Danish home buying and selling process have been widely welcomed by professionals and consumer representatives who assess that the reforms have improved the efficiency of the housing market. The latest figures show that there were 79,543 sales completed in 2004 as against 77,455 in 1996 (the year before the reforms were introduced). House prices have increased by 73 per cent. in Denmark during the period 1997 to 2005, compared to a 166 per cent. rise in Britain during the same period.

Local Strategic Partnerships

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to extend the scope and flexibility of local area agreements. [77108]

Mr. Woolas: Since the launch of LAAs in July 2004, their scope, and the opportunities they offer to local areas, have grown with each round. We have, in particular, seen a significant increase in the number of funding streams capable of being pooled, the introduction of automatically pooled funding streams, the launch of a new economic development block and the trialling of an increasing number of single pot agreements.

LAAs are rapidly becoming key to the way central Government and local areas do business together. We will continue to refine the LAA framework in the light of experience and in the wider context of the local:vision agenda.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in each of the last three years. [69052]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not collected in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

New Deal for Communities

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of introducing a successor funding regime to replace the New Deal for Communities programmes from 2010-11. [77179]

Mr. Woolas: The Department is currently working with the NDC partnerships to support their planning in continuing progress after the NDC programme ends in 2010-11. This could involve the partnerships evolving into different succession organisations and encouraging partners to mainstream services.

The 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review will examine all DCLG programmes including regeneration and neighbourhood renewal.

Nuclear Rail Freight

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities along the rail routes taken by trains transporting nuclear material are required to prepare emergency plans to deal with an incident involving one of these trains. [73316]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

Part 1 of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 establishes a statutory framework for civil protection activity at the local level. Under this legislation all principal local authorities and other key partners are required to maintain emergency plans, informed by risk assessments, to ensure that they can mobilise an effective emergency response to a range of emergencies including transport accidents. The legislation also requires local authorities and other key partners to exercise these plans and ensure that relevant staff receive adequate training.

The transport of radioactive material, including nuclear materials, is governed by the stringent internationally agreed standards recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Parliamentary Ombudsman

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list those occasions when the recommendations of a report from the Parliamentary Ombudsman were *(a)* rejected and *(b)* partly rejected by her Department since 1997. [76260]

Angela E. Smith: Since 1997 the Department for Communities and Local Government and its Agencies have not refused or omitted to give effect to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, either concerning complaints about administrative practices, service delivery or complaints made under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Information available for Department for Communities and Local Government on specific cases that concern Government offices shows that they have not refused or omitted to give effect to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, either concerning complaints about administrative practices, service delivery or complaints made under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

The Department for Communities and Local Government holds no comprehensive central information on the status of all Ombudsman cases in other Government Departments involving, or partly involving, Government offices. That information would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Party Wall etc. Act 1996

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will introduce enforcement powers exercisable by local authorities for failure to serve a notice of proposed works under the Party Wall etc. Act 1996; and if she will make a statement. [72844]

Angela E. Smith: I currently have no plans to amend the Party Wall etc. Act 1996 as suggested.

Public Transport

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Department for Transport on ensuring that improved public transport is an integral part of the community regeneration programmes. [77034]

Mr. Woolas: The Government continues to consider all aspects of regeneration as part of the remit of the Domestic Affairs (Communities) cabinet committee.

The two Departments work together to ensure that the Government's aims to deliver sustainable improvements in economic performance, and inclusive society, a better environment and better quality of life are achieved. Not only is this work carried forward inter-Departmentally across central Government, but it is undertaken on a day to day basis by the integrated Government offices in each region.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Arms Exports

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures are in place to ensure that arms exported from the UK to equip Iraqi security forces are not diverted to other users; and if he will make a statement. [75596]

Mr. McCartney: All export licence applications are assessed against the consolidated criterion taking account of any information we may hold on the end-user, the criterion specifically require assessment of the risk of diversion. If there is a clear risk that the proposed export would contravene any of the criteria, a licence is refused. In the case of Iraq, where not explicitly exempt, UNSCR 1546 additionally requires certification from the Iraqi Government or the multi-national force assisting it, that the goods are necessary for the purposes of giving effect to UNSCR 1546 and are therefore exempt from the embargo on Iraq.

Defence Contracts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total amount of cover outstanding in respect of Government to Government defence contracts since 1991 was in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [75209]

Mr. McCartney: On the following dates, the value of Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) cover for Government to Government defence contracts was:

As at 31 March each year:	*£ million*
2005	856
2006	497

ECGD Costs

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the administrative cost of the Export Credits Guarantee Department was in each year between 2002-03 and 2005-06, broken down into *(a)* staff costs, *(b)* accommodation costs, *(c)* consultancy costs, *(d)* IT costs, *(e)* external legal costs and *(f)* other costs. [75210]

Mr. McCartney: The Export Credits Guarantee Department's audited administrative costs in each year between 2002-03 and 2004-05 were:

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*£ million 2004-05*
Staff costs	14.022	14.806	15.157
Accommodation costs	4.282	5.271	4.201
Consultancy costs	1.031	0.833	0.539
IT costs	4.388	5.676	8.580
External legal costs	0.822	0.324	1.081
Other costs	1.620	3.625	1.804

The audited costs for 2005-06 are not yet available.

Gas Storage

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which local planning authorities his Department has contacted in the last two years to discuss the siting of new strategic gas storage facilities in their areas; what responses have been received from local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [76754]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has written to the following in the last two years regarding the national need for additional gas storage facilities. The county councils of:

Cheshire
East Riding of Yorkshire
Lancashire
Lincolnshire

and the borough councils of:

Redcar and Cleveland
Stockton on Tees.

We have received a response from Lancashire county council with some questions arising from the letter that the Department sent to them in April 2004.

On 16 May, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, laid the 'Energy Statement of Need for additional gas supply infrastructure' in Parliament encouraging planning professionals and local decision makers to consider the national interest when looking at planning applications.

Nuclear Power Stations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the recommended decommissioning dates are for each nuclear power station built in the UK; and what the *(a)* recommended and *(b)* actual decommissioning date was for nuclear power stations that have been decommissioned. [67821]

Malcolm Wicks: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) assumed responsibility for the decommissioning and clean up of the UK's civil nuclear legacy on 1 April 2005. The NDA has four operational Magnox nuclear power stations: Dungeness A, Sizewell A, Oldbury, and Wylfa; and, seven that are being decommissioned: Berkeley, Bradwell, Chapelcross, Calder Hall, Hinkley A, Hunterston A, Trawsfynydd. The recently approved NDA strategy contains the following assumptions of end dates and states, but also signals that the NDA intends to review these in consultation with stakeholders in the near future. Details are as follows:

Non-operational Magnox	*Lifetime*	*End state/date*
Berkeley (Gloucestershire)	1962-1989	Delicensed/2083
Bradwell (Essex)	1962-2002	Delicensed/2103
Calder Hall (Cumbria)	1956-2003	Site cleared for delicensing/2117
Chapelcross (Scotland)	1959-2004	Undetermined/2128
Hinkley Point A (Somerset)	1965-2000	Delicensed/2104
Hunterston A (Scotland)	1964-1989	Delicensed/2090
Trawsfynydd (Wales)	1965-1991	Delicensed/2096

Operational Magnox	*Lifetime/planned closure date*	
Dungeness A (Kent)	1965-2006/planned to cease generation end 2006	Landscaped/2111
Sizewell A (Suffolk)	1966-2006/planned to cease generation end 2006	Delicensed/2110
Oldbury (Gloucestershire)	1967-2008/planned to cease generation end 2008	Delicensed/2118
Wylfa (Wales)	1971-2010/planned to cease generation end 2010	Brownfield/2125

British Energy (BE) has eight operational power stations (seven advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) stations and one pressurised water reactor (PWR)). The following table sets out BE's current estimated dates for station closure (and thereby decommissioning). Any changes to these dates will be a matter for BE, subject to approval from the NDA in certain circumstances: Current proposals are:

	Lifetime	*Scheduled closure*
AGR Stations		
Dungeness B (Kent)	35 years	2018
Hinkley Point B (Somerset)	35 years	2011
Hunterston B (Scotland)	35 years	2011
Heysham 1 (Lane's)	30 years	2014
Hartlepool (Teesside)	30 years	2014
Torness (Scotland)	35 years	2023
Heysham 2 (Cleveland)	35 years	2023
PWR Station		
Sizewell B (Suffolk)	40 years	2035

The NDA's Strategy is available through its website at: www.nda.gov.uk.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the impact of a new generation of nuclear power stations on the UK's water supply. [75602]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The option of building new nuclear power stations is still being considered as part of the Government's Energy Review. Any implications for public water supply would be considered as part of the environmental impact assessment for the planning of individual power stations.

OECD Guidelines (Multinationals)

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what steps his Department has taken to promote the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; [72075]

(2) how many UK registered companies have adopted the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; [72076]

(3) what steps his Department has taken to co-operate with non-Governmental organisations in the promotion and implementation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; [72077]

(4) To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many complaints have been investigated by the UK National Contact Point in each year since 2000; and when each case was *(a)* filed and *(b)* concluded; [72078]

(5) To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* outcome was of each complaint made to the UK National Contact Point in each year since 2000. [72079]

Mr. McCartney: The Government are committed to the effective promotion and implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. For example, on 20 December 2004, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry wrote to the chairmen of all FTSE 100 companies drawing their attention to the importance of the guidelines and their relevance in developing corporate codes of conduct. The UK's National Contact Point (NCP) for the guidelines also liaises with non-governmental and business organisations on a regular basis, both formally and informally, to discuss the promotion and implementation of the guidelines.

In September 2005, the Government consulted stakeholders on possible improvements to the NCP's promotion and implementation of the guidelines. We intend to publish a formal response in the near future.

The guidelines are recommendations addressed by governments to multinational enterprises. They are not adopted, as such, by companies.

Training and Development Expenditure for non departmental public bodies (NDPB's)

Date filed	*Complainant*	*Respondent*	*Date concluded*	*Outcome*
May 2001	Rights and Accountability in Development (RAID)	Binani/Roan Antelope Mining Company Zambia	2001	Discontinued when companies liquidated
February 2002	Citizens for a Better Environment (CBE) Zambia, Afronet Rights and RAID	Anglo American plc and Konkoia Mining Company	Ongoing	
April 2003	RAID and other non-governmental organisations	Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline: BP and consortium partners	Ongoing	
July 2003	CBE	National Grid Transco	July 2005	Closed by NCP due to lack of evidence from complainant
September 2003	International Union of Food and Allied Workers	British American Tobacco (BAT)	November 2003	Withdrawn by complainant following BAT's decision to disinvest from Burma
February 2004	UN Panel on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo	De Beers	May 2004	NCP concluded the allegations to be unsubstantiated
June 2004	UN Panel on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo; RAID	Orys Natural Resources	June 2005	NCP drew the attention of the company to the provisions of Chapter II (general policies) of the Guidelines
June 2004	UN Panel on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo	Avient	September 2004	NCP drew the attention of the company to the provisions of Chapter II (general policies) of the Guidelines
June 2004	UN Panel on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo; RAID	DAS Air	Ongoing	
November 2004	RAID	Alfred Knight	Ongoing	
May 2005	Corner House	BAE Systems, Airbus, Rolls Royce	April 2006	Withdrawn by complainant following changes to ECGS's anti-bribery and corruption procedures

Offshore Petroleum Licensing

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the Answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1635-36W on Offshore Petroleum Licensing; if he will publish the results of the Appropriate Assessment into the 24th Licensing Round; and what applications have been made in the 24th Round of offshore petroleum licensing for production consents for field developments in the Cardigan Bay area. [77384]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* As of 13 June 2006, two 24th Round licence applications have been received—neither are for acreage in the Cardigan Bay area. However the Round is open to applications until 16 June 2006. Once the Appropriate Assessment for the Round has been completed we will take a decision on whether to publish the results. In any event, the results of this and any other necessary Appropriate Assessments relating to the Round will be available on request.

Also, as indicated in my Answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1635-36W, drilling and production consents are not part of the licence award and have to be sought separately from the Department at a later stage and are subject to further environmental scrutiny.

Secured Debt Financial Products

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether his Department is taking steps to restrict celebrity endorsement of secured debt financial products. [75014]

Mr. McCartney: The laws concerning the advertising of financial products have recently undergone a thorough review. While they do not specifically deal with celebrity endorsement of products, the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 2004 provide that advertisements must be clear, fair and not misleading. In the case of a loan secured on a debtor's home, that advertisement must include a health warning regarding the consequences of not keeping up with repayments. Rules emanating from the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, under which first charge mortgages are regulated, contain similar provisions concerning financial promotions.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Civil Service Pensions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will make a statement on equality of pensions in the civil service. [76154]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) is a final salary scheme. Benefits are worked out as a proportion of final pensionable earnings multiplied by years of service. Men and women have paid the same level of contributions and received benefits calculated on the same basis, including contingent dependants' benefits, in respect of service from 1 July 1987. To the extent that they have consistent career and salary patterns, the pension scheme therefore provides equal benefits.

New entrants to the civil service since October 2002 have, as an alternative to joining the PCSPS, been eligible to join partnership, a stakeholder pension arrangement, providing benefits on a money purchase basis. Employer contributions to partnership are between 3 per cent. and 12.5 per cent. of pensionable earnings based on the member's age but regardless of gender. Employers also match employee contributions up to 3 per cent. of pensionable earnings.

In addition amendments to the rules of the PCSPS will be laid before the House before the summer recess. These amendments will ensure that the pension arrangements do not discriminate on the grounds of age without any objective justification.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Public Sector Information

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many public information programmes have been broadcast since 1997, broken down by commissioning Department; and how much such programmes cost *(a)* to produce and *(b)* to screen. [76741]

Mr. McFadden: There have been 436 public information films produced since 1997. The numbers of public information films broken down by commissioning Department are shown in the following table.

Public information films produced since 1997

Client	Number
Charity Commission	1
Countryside Agency	6
Countryside Agency for Wales	1
Department of Communities and Local Government	22
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	29
Department for Education and Skills	25
Department for Transport	36
Department for Work and Pensions	20
Department of Health	48
Department for Trade and Industry	63
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	7
Electoral Commission	2
Energy Savings Trust	33
Experience Corps	2
Financial Services Agency	1
Food Standards Agency	2
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	25
Health and Safety Executive	1
Highways Agency	2
HM Revenue and Customs	10
Home Office	18
London 2012	6
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	4
National Statistics	2
NHS Blood and Transplant	46
Office of Fair Trading	1
Scotland National Blood TS	1
Tidy Britain Group	2
University for Industry	3
Victim Support	1
Water UK	1
Welsh Assembly Government	15
Total (since 1997)	436

Production of a public information film costs approximately £60,284 (based on an average of all public information films produced during the last three years).

Screening costs for a public information film are: broadcast tape copies, £2,500; annual marketing of film to broadcasters, £7,650; and airtime, free of charge.

We expect a public information film to recoup both production and marketing costs in equivalent airtime value within the first three months in circulation.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster at what times of day public information programmes have been scheduled in each of the past three years. [76757]

Mr. McFadden: The Central Office of Information (COI) is not responsible for scheduling public information films. They are scheduled in donated airtime at the discretion of broadcasters. The COI does, however, promote the usage of public

information films to broadcasters, requesting relevant time slots and programming environments, where possible.

In each of the past three years, public information films have been shown on broadcast television in ratios shown in the following table.

Time	Percentage of films shown	Number of transmissions
April 2003 to March 2004		
Breakfast (6.00-9.29)	14	14,705
Morning (9.30-11.59)	10	10,938
Afternoon (12.00-17.14)	16	17,107
Evening (17.15-23.59)	18	19,045
Night time (00.01-5.59)	40	4,261
April 2004 to March 2005		
Breakfast (6.00-9.29)	14	18,345
Morning (9.30-11.59)	13	16,575
Afternoon (12.00-17.14)	23	30,570
Evening (17.15-23.59)	27	35,751
Night-time (00.01-5.59)	23	30,039
April 2005 to March 2006		
Breakfast (6.00-9.29)	13	25,221
Morning (9.30-11.59)	11	21,505
Afternoon (12.00-17.14)	27	50,961
Evening (17.15-23.59)	28	51,818
Night time (00.01-5.59)	20	38,099

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions her Department has had with public service broadcasters on the *(a)* screening and *(b)* scheduling of public information films; and if she will make a statement. [76758]

Mr. McFadden: The Central Office of Information (COI) meets with public service and commercial broadcasters regularly to discuss both the screening and scheduling of public information films. COI also maintains regular contact with broadcast contacts via telephone, e-mail and via a monthly paper and electronic newsletter, which highlights the availability of material or related statistics to support the case for transmission. There is an online catalogue to facilitate broadcasters' selection of appropriate materials for slots they have available.

In the last three years, this activity has resulted in 2,127,007 transmissions, across 122 different television channels, in airtime worth an estimated £75,335,000 (based on average ITV station rate card).

Additionally, the COI also targets owners of out-of-home media. For example the 5-A-DAY campaign was screened free of charge on "Tesco TV", in shopping centres including Trafford Centre, Lakeside and Metro Centre, gyms such as Holmes Place, Cannons and David Lloyd and some doctors' surgeries. Out-of-home ratecard airtime value was estimated at £1.5 million for this film.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Administration Estimate

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the Answer of 25 May 2006 to Question 73851, how much was spent from the administration estimate on clothing and uniforms for *(a)* Clerks at the Table, *(b)* Serjeants at Arms and *(c)* the Secretary and Assistant Secretary to the Speaker in each of the last 3 years; and if he will make a statement. [77466]

Nick Harvey: The information requested is as follows:

	Clerks at the Table	Serjeants at Arms	£ Speaker's Office
2003-04	3,658	8,773	6,483
2004-05	5,802	17,343	4,828
2005-06	4,016	13,507	7,267

Note:
These figures include the uniform allowance for the Assistant Secretary to the Speaker.

Dining Facilities

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) what guidance has been issued to hon. Members on the use of House dining room facilities for party political fundraising; [75843]

(2) on how many occasions in the last 10 years a booking for dining room *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C and *(d)* D has been refused due to the intention of the sponsor to use the booking for party political fundraising. [75844]

Nick Harvey: The Banqueting Regulations, which are issued to all Members at the time of booking, state that the private dining rooms

"are not to be used for direct financial or material gain by a Sponsor, political party, or any other person or outside organisation".

The banqueting booking confirmation requires Members to state whether they have a declarable interest relating to their sponsorship of the function and, if the interest is not registered, to provide details. Members in any doubt about the need to register an interest are given further guidance in paragraph 4.4 of the Banqueting Regulations, which states that

"any Sponsor in doubt about the requirements to declare any interest should consult the Parliamentary Commission for Standards".

Furthermore, the Code of Conduct for Members, as approved by the House on 13 July 2005, provides that:

"Members shall at all times ensure that their use of expenses, allowances, facilities and services provided from the public purse is strictly in accordance with the rules laid down on these matters, and that they observe any limits placed by the House on the use of such expenses, allowances, facilities and services".

No record is kept of advice provided to Members when enquiring about the use of the private dining rooms, and so there is no record of any booking being refused due to the intention of the sponsor to use the booking for party political fundraising.

Refreshment Department

Mr. Drew: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what information the Refreshment Department collects on the quantity of *(a)* organic food and *(b)* food sourced within 50 miles of London for use in the House of Commons dining rooms. [76278]

Nick Harvey: The Refreshment Department can generally identify from its purchasing records the quantity and value of organic meat, poultry, fish, fruit and vegetables purchased over the past year, and the quantity and value of some organic grocery and counter-line products readily identifiable as organic (for example, certain brands of sandwiches, salads, yoghurts, biscuits, cakes, etc.). However, the Department does not keep a comprehensive list that specifically identifies the quantity of all organic foods used. No record is kept of the quantity of food sourced within 50 miles of London.

Spoiled Pre-paid Envelopes

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the Answer to Question 74325, if he will *(a)* take steps to remind users that the House can recover the cost of postage of spoiled pre-paid envelopes and *(b)* make visible collection points available for such envelopes; and if he will make a statement. [77474]

Nick Harvey: The Serjeant at Arms leaflet entitled "Stationery post paid envelopes and the use of the crowned portcullis" asks Members to send back spoilt envelopes to the Postmaster. A notice will be placed in the All Party Whip as a reminder. It would not be practicable to provide collection points as the incidence of spoilt envelopes is likely to be small.

Tours

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many tours of the Palace each hon. Member has requested in the last 12 months. [76009]

Nick Harvey: Between June 2005 and May 2006 inclusive, 7,374 tours ran for 620 Members of the House of Commons. By mixing smaller groups together (up to each tour slot's maximum capacity of 20), this accommodated 7,911 Member groups. The highest number of tour slots supplied to an individual Member was 89. It is not the practice to publish details of the use made by individual Members of such facilities.

Works of Art Collection

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many works of art from the Works of Art Collection have been reported *(a)* missing and *(b)* stolen in each year since 1997; and what their estimated value was in each case. [76272]

Nick Harvey: There have been no reports of missing or stolen works of art in the House of Commons since 1997. The Parliamentary Art Collection (Lords and Commons) has approximately 7,500 works of art, spread widely throughout the parliamentary estate. Some 5,000 are currently recorded as being within the House of Commons buildings.

NORTHERN IRELAND

999 Calls

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many emergency 999 calls were made in Northern Ireland in the last year, broken down by emergency service requested. [77346]

Paul Goggins: The numbers of emergency 999 calls received by emergency services in Northern Ireland in the last calendar year was as follows:

	Calendar year 2005
Fire	52,430
Ambulance	116,635
Police	94,916
Total	263,981

Alcohol Consumption

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department plans to take in response to the recent report by the European Commission which identified Ireland as having the fifth highest consumption of alcohol per person in the EU. [76629]

Paul Goggins: There are no comparable figures for Northern Ireland as currently such data are collected and presented on a UK basis. The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland launched the New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs 2006-11 on 8 May 2006. It contains a number of regional and local outcomes aimed at reducing the overall level of harm caused by alcohol in Northern Ireland, including reducing the level of binge drinking and the amount of under-age drinking.

Ambulance Service

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of *(a)* the facilities and *(b)* the extent of ambulance cover in the Strabane district council area in each of the last three years; and whether ambulance service staff usually employed in the Strabane area have been redeployed to Derry since the opening of the new Northland Road base. [76220]

Paul Goggins: Ambulance cover in the Strabane district council area is provided from stations in Strabane and Castlederg. A 2004-05 Estate Appraisal, carried out by the Health Estates Agency, identified the need for separate male and female facilities at Strabane ambulance station and some minor alterations at Castlederg ambulance station. The Northern Ireland

Ambulance Service (NIAS) is currently making arrangements to carry out this work.

During the last three years, ambulance cover has been provided as follows:

	Days
Strabane Ambulance Station	
08.00 to 20.00 hours (1 A and E crew)	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
08.00 to 20.00 hours cover provided from Altnagelvin	Thursday
20.00 to 08.00 hours (1 A and E crew)	Monday to Sunday
Castlederg Ambulance Station	
08.00 to 17.00 hours (1 A and E crew)	Monday to Saturday
17.00 to 23.00 hours (cover provided by Strabane and Omagh stations)	Monday to Saturday
08.00 to 23.00 hours (cover provided by Strabane and Omagh stations)	Sunday
23.00 to 08.00 hours (1 A and E crew)	Monday to Sunday

No ambulance crews have been redeployed from the Strabane or Castlederg ambulance stations to stations in Derry. Cover at the new Northland Road deployment point is provided by Altnagelvin Ambulance Station crews. As NIAS deploys ambulance resources dynamically to match predicted and actual demand, Strabane or Castlederg ambulances may respond to incidents in Derry. However, control staff ensure that time spent by crews away from their base station is kept to a minimum.

Benefit Payments

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of Social Security Agency customers have their benefits paid *(a)* directly into a bank or building society account, *(b)* via a Post Office card account, *(c)* by cheque and *(d)* in cash. [76679]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested (at March 2006) is shown in the following table:

Method of payment	*Percentage of social security agency customers*
Direct payment into a bank or building society account	58.8
Via a Post Office card account	37.7
Cheque payment	3.5
Cash	?
Total	100

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the levels were of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* overall incorrect payment by the Northern Ireland Social Security Agency (i) income support, (ii) jobseeker's allowance, (iii) disability living allowance, (iv) incapacity benefit, (v) carer's allowance and (vi) retirement pension in 2005-06 (A) in monetary terms and (B) as a percentage of the total expenditure in each benefit programme. [76680]

Mr. Hanson: The Social Security Agency now reports its findings based on calendar years. The following tables set out the information requested for the 2005 reporting year (January 2005 to December 2005).

Customer fraud

	2005[1] (£ million)	*Percentage of expenditure*
Income support	11.3	2.4
Jobseeker's allowance	2.8	3.0
Disability living allowance	4.6	0.8
Incapacity benefit	3.5	1.1
Carer's allowance	5.6	6.7
Retirement pension[2]	Minimal	—

Overall incorrectness (including fraud)

	2005[1] (£ million)	*Percentage of expenditure*
Income support	25.6	5.4
Jobseeker's allowance	4.1	4.4
Disability living allowance	54.7	9.5
Incapacity benefit	13.8	4.3
Carer's allowance	7.5	9.0
Retirement pension[2]	9.2	0.8

[1] January to December 2005
[2] This includes bereavement benefit

Child Abuse

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children were admitted to hospital in Northern Ireland with injuries that gave rise to subsequent investigations for abuse in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [77342]

Paul Goggins: Information is not collected centrally in the format requested. However, information is collected on the number of child protection referrals to social services where the source of referral is categorised as "hospital". The number of such referrals is shown in the following table for the financial years 2002-03 to 2004-05. The number of referrals does not equate to the number of children referred, as a child may be referred more than once during the financial year.

Child protection referrals from hospital source

	Number
2002-03	115
2003-04	119
2004-05	96

All children and young people who are seen by hospital staff will be managed in accordance with the regional Child Protection Policy and Procedures guidance issued by the Health and Social Services Board Area Child Protection Committees.

All hospital staff have access to the child protection register and there would be an expectation that appropriate checks would be made where there are concerns about any child.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much money was classed by the Northern Ireland Child Support Agency as probably uncollectable during the financial year 2005-06. [76678]

Mr. Hanson: The figure of probably uncollectable debt as at 31 March 2006 is £36,845,910, a reduction in the financial year 2005-06 of £2,084,496.

It is to be noted that the agency's annual accounts are still subject to audit and will not be laid before both the House of Commons and the Northern Ireland Assembly until July. Following this, the report will be available in the public domain.

Children in Care

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the change was in the average number of children in care in Northern Ireland between 1995 and 2005. [76327]

Paul Goggins: Information is not collected centrally on the average number of children in care; however, the number of children in care at 31 March 2006 each year is collected and this is detailed in Table 1 below annually from 1995 to 2005, the latest year for which information is available.

Column 1 of table 1 details the year to which the information relates, column 2 the numbers of children in care on 31 March for that year, column 3 shows the numbers of children in care per 10,000 of the population aged under 18, and column 4 details the year to year percentage change in the numbers of children in care at 31 March 2006.

Table 1: Number of children in care in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2005

	Number of children in care at 31 March 2006	Rate per 10,000 population	Percentage from previous year
1995	2,624	56.2	
1996	2,625	56.2	0.0
1997	2,431	52.1	-7.4
1998	2,354	50.8	-3.2
1999	2,324	50.5	-1.3
2000	2,422	53.1	4.2
2001	2,414	53.6	-0.3
2002	2,453	54.8	1.6
2003	2,446	55.3	-0.3
2004	2,510	57.4	2.6
2005	2,531	57.9	0.8

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the change was in the average number of children in care in reported missing for periods of more than 24 hours between 1995 and 2005. [76328]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of children in care reported missing for periods of more than 24 hours is not collected centrally. However a consultative document produced in 1998 entitled "Children Matter: A regional view of residential child care services in Northern Ireland" details the number of untoward incidents recorded in Northern Ireland during the period 31 March and 30 September 1997. It reports a total of 488 incidents of absconding recorded during that period, of which 227 related to periods of 24 hours or more.

An extract from table 4 of "Children Matter: A regional view of residential child care services in Northern Ireland" is shown as follows.

Untoward incidents recorded between 31 March and 30 September 1997

Nature of untoward incident	Vol and stat homes	Regional centres	Total
Absconding			
Under 24 hours	115	146	261
24 hours plus	126	101	227
Total	241	247	488

Classroom Assistants

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many classroom assistants are employed in each *(a)* controlled, *(b)* maintained, *(c)* integrated and *(d)* Irish medium secondary school in the Western education and library board area. [76404]

Maria Eagle: The total number of classroom assistants employed in each type of secondary school in the Western education and library board area is as follows:

	Number
Controlled	60
Maintained	145
Controlled integrated	41
Grant-maintained integrated	43
Irish Medium	0

Clinical Trials

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the hospitals in Northern Ireland in which clinical trials take place; and if he will make a statement. [77382]

Paul Goggins: All hospitals in Northern Ireland can potentially carry out clinical trials of medicinal products as long as the chief investigator has successfully completed the Research Governance Process including having a favourable ethical opinion from a recognised NHS/HPSS Research Ethics Committee (Ref: UK Clinical Trials Regulation (2004)).

Since February 2004 and the establishment of the HPSS Research Ethics Committees (RECs), 21 Northern Ireland-based clinical trials of investigational medicinal products have been given a favourable ethical opinion. The trials are occurring in the following hospital trusts:

	Number of trials
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	11
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	5
Greenpark Healthcare HSS Trust (primarily Musgrave Park Hospital)	3
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	1
Ulster Community and Hospitals HSS Trust	1

I fully support the work of the HPSS RECs and the Office for Research Ethics Committees in Northern Ireland (ORECNI) in their mission to maintain a Research Ethics Service to protect the rights, dignity and welfare of research participants within the HPSS/NHS, and to protect the rights of researchers to perform ethical research and legitimate investigation.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was redistributed through resource-releasing savings *(a)* by each Northern Ireland Department, agency and non-Departmental public body and *(b)* in total during 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [76557]

Mr. Hanson: Targets for resource-releasing savings for each Department were set in the course of the Priorities and Budget 2005-08 process, with the relevant amounts being redistributed at that time.

The following table summarises the targets for each Department, with the amount specified covering the core Department, its agencies and non-Departmental public bodies. Efficiency technical notes, outlining how Departments intend to deliver their efficiency targets, are available on departmental websites.

Outturn information in respect of the efficiencies delivered in 2005-06 is not yet available.

Efficiency gains identified by NI Departments

£ million

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
	Total efficiencies	*Of which: resource-releasing*	*Total efficiencies*	*Of which: resource-releasing*	*Total efficiencies*	*Of which: resource-releasing*
DARD	6.8	3.4	13.8	6.9	21.0	10.5
DCAL	2.6	1.3	5.2	2.6	7.9	4.0
DE	46.4	20.7	81.2	41.9	120.0	63.6
DEL	18.3	8.6	36.4	17.3	53.0	26.3
DETI	8.2	3.7	14.4	7.0	20.6	10.9
DFP	3.9	1.0	8.7	5.7	16.2	11.7
DHSSPS	78.3	43.3	156.7	81.7	239.2	124.2
DOE	3.7	1.8	7.1	3.6	10.3	5.6
DRD	24.1	17.8	39.1	30.3	48.5	39.4
DSD	13.6	6.8	27.5	13.8	49.5	35.7
OFMDFM	2.1	1.7	2.6	2.4	2.7	2.4
FSA	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	208.0	110.1	392.9	213.4	588.8	334.4

Deprivation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to address the deprivation identified by the Northern Ireland Department of Finance and Personnel on 26 May 2005 in the Drumgask, Drumnamoe, Corcrain, Drumgor and Court areas of Craigavon. [77307]

Mr. Hanson: Drumgask, Drumnamoe, Corcrain, Drumgor and Court areas in Craigavon were identified by the Northern Ireland Measures of Deprivation (New Noble Index) as being in the 10 per cent. most deprived urban areas in Northern Ireland.

The Government's main strategy for tackling areas of high urban deprivation is neighbourhood renewal and three local Neighbourhood Partnerships have been established in the Craigavon borough council area to help take forward the strategy in the areas that have been identified as deprived. The Drumgask and Drumgor areas are covered by the Brownlow Partnership; the Court and Drumnanoe areas are covered by the Lurgan Partnership and the Corcrain area is covered by the Portadown Partnership.

All three partnerships are currently working in consultation with interested parties to develop a vision framework and action plan that will set out in detail the programmes and activities needed to address

deprivation and improve services. Local consultation is expected to take place later this year.

Early Years Services

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how the additional £1.2 million announced on 26 May 2005 to maintain front-line early years services in Northern Ireland was spent; and how much remained unspent. [77309]

Paul Goggins: On 26 May 2005, my predecessor, the Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the hon. Member for St. Helens, South (Mr. Woodward), announced an additional £1.2 million to support projects previously funded under 'Peace Measure 2.5—Investing in Childcare'.

Projects were invited to apply for this funding and had to demonstrate that they met the criteria in providing direct services to children in areas of low provision where the service is critical to provision in that area; or services that have targeted provision for ethnic minorities, traveller children and children with a disability.

In 2005-06 £1.2 million has been committed to 128 successful projects, and all funds have been fully utilised.

Head Teacher Vacancies

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vacancies of principals of more than two months there were in secondary level schools in the *(a)* controlled and *(b)* maintained sectors in Northern Ireland during 2005. [76329]

Maria Eagle: The education and library boards and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools have advised that all principal vacancies during 2005 were filled immediately. If there is a delay in a principal taking up duty, the vice principal is required to undertake the role of acting principal in accordance with the terms of employment of the vice principal.

Hospital Waiting Times

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of patients in Northern Ireland waiting for elective admission to trauma and orthopaedics were seen in *(a)* under three months and *(b)* under 12 months during (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06. [76301]

Paul Goggins: The proportion of in-patients waiting for elective admission (ordinary admission or day case treatment) in the trauma and orthopaedics specialty that were seen during 2004-05 and 2005-06 in an NHS hospital in Northern Ireland in *(a)* under three months and *(b)* under 12 months is provided in the following table:

	Proportion of in-patients waiting for elective admission in the trauma and orthopaedics specialty that were seen in an NHS hospital in Northern Ireland in:	
	Under 3 months	*Under 12 months*
2004-05	41.3	76.1
2005-06	38.6	81.5

Waiting time is calculated from the original date the decision to admit was made to the actual admission date. Data include in-patients who were medically deferred while waiting and in-patients who self-deferred or did not turn up for a previously arranged admission date.

Housing

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1818-20W, on housing, what assessment he has made of community differentials in the allocation of housing in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* Belfast; and if he will make a statement. [76786]

Mr. Hanson: No assessment is made as housing is allocated on the basis of need through the Common Selection Scheme and not on the basis of community affiliation.

Knives

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of stabbings with knives have occurred in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [76627]

Mr. Hanson: The following table provides PSNI statistics on knife crime incidents over the past five years. The incidents are sorted by the recorded crime categories used by the police. While it is known that a knife was used in all incidents recorded below, it is not possible to indicate how the knife was used.

Clearly the categories of murder and attempted murder refer to the most serious incidents. While the overall incidents of use of a knife in crime rose last year, the number of murders and attempted murders reduced.

A knife amnesty and media campaign is currently in place. In early autumn an educational package will be introduced into schools and legislation giving powers to increase the minimum age for buying a knife will be introduced. I am hopeful that these actions will impact on these figures and we will see a reduction in knife related crimes this year.

Crime type	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Class 1: Offences against the person	350	369	368	394	430
Murder	12	12	2	10	8
Attempted murder	15	20	22	32	27
Assaults	283	275	292	214	320

Crime type	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Class 2: Sexual offences	8	4	7	4	13
Class 3: Burglary	25	30	39	26	19
Class 4: Robbery	365	431	324	265	359
Class 5: Theft	33	12	21	19	22
Class 6: Fraud and forgery	0	0	0	0	0
Class 7: Criminal damage	148	67	129	161	121
Class 8: Offences against the state	85	71	90	131	165
Possessing offensive weapon	85	71	90	131	165
Class 9: Other notifiable offences	2	2	7	0	1
Total crime	1,016	986	985	1,000	1,130

Medication (Sell-by Dates)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are taken by pharmacies in Northern Ireland to ensure that *(a)* over-the-counter drugs, *(b)* alternative medicines and *(c)* prescription medicines are all within their sell by dates; and if he will make a statement. [75475]

Paul Goggins: A pharmacist is required to conform to all the legal controls pertaining to the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines, whether prescription or over- the-counter. In addition his/her professional standards of ethics and practice require him/her to ensure that dispensed products are in date.

This is also the case in relation to homeopathic or herbal medicines. However, many alternative therapies are not licensed medicines and are, therefore, subject to the laws governing foods.

National Insurance Numbers

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many applications for National Insurance numbers made in Northern Ireland have been refused in each of the last five years; [76405]

(2) how many applications for National Insurance numbers made in Northern Ireland have been refused as the result of an immigration check in each of the last five years. [76446]

Mr. Hanson: The information is outlined in the following table.

National Insurance number applications refused

Financial year	Number
2001-02	Not available
2002-03	562
2003-04	731
2004-05	1,015
2005-06	2,158

Information on applications refused as a result of an immigration check is not available.

National Stadium

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many discussions officials from *(a)* his office and *(b)* the strategic investment board have had with (i) Lisburn city council, (ii) Belfast city council and (iii) other local authorities on the proposals for a new national stadium. [74717]

Maria Eagle: Officials from the Department of Culture Art and Leisure (DCAL) and the strategic investment board (SIB) have had one formal meeting with Belfast city council specifically on the proposal for a new multi-sports stadium. In addition SIB officials have had several informal discussions with Belfast city council officials. There have been no discussions between officials from either my office or SIB with Lisburn city council or other local authorities on the same issue.

NHS Finances

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what NHS trusts in Northern Ireland are currently in financial deficit; and what the size of each deficit is. [77325]

Paul Goggins: Final audited and approved 2005-06 accounts for the 19 health and personal social services (HPSS) trusts will not be available until August 2006. However, based on projections as at 31 March, only one trust, Sperrin Lakeland, is forecasting a deficit. The forecast is £90,000, which is treated by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public

Safety as being within an acceptable margin of break even as it represents only 0.06 per cent. of the trust's 2005-06 income.

Planning Applications

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* residential, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* industrial planning applications were (i) received and (ii) decided by the planning service in Northern Ireland in (A) 2004-05 and (B) 2005-06. [76458]

David Cairns: The number of *(a)* residential, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* industrial planning applications that were (i) received and (ii) decided by the Planning Service in Northern Ireland in (A) 2004-05 and (B) 2005-06 are in the following table.

	Valid applications received		*Decisions issued*	
Category	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Commercial	2,892	2,947	2,407	2,579
Industrial	1,354	1,356	987	1,312
Residential	29,132	28,798	22,043	24,583
Total	33,378	33,101	25,437	28,474

Note:
There is no direct correlation between the number of planning applications received and the number of decisions issued.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of residential planning applications in Northern Ireland was processed to decision or withdrawal within 14 weeks in the last period for which figures are available. [76496]

David Cairns: In the fiscal year 2005-06 the proportion of residential applications processed by the planning service within 14 weeks to decision or withdrawal was 29.77 per cent.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of planning applications in Northern Ireland was processed to decision or withdrawal within 15 weeks in the last period for which figures are available. [76497]

David Cairns: In the fiscal year 2005-06 the proportion of applications processed by the planning service within 15 weeks to decision or withdrawal was 33.11 per cent.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what average time was taken by the planning service to process planning applications in the most recent period for which figures are available. [76498]

David Cairns: In the fiscal year 2005-06 the average time to process planning applications by the planning service was 31.04 weeks.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the conclusions were of the planning service's 2005-06 Customer Satisfaction Survey. [76503]

David Cairns: The 2005-06 customer survey of applicants/agents has just recently been completed and results are currently being analysed. I will write to the hon. Member to advise him of the results when they become available.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of industrial applications were processed by the planning service to decision or withdrawal within 17 weeks in the last period for which figures are available. [76504]

David Cairns: In the fiscal year 2005-06 the proportion of industrial applications processed by the planning service within 17 weeks to decision or withdrawal was 40.01 per cent.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of commercial applications were processed by the planning service to decision or withdrawal within 18 weeks in the last period for which figures are available. [76505]

David Cairns: In the fiscal year 2005-06 the proportion of commercial applications processed by the planning service within 18 weeks to decision or withdrawal was 42.65 per cent.

Somme Commemoration

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to hold events in Northern Ireland to mark the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. [76647]

Maria Eagle: The award winning exhibition "Conflict: The Irish at War" opened in December 2003 and will be on display until the museum's closure for redevelopment at the end of August. The exhibition incorporates artefacts and stories associated with the experience of Ulstermen at the Somme in 1916.

The Ulster Museum has also advised and contributed to a major exhibition marking the Battle at the Historial de la grand Guerre Chateaux in Peronne, France.

The Government will be represented at the service of remembrance at the cenotaph in Belfast by Lord Rooker who will lay a wreath.

The Secretary of State will attend the annual commemoration of the Battle of the Somme at the Ulster Tower in France on 1 July.

Sustainable Energy

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many households in Northern Ireland have requested Northern Ireland Electricity to supply them with eco energy in each of the last two years. [76325]

Maria Eagle: Northern Ireland Electricity has confirmed the following figures for the number of customers on their eco energy tariff:

As at March each year	*Customers*
2005	14,024
2006	18,267

Vaccines

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many MMR vaccines the Department of Health and Social Services has committed to purchasing for use in Northern Ireland for 2006-07 and 2007-08. [77375]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health (London) purchases stocks of MMR vaccine under the national childhood vaccine contract to meet the needs of the entire UK vaccination programme. Northern Ireland participates in this national contract and HPSS trusts purchase supplies of MMR vaccine as required to meet local needs. Vaccine is purchased on a demand basis from UK stocks based on previous usage. Therefore Northern Ireland has not committed to purchase any firm quantity of MMR vaccine for 2006-07 and 2007-08 but will purchase vaccine to meet the needs of the vaccination programme.

Waterside Health Centre

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the expected final cost to public funds is of the design, preparation and build of the new Waterside Health Centre in Londonderry. [76645]

Paul Goggins: The development of the new Waterside Health Centre, Distillery Brae, is being taken forward independently by three GP practices in the area. The full use of the building has yet to be confirmed, but, as part of the development, Foyle Health and Social Services Trust has agreed to utilise the third floor of the building in order to provide a range of essential local health services. The cost of the design, preparation and fit-out for this floor will fall to Foyle HSS Trust and is estimated to be £927,417.

Level 3	*£*
Design	79,299
Fit-out	848,118
Total	927,417

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Child Sexual Abuse (Northern Ireland)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Solicitor-General what criteria are used by the Public Prosecution Service of Northern Ireland in deciding whether to prosecute those found guilty of sexual abuse against children; and how many such prosecutions there have been in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [76402]

The Solicitor-General: All prosecution decisions are reached in accordance with the provisions of the Code for Prosecutors in that there must be sufficient evidence to afford a reasonable prospect of a conviction and prosecution must be in the public interest. The Public Prosecution Service takes all allegations of sexual abuse very seriously and an indication of the factors that are required to be considered in reaching decisions are set out in the Code.

The following table sets out the figures requested for prosecutions in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years.

	Crown court	*Magistrates court*
2001-02	14	2
2002-03	32	7
2003-04	43	9
2004-05	75	7
2005-06	69	7
Total	233	32

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Antisocial Behaviour (York)

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what representations she has received from the City of York council scrutiny board on the role of the courts in prosecuting repeat offenders of anti social behaviour resulting from alcohol and drug abuse; [74868]

(2) if she will meet the City of York council scrutiny board to discuss *(a)* reasons for anti social behaviour in York and *(b)* means of reducing and eliminating such anti social behaviour; [74869]

(3) if she will meet the courts service in York to discuss the conclusions of the City of York scrutiny board review of drug and alcohol-related anti social behaviour in the city. [74870]

Ms Harman: A letter to the Home Office from the Chief Executive of the City of York council, enclosing the 'Final Report and Recommendations of the Economic Development and Community Safety Scrutiny Board' on alcohol and drug-related anti-social behaviour, was received by the Department for Constitutional Affairs on 1 June 2006. A response will be sent shortly. If asked, I will meet with the City of York council scrutiny board and representatives of the court service in York to discuss the reasons for anti social behaviour in York and the means of reducing and eliminating such anti social behaviour.

Coroners (Oxfordshire)

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the names were of the deputy coroners employed by Oxfordshire county council in 2003; and what the dates were of their service. [76799]

Ms Harman: The deputy coroner for Oxfordshire in 2003 was Dorothy Margaret Flood. The assistant deputy coroner for Oxfordshire in 2003 was Dr. Richard Michael Whittington. They were appointed in 1997 and 2000 respectively and both continue in these appointments.

Courthouses

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the

answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1469W, on courthouses, which consortium or company holds the equity of the Essex magistrates court. [76459]

Ms Harman: Currently no consortium or company holds equity in the Essex magistrates court scheme as this only occurs at contract close which is unlikely to be reached until early 2009.

Courts Administration

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many times a prisoner changed legal team due to a change in the court where the trial was held in each year from 2000 to 2005. [74572]

Ms Harman: This information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many and what percentage of staff in her Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension. [73009]

Vera Baird: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) can pay additional contributions to top up their pension either through the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme (CSAVCS), a money purchase arrangement, or by buying added years of service in the PCSPS. As an alternative to membership of the PCSPS recruits from 1 October 2002 have been able to join a stakeholder arrangement, the partnership pension account.

The number and percentage of staff in the Department for Constitutional Affairs who are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension as at 1 June 2006 are shown in the table.

	Number	*Percentage*
CSAVCs	333	1.08
Added years	445	1.45
Partnership	122	0.4

Disability Access

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether any building in her Department falls short of disability access regulations. [73007]

Vera Baird: Save for the exceptions detailed below, the majority of buildings used by the Department for Constitutional Affairs are now believed to be compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as regards accessibility for all users. There was some slippage with regard to works required by 1 October 2004 deadline at a small number of locations, but these have since been addressed.

Following on from the transfer of the magistrates courts estate to Her Majesty's Courts Service (an Executive agency of the Department for Constitutional Affairs) on 1 April 2005, a programme of access audits has been carried out to establish the degree of compliance of the magistrates courts buildings with the Act and to put in place managed solutions where appropriate. In parallel with this interim solution, a programme of works has now been agreed and costed and will be implemented as soon as practical.

Dr David Kelly

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions took place between the Oxfordshire coroner and *(a)* her Department and *(b)* Lord Hutton before the coroner's decision to issue a death certificate for Dr. David Kelly on 18 August 2003. [74198]

Ms Harman: The coroner did not issue a death certificate for Dr. David Kelly. It is the responsibility of the local registrar to issue death certificates or more properly certified copies of entries in the register of deaths.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1663W, on Dr. David Kelly, what the verdict of the inquest was; and on what date the verdict was announced. [73991]

Ms Harman: There was no inquest verdict in the case of Dr. David Kelly. The coroner did not resume the inquest after it had been adjourned pending the Hutton inquiry.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on what date the Oxfordshire coroner complied with the requirement of section 17A(6) of the Coroners Act 1988 in the case of the death of Dr. David Kelly; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the certificate required under this section. [74470]

Ms Harman: The Oxfordshire coroner advises me that he notified the registrar on 16 March 2004 in accordance with the requirements of section 17A(6) of the Coroners Act 1988. I understand that notification would have contained personal information about Dr. Kelly and it would not be appropriate for it to be put into the public domain.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the categories of information available to Lord Hutton for his inquiry into the death of Dr. David Kelly in respect of which some or all information has been *(a)* withheld from the public and *(b)* destroyed. [74481]

Ms Harman: None of the evidence submitted to Lord Hutton for his inquiry has been destroyed.

The website for the inquiry www.the-hutton-inquiry.org.uk contains a list of all evidence submitted to the inquiry. Where that evidence has been withheld

from the public a reason has been given. Most of the evidence is, however, available to the public through the website.

The original documents supplied to the inquiry are held at the National Archives.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1666W, on the Hutton inquiry, who took the decision that Lord Hutton did not need the formal powers of the 1921 Act in order to carry out a full and comprehensive inquiry. [70328]

Ms Harman: The Lord Chancellor took the decision that Lord Hutton did not need the formal powers of the 1921 Act. It was made clear that if Lord Hutton required more powers he could ask for them. Lord Hutton did not make any request for more powers.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) which Government Departments were issued copies of the Hutton Report following its publication; and how many copies were distributed to each: [74645]

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many copies of the Hutton Report were printed; how many were sold; at what price; how many were obtained by No. 10 Downing Street; and to whom they were issued. [74527]

Ms Harman: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess), on 3 February 2004, *Official Report*, column 758W.

FOI Requests

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the disclosure of personal information from the 1911 census have been received by the National Archives since 29 January 2006; and what the outcome was in cases where the applicants provided documentary evidence that all the 1911 residents of a specific property were no longer alive. [76084]

Ms Harman: The National Archives has received 42 requests to access information contained in the 1911 census returns in the period between 29 January and 17 May 2006. All of these requests, including one where the inquirer provided evidence that all persons believed to be resident at a particular address in 1911 are now deceased, were denied on the grounds that the s.41 exemption of the Freedom of Information Act—relating to information provided in confidence—applies. These decisions were taken in the context of the Government's policy that decennial census returns should be closed for 100 years.

Information Commissioner

Mr. Davey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the cost was of the casework management system installed in the Information Commissioner's Office in 2004 to monitor breaches of telephone preference service regulations. [75906]

Vera Baird: The Information Commissioner's Office is an independent statutory body. It receives a wide range of complaints, principally under the Data Protection Act 1998, Freedom of Information Act 2000, Environmental Information Regulations 2000, and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003. The Information Commissioner's Office introduced a Casework Management and Enquiry Handling system from 2003 onwards to provide support for all of these complaints activities.

Separate costings for the functionality of the different elements of the Information Commissioner's Office casework system are not available and there was no specific expenditure to cover complaints under the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003.

Legally Aided Litigants

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of costs protection on the opponents of legally aided litigants. [76526]

Vera Baird: No formal assessment has been made. However, the role of cost protection and its impact on clients and opponents was considered by the Department in 2004-05. It was decided to remove cost protection from most family cases but retain the existing rules for non-family proceedings. The purpose of cost protection is to ensure that vulnerable clients are not deterred from bringing proceedings by the threat of having to pay excessive costs, should they lose their case. Clients bringing certain types of civil proceedings with the help of legal aid are protected so that they can only be ordered to pay costs which are reasonable, given their circumstances. However, in certain circumstances, courts can also direct that costs awarded to an individual, against a funded client, should be paid by the Legal Services Commission, if the individual will suffer financial hardship if the costs are not paid.

Ministerial Travel (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in her Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in each of the last three years. [69026]

Ms Harman: This information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

Official Residences

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the *(a)* notional market rent, *(b)* estimated capital value, *(c)* total cost of rent, security, utilities, facilities management and general maintenance was of the Lord Chancellor's official residence in the House of Lords in the most recent year for which figures are available. [75265]

Ms Harman: The Lord Chancellor's official residence is used by the Lord Chancellor as the Speaker of the House of Lords. The Lord Chancellor does not live there, but it is used for official entertaining and charitable receptions. It is maintained by the House. No figures are held by the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

Potters Bar Rail Crash

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the timetable is for the holding of a coroner's inquest into the Potters Bar rail crash. [76120]

Ms Harman: I refer the hon. Member to my previous reply of 13 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1594W. Further to that reply, the coroner has appointed Mr. Justice Sullivan as assistant deputy coroner to hold the Potters Bar rail crash inquests.

Victims of Crime

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what mechanisms are in place in the criminal justice system to ensure a formal acknowledgement of the harm caused to victims of crime and their families. [73980]

Ms Harman: The Victim Personal Statement scheme allows victims an opportunity to tell criminal justice agencies and services dealing with their case how the crime has affected them. Anyone who sees the case files should consider the Victim Personal Statement when making decisions. The scheme is one of a range of measures designed to give victims a voice, such as the use of Victims' Advocates. In some local areas, victims may also request a restorative justice process, which brings together the victim and offender, and the wider community, to address the harm caused by crime.

TREASURY

Climate Change Levy

Paul Flynn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on the revenue to the National Insurance Fund of the increase in the climate change levy. [76644]

John Healey: The announced increase in the rates of the climate change levy in 2007 will not affect the revenue to the National Insurance Fund.

HM Revenue and Customs

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether some HM Revenue and Customs training courses are offered only to certain members of staff based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnic origin and *(c)* sexual orientation; and if he will make a statement. [77411]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC has in the past and continues to offer development programmes to members of staff based on their sex, race or sexual orientation, usually with a mix of participants from various backgrounds.

These training programmes are offered as part of the Department's positive action programme which is in place to assist in righting the imbalance of under represented groups at higher grades. Both the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Race Relations Act 1976 allow positive action.

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received in respect of the proposed closure of the HM Revenue and Customs office at Regian House, Liverpool; what response he has made; and if he will reconsider the closure. [77249]

Dawn Primarolo: The HM Revenue and Customs office at Regian House, Liverpool is not closing. However processing work currently carried out in Regian House and other offices in the Liverpool area, is being centralised in Manchester as part of HM Revenue and Customs' overall efficiency plans.

Special Protection Areas

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the population was of each ward *(a)* in and *(b)* adjacent to special protection areas in (i) Surrey, (ii) the Thames Basin and (iii) the UK in the last period for which figures are available. [76637]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 14 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question regarding the population in each ward *(a)* in and *(b)* adjacent to Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in (i) Surrey, (ii) the Thames Basin and (iii) the UK in the last period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence (76637).

I am placing tables in the House of Commons Library, which provide the information you have requested The most recent population estimates for England and Wales wards are for mid-2002. These ward population estimates have been published with the status of "experimental statistics". Therefore these estimates should be treated with some care. The latest ward population figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland are from the 2001 Census.

Tables 1 to 3 include the wards which are covered, wholly or partly by SPAs for Surrey, the Thames Basin and the UK respectively. Tables 4 to 6 include the wards which are adjacent to the wards covered, wholly or partly by these SPAs for Surrey, the Thames Basin and the UK respectively, for all tables, the local authorities covered by these wards have been included.

Please note that in Scotland, many of the SPAs cover uninhabited islands which do not have a ward assigned to them, and therefore no ward information is included. In addition, a number of SPAs are on islands/or in lochs and so have no direct populations. The adjacent ward populations for these SPAs have been included in the data.

Stamp Duty (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties sold in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* the Peterborough city council area in each of the last three years attracted stamp duty at (i) 0 per cent., (ii) one per cent., (iii) three per cent. and (iv) four per cent. [76595]

Ed Balls: Estimates of the number of property transactions at local authority/unitary authority level and for parliamentary constituencies are only available for 2004-05 and 2005-06, and are given in the following table grouped by stamp duty band.

The number of transactions bearing stamp duty will be lower than the number shown in the non-zero bands due to the use of various reliefs, e.g. disadvantaged area relief, group relief, registered social landlord relief etc. There are also some lease transactions which fall in the 0 per cent. band on account of consideration, but which bear stamp duty on the lease rental.

Property transactions attracting

	0 per cent. rate[1]	*1 per cent. rate*[2]	*3 per cent. rate*[3]	*4 per cent. rate*[4]	*Total*
Peterborough city council					
2004-05	1,200	4,700	260	80	6,300
2005-06	3,300	2,400	320	130	6,100
Peterborough constituency					
2004-05	780	2,600	96	46	3,600
2005-06	2,000	1,100	100	58	3,300

[1] Residential threshold was £60,000 in 2004-05 and £120,000 in 2005-06. Non residential threshold was £150,000 in both years.
[2] £60,001-£250,000 range for residential transactions in 2004-05, £120,001-£250,000 for residential transactions in 2005-06, £150,001-£250,000 for non-residential transactions.
[3] £250,001 to £500,000.
[4] £500,001 or more.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the average time taken to answer calls to the tax credits helpline in each month since November 2005; and if he will make a statement. [75791]

Dawn Primarolo: For November 2005 to April 2006 I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 187W.

The figure for May 2006 is 53 seconds.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to introduce an improved level of service for tax credit claimants; and if he will make a statement. [76417]

Dawn Primarolo: Since my statement to the House on 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 22W, HM Revenue and Customs have introduced a series of measures to improve the service. I made a statement on the progress that has been made on these measures at the Treasury Select Committee on the 1 February 2006.

In my written statement to the House on 5 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 5W, I announced further measures, as part of the pre-Budget report, to provide more certainty over tax credits award for families while maintaining flexibility to respond to falls in income and changes in circumstances.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his latest assessment is of the level of tax credit overpayments in 2004-05; [76433]

(2) what his latest assessment is of the level of tax credit overpayment for 2006-07. [76479]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates for 2004-05 of the numbers of in-work families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments, based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2004-05 are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards. 2004-05." This publication and provisional estimates for the number of in-work families with tax credit awards as at selected dates in 2005-06 are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm.

Measures announced in the 2005 pre-Budget report, which are being introduced from April 2006, are expected to reduce overpayments by one third once they are fully implemented.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people who were underpaid tax credits from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2005 have received the full amounts underpaid; and if he will make a statement. [76469]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC repay underpayments or offset them against any outstanding overpayments, as soon as the underpayments are recognised.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many disabled workers have *(a)* claimed and *(b)* been in receipt of tax credits for each month since June 2005; and if he will make a statement. [76486]

Dawn Primarolo: The characteristics of adults and children as initially captured in all tax credits claims, including rejected claims, are not available, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The numbers of tax credits awards to in-work families with particular characteristics at selected dates from July 2003 to April 2006 are available in publications on the HMRC website:
http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he plans to carry out an assessment of the case for moving to a system of fixed tax credit awards; and if he will make a statement; [76871]

(2) what external research his Department has commissioned on the case for a return to a system of fixed tax credit awards; and if he will make a statement. [76942]

Dawn Primarolo: As the 2005 pre-Budget report stated, the Government will continue to listen to the case for a system of fixed awards, but believes on balance that it is preferable to maintain the current system that flexibly responds to changing circumstances.

The Department has not commissioned any external work on the case for a system of fixed tax credit awards.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bali Bombing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government are contributing towards the London memorial for British people affected by the 2002 Bali bombing. [76836]

Dr. Howells: The Government are contributing £260,000, plus £44,000 VAT, to the London memorial project in memory of the victims of the 2002 bombings in Bali.

Basson/Project Coast Handling Strategy

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which officials attended the ad hoc meeting held on 13 January to discuss the Basson/Project Coast handling strategy; and which Department or agency each represented. [76369]

Dr. Howells: The meeting on 13 January 2006 was attended by 13 officials from a number of relevant departments and agencies, including the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Health Protection Agency, to review what information was available on Project Coast and to ensure that the 12 parliamentary questions under consideration received consistent, full and accurate answers.

British Citizens (Overseas Convictions)

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what system is in place for the supervision of activities of British citizens convicted of imprisonable offences abroad who are deported back to the United Kingdom. [76865]

Dr. Howells: When Consular staff are informed that a British national who has been imprisoned overseas is to be deported to the UK, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London passes details of the individual and the date of deportation, if known, to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). It is then for SOCA to ensure that this information is passed to the relevant authorities responsible for any necessary supervision of the deportee's activities following their arrival in the UK.

Commonwealth Meeting (Uganda)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* Her Majesty the Queen plans to attend the Commonwealth meeting in Uganda. [76619]

Mr. McCartney: The Kampala Commonwealth summit is not until November 2007. While it is too soon to be certain, both my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and Her Majesty the Queen expect to attend Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will estimate the pension liability of her Department over the next 30 years. [75277]

Mr. Hoon: HM Treasury placed a technical Note about the total liability of unfunded public service occupational pension schemes in the Library of the House on 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-90W following an oral Statement by my right hon. Friend the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Des Browne).

The Government Actuaries Department do not estimate pension liabilities for individual departments but for different pension schemes. UK-based staff at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are covered by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). Table 1 of HM Treasury's Note of 2 March 2006 sets out estimates of the liabilities of the PCSPS.

James Miller

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Israeli authorities regarding the prosecution of the soldiers and commanding officer involved in the killing of British cameraman James Miller in May 2003 since the St. Pancras coroner's verdict. [75415]

Dr. Howells: My noble and learned Friend the Attorney-General is responsible for matters relating to possible prosecutions in the United Kingdom. Following the coroner's verdict he and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary separately met James Miller's family. During his subsequent visit to Israel in May, the Attorney-General had detailed discussions on this matter and indeed the killing of Thomas Hurndall, with the Israeli Foreign Minister, Minister of Justice, Attorney-General and Military Advocate General and others. In addition the

Attorney-General raised the issue of holding an independent inquiry into the death and subsequent investigation and pressed for appropriate compensation to be paid to the family without delay. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is in contact with the Attorney-General about how this matter will be taken forward.

Peru

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action she is taking towards ensuring that the Peruvian presidential elections are *(a)* free and fair and *(b)* subject to scrutiny from international observers. [73563]

Mr. Hoon: We followed the Peruvian presidential election campaign closely through our embassy in Lima and we fully support the Peruvian Government's efforts to ensure the elections were free and fair. An Electoral Observation Mission of the Organisation of American States monitored the second round of the elections on 4 June 2006, with the participation of some 100 international observers. The European Parliament also sent an observer mission.

Terrorism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information she has received about the terrorist Hambali, who is in US custody and is charged with masterminding the Bali bombing in 2002. [75744]

Mr. McCartney: Hambali (aka Riduan Isamuddin) was captured in Thailand in August 2003. It is the longstanding policy of the Government not to comment on intelligence matters.

UK-Israeli Relations

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the possible effect on UK-Israeli relations of the boycott of Israeli academics by the National Association of Teachers of Further and Higher Education; and if she will make a statement. [76554]

Dr. Howells: The Government regrets the decision by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) to vote in favour of boycotting Israeli academics and institutions. We believe that such boycotts are counter-productive and that far more can be obtained through dialogue and academic co-operation.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my noble Friend Lord Triesman of Tottenham, issued a public statement on the boycott on 29 May 2006. The full text of the statement is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391638&a=KArticle&aid=1148472774425%20&year=2006&month=2006-05-01&date=2006-05-29

I understand that, following the merger between NATFHE and the Association of University teachers on 1 June, the boycott has now been suspended.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1416W, on the British embassy in Zimbabwe, where in Harare the new embassy will be located; what the timetable is for work on the new premises; what the total cost is forecast to be; what the total number of staff in the new premises is forecast to be; how many staff work in the existing embassy; what discussions she has had with the Government of Zimbabwe on the new embassy; and what plans she has for ministerial visits for the opening of the new embassy. [76236]

Mr. Hoon: The new embassy in Zimbabwe will be located on a greenfield site in Mount Pleasant, a suburb six kilometres north of the centre of Harare. Construction should begin this year with a new embassy completed late 2008. We are unable to make public the cost of the project as to do so would prejudice our commercial interests in circumstances where the contracts have still to be tendered.

There are 110 staff, UK based and locally engaged, working in our existing embassy in Harare. This figure includes the staff of the Department of International Development-Zimbabwe who are co-located with the embassy. This number is unlikely to change on transfer to the new building. Our embassy in Harare has been in contact with Government of Zimbabwe about our plans and has obtained the necessary permission to build. There are no plans for Ministers to attend the opening of the new embassy.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to resolve the dispute over lunch breaks between the North East Ambulance Trust and ambulance crews. [76992]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* Where there are problems with assimilation of staff onto agenda for change terms and conditions NHS Employers uses implementation teams, working in partnership with national unions represented on the NHS staff council, to provide the necessary support.

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria she will take into account before changes are considered to the future of the Staffordshire Ambulance Service. [73450]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We shall shortly be agreeing the basis for partnership between Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust and the new West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust. It is of course paramount that the safety of the public is protected, and this must be the main consideration in going forward.

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Staffordshire Ambulance Service will be merged into a West Midlands Ambulance Service within 24 months; and if she will make a statement. [73451]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As stated by the Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham), in his statement to the House on 16 May 2006, for now Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust will remain a separate trust, working in partnership with the new West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust, but will merge at a later date.

No timescale has been set for this merger.

Cannabis (Therapeutic Use)

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in testing medicinal products containing cannabis for pain relief; and if she will make a statement. [75745]

Andy Burnham: There have been two main investigators of cannabis based medicinal product and these are Dr. Zajicek and GW Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Zajicek published the results of his study in *The Lancet* in November 2003 (Cannabinoids for treatment of Spasticity and other symptoms related to multiple sclerosis (cannabis in multiple sclerosis (CAMS) study). The 3 year CAMS trial, involving more than 600 patients in the United Kingdom, has yielded no definitive verdict on whether the drug can ease the symptoms of multiple sclerosis. I am not aware of any other ongoing studies by Dr. Zajicek.

On 17 March 2006, GW Pharmaceuticals announced the preliminary results from a Phase III study of Sativex (cannabis based medicinal product) in the relief of spasticity in people with multiple sclerosis (MS). This study is a randomized, placebo controlled group study in 335 MS patients with spasticity. According to the GW website, this study is one of a number of Phase III studies which are currently taking place to support approval of Sativex across Europe in a range of targeted indications.

Consultant Contract Benefit Realisation Team

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the remit is of the consultant contract benefit realisation team; how many people are employed in the team; and when it was established. [74864]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The consultant contract benefit realisation team was established in March 2005 and ended on 31 May 2006. Their remit was to work with national health service trusts on a more proactive approach to job planning; to gather and share examples of good practice; and to make recommendations to the office of strategic health authorities. There were five people employed in the team for most of this period.

Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to the letter of 3 February from the hon. Member for Aylesbury to the former Minister of State the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy), on behalf of Mrs B. G. of Lacey Green, about prescription medicines. [76346]

Andy Burnham: This letter was replied to on 12 June 2006.

Cosmetic Surgery

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been spent by the NHS on cosmetic surgery in each of the last 8 years; [75894]

(2) how much has been spent by the NHS on tattoo removal in each of the last 8 years; [75932]

Andy Burnham: This information is not collected centrally.

Departmental Pension Liability

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate the pension liability of her Department over the next 30 years. [75231]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the technical note by HM Treasury that was placed in the Library on 2 March 2006, *Official Report,* columns 388-90W, following an oral statement in Parliament by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury,

Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual departments, they are estimated for individual pension schemes, as shown in the breakdown of liabilities per pension scheme given in table one of the technical note.

Departmental Statistical Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the planned publication date is of each annual statistical publication to be produced by her Department in the next nine months; and if she will make a statement. [75648]

Andy Burnham: Timing of annual and other statistical publications produced by the Department is pre-announced by way of a 12-month publication plan which is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Statistics/CodeOfPractice/12MonthPlan/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=40164238&chk=Eldbg/

This plan also currently includes statistical publications produced by the information centre for health and social care.

The Department process for pre-announcing statistical publications is carried out in accordance with the National Statistics protocol for release practices. Month of publication is given six months ahead with exact date at least two weeks ahead.

Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the potential effects of the withdrawal of the bulk

contract for the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin, with particular reference to prescribing; and who will pay for the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin following the withdrawal of funds. [75339]

Andy Burnham: A number of alternative sources of information and advice remain readily available to prescribers following the Department's decision not to renew its bulk contract for the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin. I understand that individuals and organisations can subscribe direct to the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin if they wish to do so.

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation was undertaken before the decision was taken to cancel funding for the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin. [75477]

Andy Burnham: There was no requirement to consult on the decision not to renew the contract.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors she took into account when deciding not to renew the contract for the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin. [76551]

Andy Burnham: The decision not to renew the Department's national contract for distribution of the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin was informed by our policy to devolve as much responsibility as possible to the national health service and to look very critically at central spending. It is our policy that central spending should be kept to an absolute minimum in order to maximise the resources available for the NHS to manage at the local level. The decision also took account of the availability of other sources of medicines information.

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact on doctors of the decision by her Department to withdraw funding from the Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin; and if she will make a statement. [76902]

Andy Burnham: A number of alternative sources of information and advice remain readily available to prescribers following the Department's decision not to renew its bulk contract for the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin. I understand that individuals and organisations can subscribe directly to the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin if they wish to do so.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on dissemination of the Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin to NHS doctors. [75898]

Andy Burnham: The Department has taken the decision not to renew its contract for the central purchase and distribution of the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin. Future distribution arrangements are a matter for the publisher, Which? Limited, although officials have been discussing with them how the Department can best support this transition.

Generic Medicines

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the savings made by the NHS from the centralised procurement process for generic medicines in 2005. [71570]

Andy Burnham: The estimated savings made by the national health service from the centralised process for generic medicines in 2005 obtained through the national contracts sourcing programme for generic pharmaceuticals are £51 million.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of the savings which are to be made to the NHS through the optimal use of generic, rather than branded, medicines. [74053]

Andy Burnham: Data from the prescription pricing division of the Business Services Authority (formerly known as the Prescription Pricing Authority) indicates that from January to March 2006 the estimated savings that could have been achieved through the compulsory generic dispensing of the top 40 (in terms of the amount of potential saving that could be achieved) proprietary drugs for which a generic alternative is available and where the proprietary drug is suitable for substitution, was £11.7 million.

GP Contract

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the cost of the new general practitioner contract. [71574]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Introduction of the new primary medical care contractual frameworks represents a fundamental change in the way in which contractors are incentivised to deliver patient care. The new arrangements were underpinned by a three-year deal, ending in 2005-06, which guaranteed a 36 per cent. increase in resources in England, rising from £5 billion in 2002-03 to £6.8 billion in 2005-06.

Evidence from primary care trust (PCT) expenditure returns show PCTs have also made available additional resources to secure the wider range of services and improvements in care to meet national and local priorities.

The increased investment is directly benefiting the vast majority of patients who are experiencing improvements not only in the range of services available locally but also improvements in the quality of clinical services they receive.

HC1 Forms

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 756W, on prescription charges, in which languages HC1 forms are available; how much has been spent on advertising the availability of HC1 forms in each of the last five years; and how many people applied for a form in this period. [74480]

Andy Burnham: The HC1 form is available in English in England. For those whose first language is not English a telephone translation service is provided via any of the telephone numbers in the publicity material. The cost of advertising the availability of form HC1 is not identified separately. It is included in the range of 'Help with Health Cost' material produced. There is no record of the number of people who obtain from HC1. Forms may be ordered by individuals from Department's publications order line 08701 555 455. Forms are also ordered in bulk by national health service and other bodies for individuals to obtain from NHS practitioners, NHS hospitals, or Jobcentre Plus offices or citizens advice bureau. The numbers distributed in the past five years are shown in the table.

	Volume
2001-02	2,196,057
2002-03	1,986,232
2003-04	1,924,259
2004-05	1,681,846
2005-06	1,515,389

Medical Services Contracts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* GPs and *(b)* private firms that win alternative provider of medical services contracts are required to disclose (i) how much money per patient they are earning, (ii) their quality framework score and (iii) their profit levels. [67940]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Individual general practitioners or providers of alternative provider medical services are not required to disclose to the Department the amount of money they receive per patient, or profit levels. Information about quality and outcomes framework scores for providers who participate in this scheme is published by the information centre for health and social care.

Mental Health

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many young people are waiting to access child and adolescent mental health services, broken down by region; what the average waiting time to access child and adolescent mental health services was in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [77487]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Not all the information requested is collated centrally. The most recent information is derived from provisional figures from the 2005 child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) mapping exercise. In November 2005, there were 26,207 cases waiting to be seen by specialist CAMHS in England, a reduction of 2,674 from the previous year.

In November 2005, 52 per cent. of new cases were seen by specialist CAMHS within four weeks, an additional 33 per cent. within 13 weeks, and a further 10 per cent. within 26 weeks. 5 per cent. of cases waited over 26 weeks to be seen by specialist CAMHS.

The Department is committed to ensuring that comprehensive CAMHS are available to all who need them. Our vision is set out in the national service framework for children, young people and maternity services, published in September 2004.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the black and minority ethnic mental health network *(a)* has been and *(b)* is (i) involved in and (ii) given appropriate notice of the development, implementation and facilitation of the race equality impact assessment consultation events on the Mental Health Bill; and if she will take steps to ensure that the network is (A) involved in and (B) given appropriate notice of future such events. [72961]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* Seven events were held, attended by about 430 people across England and in Wales as part of the process of consultation to assess the potential race impact of the proposed amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The black and minority ethnic (BME) mental health network was involved in the initial development of the race equality impact assessment (REIA) consultation events. Due to an unfortunate breakdown in communications over the timing of the events, the network decided to withdraw their support from the events. We apologised for any misunderstanding and sought to involve the network in the events. The events were attended by a range of users and carers, including representatives from the African-Caribbean, South Asian, Irish, Pakistani and Chinese communities.

Professor Antony Sheehan, Director General of the care services directorate, is now personally overseeing this work and is meeting with members of the BME network on 19 June 2006 to discuss how to continue taking this forward. This meeting will be followed by a ministerial meeting with members of the BME network on 20 June 2006. In the meantime, the Department's REIA advisory group met on 31 May and agreed to further work on the impact of the amendments to the Mental Health Act. The REIA advisory group has met on 13 June 2006. One of the members of the Department's REIA advisory group is from MIND, and is also the co-chair of the BME network. The BME network continue to engage as part of the wider REIA process and we value their helpful input.

Modernising Medical Careers

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will assess the impact of planned changes in the budget for junior doctor training during the transition to modernising medical careers. [73845]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Allocations to strategic health authorities (SHAs) for 2006-07 will be issued shortly. They will include funding for modernising medical careers. The precise costs of the transition are not known as much of it will be managed at local level through the re-badging of existing posts rather than the creation of new ones. As a result, it will be for SHAs working closely with their postgraduate deaneries to determine exactly how much funding they will need to provide for modernising medical careers in their locality.

Overseas Doctors

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many trainee doctors from *(a)* Pakistan, *(b)* India, *(c)* other Commonwealth countries, *(d)* EU countries and *(e)* European Economic Area countries work in the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals Trust; [64662]

(2) how many trainee doctors from *(a)* Pakistan, *(b)* India, *(c)* New Zealand and *(d)* South Africa are working in hospitals in England. [64678]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is the responsibility of any employer for applications for work permits. No extra funding will be allocated to national health service trusts.

The numbers of general practitioners (GP) hospital and community health services (HCHS) doctors in training and equivalents in England by specified countries of qualification as at 30 September 2005. Many doctors in this category are not in posts that are academically approved.

GP registrars and HCHS: doctors in training and equivalents[1] by grade and country of qualification for specified countries[2], England at 30 September 2005

	Registrar group	*Senior house officer*	*House officer and foundation programme year[1]*
All countries of qualification	18,006	21,642	4,663
Of which:			
India	3,581	5,329	184
New Zealand	68	27	0
Pakistan	435	1,041	165
South Africa	327	251	2

[1] Doctors in training and equivalents is the term used to refer to people in the registrar group, senior house officers, house officers and other staff in equivalent grades who are not in an educationally approved post.

[2] Excludes all dental staff. Information about country of qualification is derived from the General Medical Council. For staff in dental specialties, with a General Dental Council registration, the country of qualification is therefore unknown.

Sources:

The Information Centre for health and social care, medical and dental workforce census.

The Information Centre for health and social care, general and personal medical services statistics.

Payment by Results

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what formula is used for calculating payments to a hospital under payment by results. [74750]

Andy Burnham: Under payment by results, hospitals are paid according to the number and complexity of cases treated and on the basis of the national tariff. The national tariff paid to individual providers is adjusted for market forces factor (MFF), to account for unavoidable cost differences in land, labour and buildings. This could be expressed as a formula: activity x (tariff x MFF).

Prescriptions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions have been issued using the electronic prescriptions service in each month since it became operational. [75441]

Andy Burnham: The number of prescription messages issued using the electronic prescription service is shown in the following table:

Date	*Prescription messages*
20-28 February 2005	607
March 2005	3,442
April 2005	2,887
May 2005	3,576
June 2005	3,394
July 2005	6,135
August 2005	6,432
September 2005	14,400
October 2005	46,039
November 2005	69,823
December 2005	68,365
January 2006	87,074
February 2006	153,771
March 2006	260,898
April 2006	262,952
May 2006	439,427
Total	1,429,222

Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the projected cost is of the private finance initiative re-development of Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham. [72540]

Andy Burnham: The capital cost of Portsmouth Hospitals National Health Service Trust's private finance initiative (PFI) scheme for the redevelopment of Queen Alexandra Hospital is £236 million. The annual payment the trust will make to its private sector under the PFI contract is £32,866,000 million, subject to satisfactory performance by the contractor and other factors such as refinancing. The contract is for 35 years; payment commences after the first three and a half years upon the successful construction and handover of the new facilities to the trust.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Advertising and Publicity

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the 10 most expensive advertising and publicity campaigns run by his Department and its agencies since 1 January 2004; and what the total cost was in each case. [41497]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. A breakdown of publicity costs for each financial year can be found in the Departments Reports which are available in the Library. The 10 most expensive advertising and publicity campaigns for 2005-06 are set out in the following table:

Campaign	Spend (£000)
Targeting Benefit Fraud	7,459
Pension Credit	3,000
Age Partnership	2,475
Winter Fuel/Age Related Payments	1,416
Disability Discrimination Act	1,313
Future Pensioners/Informed Choice	1,059
Pensioners Guide	1,000
State Pension Deferral	927
State Second Pension	818
Age Positive	750

Notes:
1. The table does not include the following as the information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost; spend by non-departmental bodies, statutory bodies for which the Department is responsible or other body sponsored by the Department details of highly localised publicity activity by the Department's customer-facing businesses; recruitment or procurement advertising.
2. All figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. All figures are exclusive of VAT.
4. Spend is recorded by financial year only, rather than calendar years.

Air Miles

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many free air miles have been earned by senior civil servants in his Department in each of the last three years; and how they were used. [72867]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department of Work and Pensions does not have any scheme which collects free air miles gained from business journeys.

Benefit Recipients

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of people who are entitled to, but not receiving *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* income support, *(c)* housing benefit, *(d)* council tax benefit and *(e)* other benefits in Coventry South. [76527]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available broken down below national level. For the available information I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the right hon. Member for North Tyneside (Mr. Byers), on 3 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1034W.

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* social fund, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* family credit recipients there were on average in each and what the average award was in each year ward in Doncaster North in (i) 1984, (ii) 1994 and (iii) 2004; in each case. [68297]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested. Social fund and family credit data is not available at ward level. Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance data are not available at ward level prior to August 1999. The available information for incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants and average weekly amount, by ward, Doncaster North parliamentary constituency, August 2004

Ward name	Total claimants	Average weekly amount (£)
Adwick	1,260	84.41
Askern	765	87.06
Bentley Central	980	84.50
Bentley North Road	630	84.16
Stainforth	1,045	87.14
Thorne	1,280	84.52

Notes:
1. Claimant numbers have been rounded to a multiple of 5 and average amounts to the nearest penny.
2. Claimants figures include all incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance cases, including incapacity benefit credit only cases.
3. The average weekly amount does not include credit-only cases.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Benefits (Information Leaflets)

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure that leaflets on pensions and disability benefits from his Department are freely available at *(a)* post offices, *(b)* libraries, *(c)* doctors' surgeries, *(d)* council offices and *(e)* citizens advice bureaux. [44037]

Mrs. McGuire: Although there is no national agreement for the display of leaflets at libraries, doctors' surgeries, council offices and citizens advice bureaux there are a number of routes which ensure the availability of leaflets at these locations.

The Pension Service's local service teams, located throughout England, Scotland and Wales, have local partnerships with external organisations and formally monitor the use and availability of leaflets at 'Hard Copy Information Points' on partner premises. They also share local knowledge and experience of which leaflets are the most popular and most useful to our customers.

The 80,000 subscribers to the Department's Publicity Register receive a quarterly newsletter called 'Touchbase' which provides details of current and forthcoming information campaigns. Subscribers are also able to order leaflets directly from the Department through its on-line catalogue of information products.

Some private companies provide information services in public locations such as libraries and doctors' waiting rooms. The costs of providing this service are usually met directly by the Department or by the venue but the information remains free of any charge to the public.

Recent customer research has indicated that disabled people would prefer information to be available at the point of diagnosis. The Disability and Carers Service are proposing to develop an awareness poster for display in locations such as doctors' surgeries, hospitals and local authorities that will signpost potential customers to more detailed information. Where possible the outlet displaying the poster will also hold stocks of leaflets.

There is no longer any contractual agreement with the Post Office to display DWP leaflets.

Carers

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether receipt of state pension affects the level of carer's allowance granted to carers. [70321]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 May 2006]:* Yes, the payment of carer's allowance is affected by receipt of state pension.

The payment of state pension takes precedence because it is a contributory benefit, either extinguishing the payment of carer's allowance, or reducing it if the amount of carer's allowance due is higher.

Although this will mean that carer's allowance is not payable, or not payable in full, an underlying entitlement to carer's allowance gives access to the carer premium in housing benefit and council tax benefit and to the carer's additional amount in pension credit.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 17 March 2006. [67320]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 2 May 2006]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 2 May 2006.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards, *(b)* Christmas decorations and *(c)* Christmas parties in each year since 1997. [39181]

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to his Department of sending Christmas cards in 2005. [46482]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in 2002. The Department does not co-ordinate the purchase and distribution of Christmas cards centrally. However details on the cost of cards sent by Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and other areas of the Department can be found in the following table. Figures provided prior to 2005 in respect of other areas of the Department are based on the available information but may be under-estimates.

Cost (£)

	Ministers	*Permanent Secretary*	*Other areas*
2002	[1]1,695		0
2003	1,502	229	668
2004	1,649	210	777
2005	1,573	351	1,187

[1] Breakdown not available.

Christmas cards are also sent out by the Department's Executive Agencies, and I have asked the respective chief executives of these agencies to write to the hon. Members separately. A copy of their letters will be placed in the Library.

No expenditure was incurred on Christmas decorations in any year since the Department was formed.

Expenditure on Christmas parties was as follows:

Ministers and Permanent Secretary Christmas party

	Cost to DWP[1]	£ *Cost*
2002	—	[2]—
2003	94	326
2004	79	320
2005	72	217

[1] The Department only paid for approximately one third of the total cost. The Secretary of State and the Permanent Secretary paid personally for the remainder of the total cost reflecting broadly the proportion of external guests invited.
[2] Information not available.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the annual expenditure on training and development by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body, (ii) executive agency and (iii) other public body for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each of the English regions and (D) Northern Ireland was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2005-06. [39989]

Mrs. McGuire: The following tables show the total expenditure for staff training and development for DWP, its agencies and its associate bodies at a national level. Full information by region is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Training and Development expenditure for DWP 2002-03 to 2005-06

	£ *million*
2002-03	132.3
2003-04	175.43
2004-05	200.6
2005-06	87.5[1]

[1] Information for 2005-06 is incomplete.

Training and Development expenditure for DWP's agencies 2002-03 to 2005-06

Agencies	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	£ *million* *2005-06*
Jobcentre plus	78.6	74.3	129.1	37.7
The pension service	32.0	38.6	19.7	24.1
Disability and carers' service	21.9	10.4	9.7	5.3
Child support agency	—	24.0	21.6	6.8
The appeals service	—	0.6	2.1	n/a
The rent service[1]	0.797	0.814	0.869	n/a

[1] Information taken from the Rent Service Business Plan 2005-2006.

The categories of data gathered during this period have changed, limiting the usefulness of any year by year comparison. In addition to formal training, staff are developed in a variety of other ways including e-learning, coaching, and mentoring in the work place. All these learning interventions are now reflected in the investment figures. Records have therefore become more accurate and comprehensive resulting in the apparent increase shown.

Training and Development Expenditure for non departmental public bodies (NDPB's)

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Disability Employment Advisory Committee (DEAC)	n/a	2,000	—	2,000
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board (DLAAB)	—	—	—	—
Disability Rights Commission (DRC)	210,472	205,511	203,124	[1]419,000
Health & Safety Commission (HSC) and Health and Safety Executive	5,200,000	4,700,000	3,900,000	[1]4,600,000
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC)	0	0	0	0
Independent Living Funds (ILF)	58,016	46,773	126,430	[1]142,310
National Employment Panel (NEP)	3,013	16,079	38,891	[1]11,333
Pensions Ombudsman (PO)	27,800	5,100	7,200	[1]14,000
Private Pensions Fund (PPF)	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]130,000
Remploy Ltd.	4,700,000	6,200,000	7,300,000	[1]6,200,000
Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC)	0	0	0	0
The Pensions Regular (TPR)	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]793,000

Training and Development Expenditure for associate bodies (i.e. other public bodies for which the Secretary of State is responsible

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Independent Review Service & Social Fund Commissioner (IRS SFC)	19,902	18,245	26,284	[1, 2]44,912
Motability	35,792	55,446	32,931	[1]65,000
The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS)	15,067	4,714	20,141	[1]19,000

[1] Planned expenditure.
[2] This includes the costs of external training providers. It does not include staff costs for training or the costs of in-house trainers.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent by his Department on salaries paid to civil servants in each year since 1997. [41581]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is in the following table.

Salaries paid to civil servants

£000

	Year ending 31 March							
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Benefits agency	1,016,270	1,000,897	1,035,114	1,056,033	991,199	—	—	—
The pension service	—	—	—	—	—	207,556	309,238	292,785
Contributions agency	118,131	117,455	—	—	—	—	—	—
Child support agency	120,692	108,053	116,690	133,306	148,654	169,193	176,694	184,242
Veterans agency	15,895	13,580	14,214	15,351	15,261	—	—	—
Jobcentre plus	—	—	—	—	—	1,419,939	1,388,633	1,454,555
Disability and carers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48,482
The appeals service	17,949	22,336	22,342	21,203	18,902	19,884	20,527	20,758
Corporate	37,449	47,707	52,582	74,471	237,642	418,983	413,192	401,901
Total	1,326,386	1,310,028	1,240,942	1,300,364	1,411,658	2,235,555	2,308,284	2,402,723
Percentage movement	—	-1.2	-5.6	4.6	7.9	36.9	3.2	3.9
plus								
Employment service	450,015	478,533	504,251	538,755	595,878	—	—	—
less								
Veterans' agency	(15,895)	(13,580)	(14,214)	(15,351)	(15,261)	—	—	—

Salaries paid to civil servants

£000

	Year ending 31 March							
	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Total (incl ES & excl. VA)	1,792,296	1,802,141	1,759,407	1,854,470	2,022,797	2,235,555	2,308,284	2,402,723
Percentage movement	—	0.5	-2.4	5.1	8.3	9.5	3.2	3.9

Notes:
Listed above are the salaries paid to civil servants, in the years stated, by agency. The figures exclude NI contributions, superannuation, bonuses, short term circumstances (e.g. deputising allowances) and staff on short term promotion. The first total includes all the agencies in the OWP (formally DSS) and therefore The veterans' agency (formally war pensions) is included but the employment service is excluded up to March 2002. This produces a large increase (36.9 per cent.) in 2002-03 when ES became part of the DWP. The second total includes ES and excludes war pensions from 1997-98 and therefore reduces the effect of the agency movements.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many public consultations his Department undertook in 2005; and what the cost was *(a)* in total and *(b)* of each consultation. [72862]

Mrs. McGuire: As part of its policy development activity, the Department for Work and Pensions ran six formal public consultation exercises in 2005. The consultation process involved not only the formal consultation document, but also ongoing dialogue with stakeholders. The precise cost of this consultation activity is not collated on a central basis and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Formal public consultation papers, summaries of replies, and Government's responses, are available at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2005/index.asp.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff from his Department attended the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-ul-Adha event in London in 2005; and what the total cost was to his Department of their attendance. [73102]

Mrs. McGuire: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will write to the hon. Member with details of the Civil Service Islamic Society Eid-ul-Adha event. Copies of her letter will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list those *(a)* Acts and *(b)* parts of Acts which received Royal Assent between 1976 and 2006 for which his Department has policy responsibility and which remain in force. [70397]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is as follows:

	In force
(a) Acts since 1976 for which the Department is responsible	
Vaccine Damage Payments Act 1979 (c.17)	The whole Act, except sections 10 and 11 (repealed)
Social Security Act 1979 (c.18)	Sections 1, 20 and 21
Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 (c.41)	The whole Act
Social Security Act 1980 (c.30)	Sections 6, 9, 12, 16, 19 to 21 except section 4
Social Security and Housing Benefits Act 1982 (c.24)	Sections 10, 39, 42, 45 to 48
Social Security Act 1986 (c.50)	Sections 37, 39, 54, 56, 57 and 83 to 90
Social Security Act 1988 (c.7)	Sections 12, 13, 15 to 16 and 18 to 20
Social Security Act 1989 (c.24)	Sections 4, 6, 22 to 24, 28 to 30, 31 and 33
Social Security Act 1990 (c.28)	Sections 6, 7, 15 and 18 to 23
Disability Living Allowance and Disability Working Allowance Act 1991 (c.21)	Sections 2, 4, 10 and 15
Child Support Act 1991 (c.48)	The whole Act except sections 13, 18, 19, 20A and 21 (repealed)
Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (c.4) other than parts 1, 12, ZA and 12 ZB	Parts 2 to 12 and 12A and 13 except sections 25 to 30, 31 to 34, 49, 50, 53, 57 to 59, 80, 81, 86, 158 and 159 (repealed)
Social Security Administration Act 1992 (c.5)	The whole Act except for parts 2 and 4 and sections 11, 72, 110, 110B, 114A, 122A, 127, 128, 177 and 178 (repealed)
Social Security (Consequential Provisions Act) 1992 (c.6)	The whole Act
Social Security (Mortgage Interest Payments) Act 1992 (c.33)	Section 2
Social Security Act 1993 (c.3)	The whole Act except section 1 (repealed)
The Disability Grants Act 1993 (c.14)	The whole Act
Pension Schemes Act 1993 (c.48)	The whole Act except part 2 of schedule 5 and schedule 7 (not yet in force) and sections 2 to 6, 22, 24, 48, 59, 64 to 66, 77 to 80, 102 to 108, 111, 111B, 112, 114, 116, 118, 119 to 122, 133 to 144, 172, 173 and 187 (repealed)
Statutory Sick Pay Act 1994 (c.2)	The whole Act
Social Security (Incapacity for Work) Act 1994 (c.18)	The whole Act except sections 2(4), 9(1) to (3) and 10 (repealed)
Jobseekers Act 1995 (c.18)	The whole Act except sections 33 and 34 (repealed)
Pensions Act 1995 (c.35)	The whole Act except sections 145 (not yet in force) and 1, 2, 5, 13, 16 to 21, 26A to C, 30A, 31, 42 to 46, 48, 56 to 61, 95 to 114, 127 and 150 (repealed)
Child Support Act 1995 (c.34)	The whole Act except for sections 12, 13, 15, 16 and 24 (repealed)

	In force
Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c.50) except parts 4 and 5	Parts 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 except for sections 7, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18, 50, 62, 63 and 66 (repealed)
Social Security (Overpayments) Act 1996 (c.51)	The whole Act
Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997 (c.27)	The whole Act
Social Security Administration (Fraud) Act 1997 (c.47)	The whole Act except sections 6, 12, 14, 17 and 18 (repealed)
Social Security Act 1998 (c.14)	The whole Act except for section 35 (repealed)
Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (c.30)	The whole Act except for sections 4, 5 and 17 (repealed)
Disability Rights Commission Act 1999 (c.17)	The whole Act except section 11 (repealed)
Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000 (c.19) other than part 4 (contributions)	Parts 1 to 3 and 5 except for sections 43 to 46
Social Security Fraud Act 2001 (c.11)	The whole Act
State Pension Credit Act 2002 (c.16)	The whole Act
The Age-Related Payments Act 2004 (c.10)	The whole Act
Pensions Act 2004 (c.35)	Except for sections 118, 153, 155 to 159, 187, 234 to 238 and 308, the other provisions are either in force or partially in force
Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (c.13) except sections 5 to 9 and 15	Except for section 14, the provisions for which DWP are responsible are either in force or partially in force
(b) Parts of Acts for which the Department is responsible	
Part 2 of the Health and Social Security Act 1984 (c.48)	Sections 15, 21 and 23 to 29
Section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (c.33)	Section 115
Sections 6 and 8 of the Children (Leaving Care Act) 2000 (c.35)	Sections 6 and 8
Sections 48 to 50 of the Employment Act 2002 (c.22)	Sections 48 to 50
Sections 254 and 255 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c.33)	Sections 254 and 255
Sections 43, 88 and 89 of the Equality Act 2006 (c.3)	Sections 43, 88 and 89

Note:
References to an Act or part of an Act are to that Act or part as amended and include references to provisions which have not been repealed but are obsolete or spent.

Departmental Staff

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any *(a)* employee of his Department, *(b)* person engaged by his Department as a consultant and *(c)* paid adviser to his Department is a member of the House of Lords; and if he will make a statement. [52890]

Mrs. McGuire: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The rules on political activities that Departments are required to enforce are set out in chapter 4.4 of the Civil Service Management Code. This does not directly state that Members of the House of Lords cannot be employees of the civil service.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals have been employed in his Department in each of the last five years; what vetting procedures are in place for each category of staff; and whether these include liaison with foreign law enforcement agencies. [68011]

Mrs. McGuire: The statistical information requested is not recorded by the Department and therefore not available.

All new recruits to the Department are required to provide their nationality on the application form to check eligibility for employment within the civil service. If an EU or non-EU foreign national applies for a specific post that requires vetting action over and above the standard pre appointment enquiries, either a security check or a developed vetting checks would be undertaken (depending on the nature of the individual post).

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what promotion boards have been held in his Department in each of the last five years. [72863]

Mrs. McGuire: This information is not available centrally and to provide it would be at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints of racial abuse in his Department have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in each of the last 5 years. [72864]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions records complaints relating to racial discrimination and harassment that are formally investigated by the Department.

The following table contains information about the number of complaints that were formally investigated in the years 2003-04 to 2005-06. The information is not available before 2003.

	Number of investigations	*Number upheld*
2005-06	19	[1]1-3
2004-05	12	3
2003-04	8	1

[1] Cases are ongoing

DWP staff can find out how to complain from their line managers or from the Department's internal intranet site.

Initial complaints are considered by line managers (or their manager if the complaint is about the line manager) to decide the appropriate course of action. A number will either be resolved without any further action or by Line Manager's enquiry where the potential for minor misconduct is identified.

If there is a suggestion of serious or gross misconduct, the complaint is referred for formal investigation by the Human Resources Investigation Service.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [73101]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Table 1: DWP staff sick under 5 days in the 12 months ended 31 March 2004

Number of periods	*Number of staff*
2	23,929
3	11,800
4	5,504
5 or more	5,541
Total	46,774

Table 2: DWP staff sick under 5 days in the 12 months ended 31 March 2005

Number of periods	*Number of staff*
2	21,241
3	10,144
4	4,817
5 or more	5,051
Total	41,253

Table 3: DWP staff sick under 5 days in the 12 months ended 31 March 2006

Number of periods	*Number of staff*
2	18,507
3	8,989
4	4,194
5 or more	4,736
Total	36,426

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of his staff in each of the last 3 years; and what the total cost was. [73106]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available for 2003-04. For the last 2 years the information is in the following table:

		Total cost	
	Number of Non-pensionable bonuses paid to staff in DWP	*Cash Sum (£)*	*As percentage of the total pay bill*
2004-05	139,701	23,534,250.90	0.76
2005-06	133,766	45,661,356.80	1.86

Disability Access

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any building in his Department falls short of disability access regulations. [73103]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has reviewed the duties placed upon it under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to make reasonable adjustments to its premises to improve access to the public and for its staff.

The Department, through its property management and services partner LandSecurities Trillium, commissioned a survey of all its occupied buildings (approximately 1,500) to identify the need for public access improvement works. The resultant programme of works commenced in 2004 and was completed in March 2005 with the exception of approximately 55 Jobcentre Plus refurbishments projects that are due for completion by July 2006.

The existing arrangements are subject to annual review and any subsequent measures identified are scheduled through the annual buildings maintenance programmes conducted by LandSecurities Trillium.

Access improvements for members of staff are conducted on an ongoing basis as and when the need arises or is identified upon recruitment, transfer or when an existing condition deteriorates and further measures are required.

Early Retirement

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's employees have taken early retirement in each year since 1997. [34048]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 bringing together the former Department of Social Security and the Employment Service. Information on the number of staff taking voluntary early retirement and voluntary early severance in each year since the Department's formation is shown in the table.

Information on the number of staff taking early retirement is not available prior to the Department's formation.

Year ending March	*Number of staff*
2002	415
2003	339
2004	768
2005	467

Notes: 1. Figures are full-time equivalent (rounded).
2. The above figures include those who have retired voluntarily with an actuarially reduced pension, those who have retired with benefits under the civil service compensation scheme and those who have retired on ill-health grounds.

Equal Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are undertaken within his Department to ensure that women are obtaining equal pay to men doing work of equal value. [65844]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions conducts equal pay audits as a minimum every three years. The last one was completed in 2005 and a further review is planned for later this year. The review completed in 2005 did not show any significant differences in pay arrangements for men and women. Some recommendations were made about the need to

understand how policies are applied in practice and we are currently working on an action plan to address these recommendations. We conduct full impact assessments for every new policy we introduce.

Grievance Procedures

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many grievance procedures have been initiated in the Department in each of the last three years. [63528]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions does not centrally record the number of grievance procedures initiated.

Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in his Department have been enabled to work from home in each of the last 3 years; and if he will make a statement. [68002]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP employees may work from home:

(a) Permanently, on a contractual basis; and

(b) On an ad-hoc basis.

A DWP wide home working policy becomes effective from 19 June 2006, but existing employees may already apply to become a permanent home worker under their legacy terms of employment as a former employee of the DSS or one of its agencies, or the Employment Service.

The parents of children aged under six (18 if the child is disabled) also have a statutory right to apply to become a home worker under the terms of The Flexible Working (Procedural Requirements) Regulations 2002.

The total staffing figures for DWP for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006, and therefore the number of employees who might apply to become permanent home workers, and the specific number who have contracted as permanent home workers are as follows:

As at March each year	*Permanent employees*	*Contracted home workers*
2004	143,610	4
2005	133,479	5
2006	127,147	6

Managers may exercise discretion and authorise employees to work from home on an ad-hoc basis for a variety of reasons.

Statistical data have never been collected about ad-hoc home working arrangements, which are treated the same as any other absence from the normal work place on official duties.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the decade in which the Government estimates a fall of one million claimants drawing incapacity benefits has already begun. [72920]

Mrs. McGuire: The Green Paper sets out our aspiration to see a million fewer claimants of incapacity benefits, over the course of a decade, through the combined efforts of the Government, employers, local authorities and health professionals. We are still at an early stage and will establish precise measures, including a baseline year, in due course.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of the expected fall in incapacity benefit claimants of one million in the next decade which will be brought about by the death or retirement of current claimants. [73172]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* While it is difficult to model the precise impact of our proposed measures at this stage, the Green Paper sets out our aspiration to see a million fewer claimants of incapacity benefits over the course of a decade, through the combined efforts of the Government, employers, local authorities and health professionals. More precise measures will be established in due course.

Leased Land

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* land and *(b)* property his Department (i) leases and (ii) leased in (A) 1979, (B) 1983, (C) 1987, (D) 1992 and (E) 1997 in (1) the Southend, West constituency, (2) Essex, (3) Hertfordshire and (4) the Metropolitan Police area of London. [72107]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001. The Department does not lease any property or land in Southend, West Constituency, Essex, Hertfordshire or the Metropolitan Police area of London. The Department's estate in these areas has been sold or transferred under a PFI partnership deal to Land Securities Trillium (LST) and in return for the payment of a unitary charge, LST is responsible for providing a full facilities management service across the estate. A list of all the estate sold or transferred to LST by Government Office Region was placed in the Library with PQ33250 on 16 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2430W.

This response exciudes The Health and Safety Executive, an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body and The Rent Service, an Executive Agency, as their records are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is not able to provide information about land and property leased in the years 1979, 1983, 1987, 1992 and 1997 in the areas, as the information is not available in the format requested.

Pathways to Work

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information is held on the Pathways to Work evaluation database; what data fields are used; how much of the information from the database is readily accessible to the public; and how that information may be obtained. [76888]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Pathways to Work Evaluation database hold information on most of the end-to-end process of Pathways, including National Insurance number (encrypted), Pathways starts, benefit claims, work focused interviews (WFIs), referrals and starts to programme provision, Return to Work Credit (RTWC) awards and job entries.

There are 179 variables (fields) on the database, a large proportion of which are derived variables that are used for calculation purposes such as classifying dates into months, creating binary flags or enabling the merging of data from different sources. The full list of variables has been placed in the Library.

A report, summarising information produced from the database appeared as a DWP Departmental Working Paper in January 2006 entitled "Incapacity Benefit Reforms—Pathways to Work pilots Performance and Analysis (Working paper no.26)", which is in the Library. Members of the public can access that information on the Department's website at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/wp26.pdf

Pay Gap

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the pay gap between able bodied and disabled workers in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* the UK in each year from 1997 to 2005; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce it. [53421]

Mrs. McGuire: This Department has not undertaken any research into the pay gap between disabled and non-disabled workers. However, the Low Pay Commission reports that, in 2004, the pay gap for people with a work-limiting disability was 13 percentage points.

The employment provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), as amended and strengthened by this Government, place a duty on an employer not to directly discriminate against a disabled person, or to treat the disabled person less favourably for a reason related to that person's disability, unless this can be justified. The Equal Opportunities Commission's Code of Practice on Equal Pay also makes clear that it is good practice for employers to compare the pay of disabled and non-disabled people doing equal work.

As a result of a strong economy and active labour market policies, the employment gap between disabled and non-disabled people is starting to close. The employment rate for disabled people was 38.1 per cent. in spring 1998, rising to 46.6 per cent. by spring 2005; over the same period, the employment gap fell from 35.1 per cent. to 28 per cent.

The Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report, "Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People" set out a 20 year strategy to realise our vision of substantive equality for disabled people. This strategy is being driven by a new Office for Disability Issues, which was launched in December 2005.

Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the current employer contribution rates to the principal civil service pension scheme are; what assumed rate of return underlies those contribution rates; and what the contribution rate would be if the assumed rate of return was in line with current redemption yield on index-linked gilts. [61908]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for East Renfrewshire (Mr. Murphy) on 29 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1030W.

Print/Broadcast Media

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the Department's policy on the use of broadcast and print media analysis. [37031]

Mrs. McGuire: Departments analyse coverage in the press and broadcast media as part of their day-to-day operations. This is an important part of best practice in communications (in both public and private sectors) as it enables us to measure the impact of our communications activities and so helps us manage future activity more effectively.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list those private Members' Bills in respect of which his Department has adopted a policy of neutrality in each session since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [72106]

Mrs. McGuire: None.

It is not possible to state the Department's position on private Member's Bills that did not reach Second Reading. Only one private Member's Bill has completed that stage since 2001 and the Department opposed the Bill.

Private Office Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of his private office staff is *(a)* male, *(b)* female and *(c)* disabled. [68995]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP Private Office consists of seven Ministers' offices, the Permanent Secretary's office, the Special Advisers office and the Parliamentary and Correspondence Teams. Of a total 73 staff in post, the percentage of Private Office staff in the Department for Work and Pensions who are recorded as *(a)* male, *(b)* female and *(c)* disabled is as follows:

(a) 41 per cent. male

(b) 59 per cent. female

(c) The number of disabled staff included in the above is between 0-4. The Civil Service Code of Practice prevents diversity data being declared when small numbers are involved in order to protect the identity of individuals.

It should be noted that departmental records of disability are solely based on voluntary declarations of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Registered Disabled (Mobility Aids)

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of *(a)* the number of registered disabled persons who use cycles of various kinds as mobility aids, *(b)* the extent of the mobility benefits provided as a result of the use of (i) cycles and (ii) other mobility aids and *(c)* the status of cycles as a mobility aid in relation to Parts 3 and 5 of the Disability Discrimination Act. [63625]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on the number of registered disabled persons who use cycles of various kinds as mobility aids is not available.

There are several types of cycles on the market designed for use by disabled people. However, we have made no assessment of the extent to which they, or other forms of cycles, are used as mobility aids and information to inform such an assessment is not held centrally. The extent to which cycles benefit the mobility of disabled people when compared with other forms of mobility aids has therefore not been determined.

Similarly, we have made no assessment of the status of cycles as a mobility aid in relation to duties under Part 3 or Part 5 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Part 3 of the Act includes provisions which place duties on service providers not to discriminate against disabled people and to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people in the way that they provide their services. Since 5 December 2005, the duties in Part 3 have started to be extended in stages to more areas, including private clubs, public bodies in their carrying out of public functions, and letting of premises. An adjustment for a disabled person who required a cycle as a mobility aid would need to be considered by those with duties under the Act when deciding what may be a reasonable adjustment to make. Factors such as the cost and practicability of making an adjustment, and the resources available to the service provider, private club or landlord may be taken into account in deciding what is reasonable in any individual situation.

Part 5 of the Act concerns accessibility regulations for all land-based public transport (trains, buses, coaches and taxis) rather than private modes of transport.

Remploy

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will ensure that job opportunities for disabled people at Remploy factories will not be reduced as a result of the current review. [67764]

Mrs. McGuire: The Review of Remploy, which was announced on the 16 March, is about creating more employment opportunities for disabled people. The Department commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to undertake a review, supported by an independent disability expert, Stephen Duckworth from Disability Matters, in order to put forward options for a strategy to enable Remploy to help more disabled people into work.

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Remploy factories there are in *(a)* Government office regions, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales. [74642]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* Remploy has 81 factories in the Great Britain. The requested breakdown is in the following table.

Remploy factories in Great Britain, by country and region

	Number
England	59
North West	14
North East	8
Yorkshire and Humber	9
East Midlands	6
East of England	3
West Midlands	4
South East	4
South West	6
London	5
Scotland	10
Wales	12

Small Change Big Difference

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department and its agencies have taken following the launch of the Government's Small Change Big Difference Campaign. [72003]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has not launched any new initiatives specifically linked to the Small Change Big Difference Campaign. It has, however, a good track record over many years of working with its occupational health consultants and local partners to promote a healthy lifestyle.

The Department of Health is leading the implementation for this initiative as part of its cross-government commitment to deliver the public health White Paper 'Choosing Health'. As the programme of work develops the Department of Health will be working across all of government to ensure the programme joins up to promote maximum impact.

Spending Review (Efficiency Targets)

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the target level of employment expressed as full-time equivalents is in his Department by April 2008, in order to meet his Department's civil service workforce reductions target set out in the 2004 Spending Review. [52842]

Mrs. McGuire: The target level of employment by 31 March 2008 in the Department is 101,900 full-time equivalent posts. The target is benchmarked against those activities undertaken by the Department at the start of the efficiency challenge, 1 March 2004.

In addition, 625 full-time equivalent posts have been approved by HM Treasury to fulfil new public service commitments.

Telephone Advice Lines

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many telephone advice lines his Department and its non-departmental public bodies support; how many telephone advisers each employs;

and how much funding is provided by *(a)* his Department and its non-departmental public bodies, *(b)* other Government departments, *(c)* the private sector and *(d)* the voluntary sector. [66583]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions and its non-departmental public bodies (NDPB's) have a total of 28 telephone advice lines. The information that is available (from the advice lines where some relevant data are held) is included in the following table.

Funding information is not held on a consistent basis. We do not provide any funding for helplines run by the voluntary sector. The constructing better health CLG helpline run by the Health and Safety Commission/Executive receives funding from another Government Department, Department of Trade and Industry and from the private sector. The pensions regulator raises an administration levy on pension schemes and money raised from this levy is offset against funding provided by DWP.

The number of advisers shown in the table are full-time equivalents at March 2006 for those who spend the majority of their time answering calls.

The Pension Service (TPS) operates its telephony service as an integrated part of its business, and does not hold separate data on the number of telephone advisers nor is it able provide specific data for telephony costs alone. Other pension service helplines are run by private companies and, under the terms of confidential commercial contracts, suppliers are not required to provide information on staffing or budgeting information.

Debt management staff undertake both telephony and non-telephony duties, therefore separate data are not available for the number of telephone advisers or telephony budgetary information.

Helplines	*(a) Number of advisers*
DWP	
Child support agency	
CSA national helpline	454
DCS	
Benefit enquiry line	70
Disability living allowance/ attendance allowance	316
Jobcentre Plus[1]	
Employer direct	Not available
Jobcentre plus direct—jobseeker direct	527
Jobcentre plus direct—first contact	3607
National benefit fraud hotline	Not available
Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPB)	
Executive NDPB	
Disability Rights Commission (DRC)[2]	40
Health and Safety Commission/Executive (HSC/E)	
Health and safety infoline	70
Health and safety gas safety advice line	
Incident contact centre	
Workplace health connect	
Health and Safety Executive/Freight Transport Association advice line	
Constructing better health CLG	
Remploy Ltd.	4.5
The pensions regulator	20.5
Other bodies funded by DWP	
The pensions advisory service (TPAS)	4
Pension protection fund (PPF) (public corporation)	4

[1] For national benefit fraud hotline and employer direct specific data on the number of telephone advisors is not available as data collected relates to all staff employed regardless of their responsibilities.
[2] Helpline is contracted out.

Twickenham Social Security Office

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the disposal of Twickenham social security office at 121/125 Heath Road. [73166]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has vacated 121/125 Heath Road Twickenham. It was surrendered to our Estates Service Providers, Land Securities Trillium, on 28 February 2006. The Department is not involved in any disposal plans for the building.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Charity Commission

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expertise in the education field the Charity Commission has; and what further training he expects to be made available to Charity Commission staff before it assumes responsibility for the supervision of trust schools. [68429]

Edward Miliband *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* I have been asked to reply.

The role of the Charity Commission as the regulator of charities in England and Wales is to secure compliance with charity law, to deal with abuse and poor practice, and to enable charities to work better within an effective legal, accounting and governance framework. In its work with charitable schools the Commission is concerned with the governors' compliance with their legal obligations in exercising control and management of the school under charity law and it has substantial expertise in this area. The Commission is not competent to judge the quality and standard of education and care.

Commission on Integration and Cohesion

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the Commission on Integration and Cohesion to report. [73390]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government expects to be in a position to make an announcement about the timetable and scope for the Commission on Integration and Cohesion before the summer recess.

Community Support Officers

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many community support officers there are in Coventry, South. [76528]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the number of police community support officers (PCSOs) at basic command unit level is collected annually. At the end of June 2005 (latest available data) the M2 operational command unit which covers the Coventry, South parliamentary constituency had four police community support officers. The deployment of PCSOs within the West Midlands police area is a matter for the chief constable. Data are not collected below operational basic command unit level.

Crime Control Orders

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* drug treatment and testing orders, *(b)* antisocial behaviour orders and *(c)* community orders have been (i) made, (ii) breached and (iii) revoked in the last 12 months. [68795]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on persons given drug treatment and testing orders and other community orders and those breaching them, is published in table 4.13 of 'Sentencing Statistics, England and Wales, 2004' (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 15/05). Information relating to termination of community orders, including DTTOs, is published in table 5.1 of 'Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004' (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 17/05).

These publications can be found in the Library and also on the Home Office website, as follows:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1505.pdf

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1705.pdf

For offences committed after 4 April 2005, drug treatment and testing orders are no longer available. The new community order may comprise up to 12 requirements, one of which is the drug rehabilitation requirement.

The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in 2004, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, is 2,668. From 1 January 2005 to 30 September 2005 (latest available) 2,679 ASBOs have been issued. Between 1 January 2004 to 30 September 2005 notification has been received of 11 ASBOs being revoked.

ASBO breach data are currently available from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2003 for ASBOs issued since 1 June 2000. During this period, of the 1,892 ASBOs issued, 793 persons were convicted of breaching their ASBO on one or more occasions. Of these, 134 were for breach of ASBO alone.

Criminal Record Checks

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to the Criminal Records Bureau is of processing a disclosure application. [76159]

Joan Ryan: The average unit processing cost for a disclosure for the financial year 2005-06 was £26.10. This figure includes payments to Police, the CRB's Public Private Partner, Capita, and the Agency's own costs. It does not include the Bureau's development costs. 20 per cent. of applications processed in 2005-06 were for volunteers and did not attract a fee. While the 2005-06 Standard and Enhanced Disclosure fees were respectively £29 and £34, the non-paying status of volunteers meant that the average unit income for a disclosure during the financial year 2005-06 was £26.15.

E-crime

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate *(a)* the extent and *(b)* the cost to the UK economy of e-crime in each of the last five years. [76722]

Mr. Coaker: We do not collect figures specifically on e-crime. However, the "DTI Information Security Breaches Survey", published April 2006, found that 52 per cent. of businesses (84 per cent. of large businesses) suffered premeditated and malicious breaches in 2006, compared with 68 per cent. in 2004 and 44 per cent. in 2002. In assessing costs, the survey showed the average cost of all incidents, both criminal and non-criminal, rose from £10,000 in 2004 to £12,000 in 2006 and estimates the total cost of all incidents is of the order of £10 billion per year, up roughly 50 per cent. since 2004.

The 2003-04 "British Crime Survey", published April 2006, showed that 27 per cent. (compared with 18 per cent. in 2002-03) of households with internet access reported their home computer had been affected by a computer virus and a third of those reported the virus had damaged their computer. 2 per cent. (in both 2002-03 and 2003-04) of households with internet access reported that someone had accessed or hacked into files on their home computer in the previous 12 months.

APACS, the UK payments association, estimate that internet fraud using UK plastic cards amounted to £117 million in both 2005 and 2004 and that losses from online banking fraud were £23.2 million in 2005, up from £12.2 million in 2004 (figures from the APACS "Fraud: The Facts 2006" publication, February 2006).

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to process a Criminal Records Bureau check was in the last period for which figures are available. [77334]

Joan Ryan: I refer the hon. Member for Eastbourne to my written answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1025W.

Experience Corps

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why the Experience Corps has

issued no public briefing papers since December 2003. [40240]

Edward Miliband *[holding answer 9 January 2006]*: I have been asked to reply.

The Experience Corps received grant-aid from the Home Office over three financial years until 31 March 2004. It is not a condition of Home Office grant aid that independent charities in receipt of public funding are required to issue public briefing papers.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements will be included in the Government's Action Plan for Tackling Human Trafficking to ensure that victims of trafficking are *(a)* treated as victims and *(b)* not detained. [76665]

Mr. Coaker: We are currently considering the responses to the consultation paper on proposals for tackling human trafficking, many of which focus on the issue of victims and how best to respond to their needs. A summary of the consultation paper responses will be published on the 21 June.

This is an area of concern which requires a careful response and consideration of these issues will form a central part of the National Action Plan against trafficking which will be published later this year.

Misuse of Drugs Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the operation of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; if he will list the statutory instruments that have been made under this Act; and what recent representations he has received on the operation of the Act. [77111]

Mr. Coaker: The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 provides the legal framework for the control of drugs that are considered "dangerous or otherwise harmful". Through the operation of the Act, the UK has a stable mechanism of drug control which allows the police and the criminal justice system to function effectively in respect of the enforcement of the Act. The Act also enables health professionals to have appropriate access to drugs that have proven medical use.

A list of the Statutory Instruments made under the Act is set out as follows.

The control of drugs gives rise to a wide variety of views and representations on the operation of the Act are regularly made across their full spectrum.

Misuse of drugs legislation—listing the statutory instruments that have been made under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (ch. 38) (as amended)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1973 (SI 1973 No. 771)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 421)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1977 (SI 1977 No. 1243)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1979 (SI 1979 No. 299)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1983 (SI 1983 No. 765)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1984 (SI 1984 No. 859)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1985 (SI 1985 No. 1995)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1986 (SI 1986 No. 2230)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1989 (SI 1989 No. 1340)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1990 (SI 1990 No. 2589)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1995 (SI 1995 No. 1966)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1996 (SI 1996 No. 1300)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1998 (SI 1998 No. 750)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 2001 (SI 2001 No. 3932)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 2003 (SI 2003 No. 1243)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) (No. 2) Order 2003 (SI 2003 No. 3201)

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2005 (SI 2005 No. 3178)

Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1985 (SI 1985 No. 2066)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 1986 (SI 1986 No. 2330)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 1988 (SI 1988 No. 916)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 1989 (SI 1989 No. 1460)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 1990 (SI 1990 No. 2630)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 1995 (SI 1995 No. 2048)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1995 (SI 1995 No. 3244)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 1996 (SI 1996 No. 1597)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 1998 (SI 1998 No. 882)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999 No. 1404)

Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 (SI 2001 No. 3998)—consolidated the 1985 Regulations and subsequent amendments made from 1986-99 above

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No. 1432)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No. 1653)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No. 2429)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No. 271)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No. 1653)

Misuse of Drugs and Misuse of Drugs (Supply to Addicts) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No. 2864)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No. 3372)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No. 986)

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No. 1450)

Misuse of Drugs (Designation) Order 1986 (SI 1986 No. 2331)

Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Variation) Order 1990 (SI 1990 No. 2631)

Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Variation) Order 1995 (SI 1995 No. 2047)

Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Variation) Order 1998 (SI 1998 No. 881)

Misuse of Drugs (Designation) Order 2001 (SI 2001 No. 3997)—consolidated 1986-98 Designation Orders

Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2005 (SI 2005 No. 1652)

Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) Regulations 1973 (SI 1973 No. 798)

Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment) Regulations 1974 (SI 1974 No. 1449)

Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment) Regulations 1975 (SI 1975 No. 294)

Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment) Regulations 1984 SI 1984 No. 1146)

Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment) Regulations 1985 (SI 1985 No. 2067)

Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment) Regulations 1986 (SI 1986 No. 2332)

Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999 No. 1403)

Misuse of Drugs (Notification of and Supply to Addicts) Regulations 1973 (SI 1973 No. 799)

Misuse of Drugs (Notification of and Supply to Addicts) (Amendment) Regulations 1983 (SI 1983 No. 1909)

Misuse of Drugs (Supply to Addicts) Regulaticns 1997 (SI 1997 No. 1001)—revoked the 1973 and 1983 Regulations above

Misuse of Drugs and Misuse of Drugs (Supply to Addicts) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No. 2864)

Homicide

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many murder victims there were aged under 18 years in each year since 1990, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* local authority area. [74187]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The available information relates to under 18 victims of homicide for each year from 1990 to 2004-05, with three tables giving breakdowns by age, gender and police force area. Local authority information is not collected centrally for this measure.

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide[2] for victims under 18[3] by age of victim 1990 to 2004-05

Age under	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*January 1997 to March 1998[4]*
1	24	28	27	27	24	17	27	37
1	13	13	6	11	9	9	7	12
2	4	14	6	9	6	4	5	4
3	3	3	5	3	4	3	4	6
4	1	7	4	4	5	3	4	1
5	7	3	2	1	3	3	6	7
6	2	2	1	—	4	6	5	2
7	1	5	2	2	—	10	2	4
8	1	2	1	—	2	3	1	3
9	—	3	2	2	3	3	2	2
10	4	—	1	—	1	1	1	1
11	3	2	—	1	2	1	2	—
12	1	3	—	2	2	2	1	4
13	1	—	1	2	1	3	4	1
14	1	5	5	3	3	4	4	4
15	1	3	5	2	7	8	5	3
16	10	5	8	3	3	4	11	10
17	8	12	6	11	14	4	10	8
Total under 18	85	110	82	83	93	88	101	109

Age under	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*Total 1990 to 2004-05*
1	37	31	49	17	30	31	23	429
1	5	4	11	10	9	9	7	135
2	9	3	4	5	7	5	6	91
3	4	3	4	2	8	3	4	59
4	2	1	1	3	2	1	—	39
5	5	1	—	3	3	3	3	50
6	—	5	4	4	3	3	3	44
7	5	3	4	3	4	2	1	48
8	3	3	5	3	1	—	—	28
9	—	2	—	1	3	—	1	24
10	2	1	2	1	4	2	1	22
11	1	2	2	1	1	—	2	20
12	2	1	4	1	2	—	—	25
13	1	4	2	—	—	4	4	28

Age under	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total 1990 to 2004-05
14	1	—	3	4	4	5	3	49
15	5	1	3	6	4	8	4	65
16	11	10	12	13	4	5	8	117
17	15	9	13	13	14	9	8	154
Total under 18	108	84	123	90	107	90	74	1,427

[1] As at 28 November 2005; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information comes to light. Excludes cases that result in an acquittal or conviction of a lesser offence.
[2] Murder, manslaughter and infanticide.
[3] Excludes cases where age of victim is unknown.
[4] This is a 15 month period that reflects the transition from calendar year reporting to financial year reporting in April 1998.

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide[2] for victims under 18[3] by age of victim 1990 to 2004-05

Force area	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	January 1997 to March 1998[4]
Avon and Somerset	—	2	1	2	1	4	3	5
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	—
Cambridgeshire	2	1	1	—	1	—	1	—
Cheshire	—	3	2	6	—	4	—	1
Cleveland	—	2	1	—	3	—	2	1
Cumbria	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1
Derbyshire	—	—	2	1	1	1	3	3
Devon and Cornwall	4	3	2	1	3	—	1	3
Dorset	1	—	1	1	6	1	1	—
Durham	—	1	1	2	3	1	—	1
Essex[1]	4	—	—	1	3	1	3	3
Gloucestershire	—	4	1	3	3	—	1	1
Greater Manchester	5	4	8	3	3	6	8	6
Hampshire	2	3	1	1	—	—	8	1
Hertfordshire[5]	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Humberside	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
Kent	1	4	2	3	3	2	2	2
Lancashire	—	1	2	4	5	—	7	6
Leicestershire	—	3	2	1	—	—	2	—
Lincolnshire	—	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
London, City of	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Merseyside	2	6	—	2	3	2	5	4
Metropolitan Police[5]	20	15	9	13	11	18	15	26
Norfolk	1	—	2	—	1	5	—	3
North Yorkshire	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	1
Northamptonshire	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	1
Northumbria	2	3	5	2	4	1	2	3
Nottinghamshire	1	9	5	2	7	—	1	2
South Yorkshire	2	5	3	5	5	6	1	—
Staffordshire	3	1	1	2	1	3	1	2
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
Surrey[5]	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	5	1	4	1	1	—	1	4
Thames Valley	5	3	3	3	—	4	5	4
Warwickshire	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
West Mercia	2	2	3	4	1	—	—	4
West Midlands	8	3	8	7	8	7	11	6
West Yorkshire	6	7	1	3	5	9	3	5
Wiltshire	3	—	2	2	—	—	2	2
Dyfed Powys	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	—
Gwent	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
South Wales	1	7	1	—	—	4	1	3
	85	110	82	83	93	88	101	109

Force area	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Grand total
Avon and Somerset	—	3	1	5	2	1	—	30
Bedfordshire	—	3	1	5	—	1	—	15
Cambridgeshire	2	1	1	1	3	—	2	16
Cheshire	5	—	—	1	1	3	1	27
Cleveland	1	—	—	2	2	1	1	16

Force area	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Grand total
Cumbria	—	1	—	3	1	3	—	12
Derbyshire	—	4	—	1	2	1	1	20
Devon and Cornwall	3	—	8	6	2	1	4	41
Dorset	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	14
Durham	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	12
Essex[5]	4	—	—	3	—	2	2	26
Gloucestershire	4	—	—	1	2	1	1	24
Greater Manchester	7	4	8	10	3	5	6	86
Hampshire	1	1	3	6	6	1	2	36
Hertfordshire[5]	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	4
Humberside	2	—	2	1	1	2	4	31
Kent	4	2	4	4	3	—	3	39
Lancashire	1	3	3	1	3	5	1	42
Leicestershire	4	—	1	—	2	3	1	19
Lincolnshire	4	—	3	1	2	1	—	17
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Merseyside	4	2	1	1	2	2	6	42
Metropolitan Police[5]	18	12	19	17	22	19	12	246
Norfolk	3	1	3	—	1	1	—	21
North Yorkshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	8
Northamptonshire	—	1	3	—	1	1	—	14
Northumbria	4	4	3	—	3	3	—	39
Nottinghamshire	2	4	1	1	4	1	3	43
South Yorkshire	1	—	5	3	4	1	4	45
Staffordshire	8	1	3	1	1	2	—	32
Suffolk	2	2	4	—	3	5	—	20
Surrey[5]	—	1	3	1	3	—	—	14
Sussex	4	3	6	1	—	2	3	36
Thames Valley	4	4	2	—	2	1	2	42
Warwickshire	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	6
West Mercia	4	3	3	—	2	2	1	31
West Midlands	5	8	5	8	7	8	5	104
West Yorkshire	1	3	8	3	6	6	5	71
Wiltshire	—	1	4	—	1	1	—	18
Dyfed Powys	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	7
Gwent	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	10
North Wales	2	1	2	—	4	1	1	13
South Wales	2	9	4	—	2	2	—	36
	108	84	123	90	107	90	74	1,427

[1] As at 28 November 2005; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information comes to light. Excludes cases that result in an acquittal or conviction of a lesser offence.
[2] Murder, manslaughter and infanticide.
[3] Excludes cases where age of victim is unknown.
[4] This is a 15 month period that reflects the transition from calendar year reporting to financial year reporting in April 1998.
[5] These force areas were subject to boundary changes on 1 April 2000.

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide[2] for victims under 18[3] by gender of victim 1990 to 2004-05

Gender	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	January 1997 to March 1998[4]
Male	55	52	41	44	40	50	59	65
Female	30	58	41	39	53	38	42	44
Total	85	110	82	83	93	88	101	109

Gender	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total 1990 to 2004-05
Male	66	52	73	62	48	59	45	811
Female	42	32	50	28	59	31	29	616
Total	108	84	123	90	107	90	74	1,427

[1] As at 28 November 2005; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information comes to light. Excludes cases that result in an acquittal or conviction of a lesser offence.
[2] Murder, manslaughter and infanticide.
[3] Excludes cases where age of victim is unknown.
[4] This is a 15 month period that reflects the transition from calendar year reporting to financial year reporting in April 1998.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people were killed unlawfully in each year since 1990; and how each person was killed. [74431]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The available information relates to under 18 victims of homicide for each year from 1990 to 2004-05, with the tables giving a breakdown by method of killing.

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide[2] for victims under 18[3] by method of killing, 1990 to 2004

Method of killing	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*January 1997 to March 1998[4]*
Sharp instrument	14	19	15	6	14	19	16	14
Blunt instrument	7	2	4	2	3	1	7	8
Kicking or hitting etc. without a weapon	21	23	26	18	24	17	6	8
Strangulation	13	10	7	6	12	16	7	6
Exhaust fumes[5]	2	9	5	2	6	6	6	—
Other poisoning	—	8	1	3	4	—	9	3
Shooting[6]	2	4	3	3	2	—	1	4
Exposure of newly born child[7]	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Negligence or neglect	—	1	2	2	—	1	5	1
Aborting	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Explosion	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Drowning	1	5	7	2	6	1	2	6
Causing to fall against a hard surface	6	1	4	6	2	1	1	4
Burning, scalding	1	3	2	—	3	—	—	2
Struck by motor vehicle[8]	3	3	1	1	1	—	—	—
Suffocation, asphyxiation or smothering	4	8	2	17	6	5	2	10
Arson	7	10	1	5	6	12	9	11
Other[9]	3	1	—	6	—	7	28	26
Not known	—	—	—	2	4	2	2	6
Total	85	110	82	83	93	88	101	109

Method of killing	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*Total*
Sharp instrument	14	16	18	19	12	17	5	218
Blunt instrument	2	3	5	4	1	—	2	53
Kicking or hitting etc. without a weapon	7	4	3	7	9	3	4	180
Strangulation	7	6	14	4	6	4	1	119
Exhaust fumes[5]	5	6	2	—	5	—	2	56
Other poisoning	7	2	5	3	6	3	3	57
Shooting[6]	—	2	3	8	4	3	2	41
Exposure of newly born child[7]	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	11
Negligence or neglect	1	3	5	2	5	6	7	36
Aborting	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Explosion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Drowning	5	2	5	4	5	4	4	58
Causing to fall against a hard surface	5	3	3	3	3	5	3	54
Burning, scalding	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	6
Struck by motor vehicle[8]	—	1	2	3	—	4	2	12
Suffocation, asphyxiation or smothering	12	3	13	9	8	5	8	75
Arson	11	3	4	6	10	7	4	77
Other[9]	21	18	37	13	22	16	16	204

Method of killing	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
Not known	8	8	1	5	10	12	10	64
Total	108	84	123	90	107	90	74	1,427

[1] As at 28 November 2005; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information comes to light. Excludes cases that result in an acquittal or conviction of a lesser offence.
[2] Murder, manslaughter and infanticide.
[3] Excludes cases where age is unknown.
[4] This is a 15-month period that reflects the transition from calendar year reporting to financial year reporting in April 1998.
[5] Includes all carbon monoxide poisoning, i.e. car exhausts, gas fires etc.
[6] Includes use of weapons other than firearms e.g. crossbows, catapaults.
[7] Killed by natural elements.
[8] Excludes deaths by careless/dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking (which are not homicides).
[9] Includes non-specific methods in baby battering cases i.e. shaking etc.

Passports

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the facial biometrics for use in passports in 2006 will be held on *(a)* the Passport Agency Support System and *(b)* any other database. [55510]

Joan Ryan: With the introduction of biometric passports the Passport Agency Support System has been amended to capture and store the facial Biometric data. This data is not being stored on any other database.

Referendums

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on the charitable status of organisations that have funded *(a)* politicians' offices and *(b)* constitutional conventions in advance of referenda. [68796]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

It is for the Charity Commission, the independent regulator, in any particular case whether or not a charity is in breach of the legal rules on political activities by charities. I have asked the Commission's Chief Executive to write to the hon. Gentleman.

Security Industry Authority

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* average, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* longest time taken to process an application for a security worker's licence by the Security Industry Authority has been from the date of receipt of a correctly completed application to the date of dispatch of the licence; and if he will make a statement. [55235]

Mr. Coaker: The SIA do not calculate average processing times. Some, such as those involving overseas criminal records checks, unavoidably take a considerable time. The SIA have a published target of processing 80 per cent. of all applications within six weeks, measured from the date that a properly completed application enters the processing system to the date that a licence is issued.

From April 2004 until August 2005 the SIA processed 62 per cent. within six weeks and 88 per cent. within nine weeks.

Since September 2005, there has been a backlog of applications that have been waiting to enter the system. These have added an additional time of between two and four weeks to the process, so it is now taking up to 10 weeks to process most applications.

UN Convention on Narcotic Drugs

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Office of Fair Trade is investigating interpretation in the UK of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [77136]

Mr. Coaker: On 7 March 2006 the Office of Fair Trading published a review of undertakings given by the pharmaceutical supplier Macfarlan Smith Ltd., who supply opiate derivatives in the UK. The OFT report also recommends that the Government consider competition when licensing opiate derivatives.

The Government are committed to responding within 90 days to OFT recommendations that cover the impact of regulation on competition. On 5 June 2006 the Minister for Trade, wrote to the Chief Executive of the OFT explaining that a full response would take a further 45 days, owing to the need for Government to perform a wider analysis of the market beyond the scope of the OFT review. As part of that process officials have had discussions with Macfarlan Smith Ltd.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the enforcement by his Department of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961; and if he will make a statement. [77133]

Mr. Coaker: I have made no recent assessment of the enforcement by my Department of the convention itself. However, the convention establishes a framework for control which, in the United Kingdom, is implemented through the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. So any assessment of the enforcement of the convention is, in effect, an assessment of the enforcement of the Act. The Act establishes the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to advise me on all matters relating to drug misuse. The council meets, and makes recommendations to me, regularly.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 15 June 2006

TRANSPORT

A127/A13

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which 10 locations on *(a)* the A127 and *(b)* the A13 between the M25 and Southend have had the highest incidence of traffic accidents in each of the last five years. [77502]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available.

Air Miles

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many free air miles have been earned by senior civil servants in his Department in each of the last three years; and how they were used. [72874]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport and its agencies do not record air miles accrued by staff. Civil servants must conform to policy which states that benefits such as air miles arising from official travel may not be used for private journeys, but may be offset against further official travel.

Aircraft Corridors

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* current and *(b)* proposed aircraft corridors are across (i) Ribble Valley and (ii) Lancashire. [74826]

Gillian Merron: At present, all UK airspace is controlled above approximately 24,500 ft above mean sea level up to 66,000 ft. This will change in July next year when, in order to comply with European legislation, the lower limit of this Upper Airspace Control Area will be reduced to 19,500 ft. In the Upper Airspace Control Area, air routes UN615, UN57, UN601 and UL46 currently cross the Ribble Valley constituency. In addition, air route UY99 overflies Lancashire.

In lower airspace, above the Ribble Valley and the adjacent areas of Lancashire, controlled airspace exists in the form of airways with stepped lower limits to accommodate the climb and descent profiles of aircraft operations associated with airports at Manchester and Liverpool. From west to east the routes are N615, lowest limit 6,500 ft; N57, lowest limit 5,500 ft; and N601, lowest limit 9,500 ft.

I have arranged for a chart to be placed in the Libraries of the House indicating these routes as they pass over the Ribble Valley and northern Lancashire, together with the associated lower vertical limits.

South of a line, which approximately joins Barnoldswick and Woodfold Hall (south of Mellor Brook), the airways are in the Manchester terminal area. The lower limit of controlled airspace immediately to the south of this line is 4,500 ft. Below these specified levels/altitude the airspace is uncontrolled.

The Civil Aviation Authority is not aware of any proposals to change the dimensions of controlled airspace over the Ribble Valley and Lancashire.

Aircraft Safety

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether aircraft operators are required to show *(a)* crews and *(b)* passengers the Material Safety Data Sheets of the products they have been exposed to after a contaminated air event. [74817]

Gillian Merron: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has advised that there are no certification or operational requirements related to Material Safety Data Sheets. Aircraft operators are not therefore required by civil aviation safety regulations to show them to crews or passengers.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which aircraft types have reported the highest number of contaminated air events in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [74818]

Gillian Merron: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has advised that there have been 373 reportable occurrences involving contaminated air during the 10 year period from 1 May 1996 to 30 April 2006, during which there were 13.8 million flights carried out by UK operators worldwide in public transport operations.

Seven aircraft types had 10 or more reportable occurrences of contaminated air, representing 75 per cent. of the total number of contaminated air occurrences in the 10 year period.

1 May 1996 to 30 April 2006

Aircraft type	*Reported occurrences involving contaminated air*	*Percentage of total reported occurrences*
Boeing 757	94	25
British Aerospace BAe146	67	18
EmbraerEMB145	38	10
Boeing 737	29	8
De Havilland DHC8	22	6
Airbus A320	16	4
Airbus A319	14	4
Various other aircraft	93	25
Total	373	100

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Civil Aviation Authority has suspended the medical clearance of a pilot due to possible exposure

to contaminated air or organophosphates in the last 30 years. [74819]

Gillian Merron: It has not been possible to establish from the Civil Aviation Authority's medical records prior to1999 that any pilot attributed his/her symptoms to exposure to contaminated cabin air. During the past six years symptoms that have been reported by licence holders and attributed by them to exposure to contaminated cabin air have resulted in the suspension of medical fitness of 10 airline transport pilot licence holders. The periods of suspension varied according to the type of symptoms reported. However, the symptoms that have been reported by these pilots have been very varied and it has not been possible to attribute the symptoms reported to definite chemical exposures.

Antisocial Behaviour (Trains)

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers were ejected from trains for antisocial behaviour in the last 12 months, broken down by region. [77779]

Derek Twigg: Figures for the ejection of passengers from trains are not recorded by the British Transport Police.

Aviation Security

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to *(a)* complete and *(b)* report on his review of airport policing and the system of designation under section 25 of the Aviation Security Act 1982. [75216]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State anticipates receipt of a report from the independent review team on airport policing before the summer parliamentary recess.

Biological Diversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Minister in his Department is responsible for monitoring his Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if he will make a statement. [73937]

Gillian Merron: Under Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Ministers and Government Departments have a duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity. This has been replaced by a similar provision under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act which comes into effect on 1 October 2006. There is no statutory duty to monitor compliance with this duty.

The Department for Transport has taken a number of steps to benefit biodiversity. The Highways Agency has in place a comprehensive biodiversity action plan (HABAP) that ensures all habitats and species likely to be affected by its roads or form part of the roads estate are restored or enhanced as appropriate.

The UK through the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has been very active in the development of the NW Europe Ballast Water Management Strategy and the International Maritime Organisation's convention for the control management of ships ballast water and sediments, which aims to control non-indigenous species invading through the medium of ballast water and therefore protect maritime, coastal, and estuarine environments.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to him comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74395]

Gillian Merron: Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, all public bodies have a duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in the exercising of their functions. There is no statutory obligation on Departments to monitor the extent to which public bodies comply with this duty. However, we understand the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is working with a wide range of partners to develop guidance for public bodies to support the implementation of this duty and will involve all relevant Departments on the development of guidance.

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his Department's press office. [74359]

Gillian Merron: Information on ethnicity is collected on a voluntary basis, and not all members of staff wish to declare their ethnic origin. Our existing database does not identify any staff working in the press office who have declared that they are from an ethnic minority.

Bus Delivery Plan

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place *(a)* on the Department's website and *(b)* in the Library a copy of the Department's bus delivery plan. [73809]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not intend to publish the delivery plan for its public service agreement target to increase bus and light rail patronage. It is a working document intended for internal planning purposes that is used for the formulation of Government policy.

Information on the detail and delivery of the public transport PSA target is available in the Department's Annual Reports and Autumn Performance Reports on PSA targets. These can be found on the DfT website and in the Library of the House.

Bus Services

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many posts are available to each

traffic commissioner to monitor the reliability of bus services; and what the occupancy rate for each of these posts has been in each quarter in each of the last five years. [73857]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is in the following table.

Region	Eastern	North East/ North West	Scotland	South East and Met.	Wales	Western	West Midlands
Agreed number of posts for 2006	1	4	6	2	3	2	1
2001-02							
1st quarter	1	4	2	2	1	2	1
2nd quarter	1	4	2	2	1	2	1
3rd quarter	1	4	2	2	1	2	1
4th quarter	1	4	2	2	1	2	1
2002-03							
1st quarter	1	4	2	2	1	2	1
2nd quarter	1	4	2	2	1	2	1
3rd quarter	1	3	2	2	1	2	1
4th quarter	1	4	2	2	1	2	1
2003-04							
1st quarter	1	4	2	2	1	2	1
2nd quarter	1	4	2	2	3	2	1
3rd quarter	1	3	2	2	3	2	1
4th quarter	1	4	2	2	3	2	1
2004-05							
1st quarter	1	4	2	2	3	2	1
2nd quarter	1	4	3	2	3	2	1
3rd quarter	1	3	4	1	3	2	1
4th quarter	1	4	4	1	3	2	1
2005-06							
1st quarter	1	4	3	2	3	2	1
2nd quarter	1	3	4	2	3	2	1
2nd quarter	1	4	3	2	3	2	1
3rd quarter	1	4	6	2	3	2	1

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what total public spending *(a)* per head of population and *(b)* in total was on bus services in (i) County Durham, (ii) Tyne and Wear, (iii) Northumberland and (iv) the North East of England in each of the last 10 years. [75290]

Gillian Merron: The majority of financial support for bus services is provided by local authorities in line with policy choices made at a local level, from their Revenue Support Grant supplemented by Rural Bus Subsidy Grant paid to authorities by the Department. The figures requested are shown in the following tables and include re-imbursement of concessionary fares on local buses, (consistent figures are available only from 1998-99).

Bus support per head of population

£ per head

	Durham	Tyne and Wear	Northumberland	All North East
1998-99	9.4	29.7	6.0	18.0
1999-2000	9.9	28.6	6.9	17.7
2000-01	10.6	28.7	6.7	17.7
2001-02	12.1	28.9	7.5	18.2
2002-03	12.7	29.7	9.0	19.2
2003-04	14.1	25.4	10.3	18.1
2004-05	13.6	25.1	12.3	18.6

Bus Support

	Durham	Tyne and Wear	Northumberland	£000 All North East
1998-99	4,681	32,750	1,839	46,116
1999-2000	4,907	31,377	2,129	45,101
2000-01	5,268	31,280	2,071	45,115
2001-02	5,994	31,375	2,309	46,254
2002-03	6,272	32,236	2,773	48,770
2003-04	6,972	27,480	3,177	46,007
2004-05	6,740	27,204	3,814	47,328

Note:
The figures for Tyne and Wear contain some inconsistencies which are currently being checked by the passenger transport executive.
Source:
Local authority returns to DCLG, revenue outturn (RO2).

In addition, operators of local bus services receive Bus Service Operators Grant from this Department. This is paid direct to operators and is not attributed to a specific area.

Confederation of Passenger Transport

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many employees of the Confederation of Passenger Transport are seconded to his Department; and what the length of each secondment is. [73808]

Gillian Merron: There are no current inward secondments from the Confederation of Passenger Transport.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of his Department's employees have been seconded to the Confederation of Passenger Transport in each of the last five years, broken down by grade; and how long each secondment lasted. [73853]

Gillian Merron: There has been one pay band 6 (grade 7) secondment to the Confederation of Passenger Transport since the Department for Transport was formed in May 2002. The secondment lasted three years and 10 months from May 2002.

Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will reply to the letter of 6 March (reference DT/007188/06) from the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington), on railway services, on behalf of Mr M. M. of Aylesbury. [76343]

Derek Twigg: I have now written to the hon. Member on this matter, and apologise for the delay.

Departmental Credit Card

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what facility is available for senior civil servants in his Department to use credit cards supplied by the Department. [72873]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not issue official credit cards. The Department uses charge cards which are issued to officials, including some senior civil servants, to meet specific business needs.

The Department has adopted the Government Procurement Card for purchasing low-value goods and services, and Corporate Cards for some official travel and related expenditure, issued under the umbrella of the OGCbuying.solutions pre-tendered National Framework contract.

At the end of April 2006, six Government Procurement Cards and 21 Corporate Cards were held by senior civil servants.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of the staff in his Department is *(a)* male, *(b)* female and *(c)* disabled, broken down by grade. [69088]

Gillian Merron: The gender split of staff employed by the Department for Transport at 31 December 2005 along with the percentage of those reporting to be disabled are set out in the following table.

Responsibility level	Male	Female	Percentage Department declaring being disabled
SCS Level	78.34	21.66	1.38
Grade 6/7	78.33	21.67	3.41
SEO/HEO	69.79	30.21	4.72
EO	65.30	34.70	4.69
AO/AA	39.74	60.26	6.93
Others[1]	85.02	14.98	1.15
Total	56.62	43.38	5.39

[1] Others relate to staff in HA, GCDA and VOSA whose grades do not fit into the general clerical grade structure.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension. [73118]

Gillian Merron: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) can pay additional contributions to top up their pension either through the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme (CSAVCS), a money purchase arrangement, or by buying added years of service in the PCSPS. As an

alternative to membership of the PCSPS recruits from 1 October 2002 have been able to join a stakeholder arrangement, the partnership pension account.

The number and percentage of staff in the department (including the Agencies) who are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension as at 26 May 2006 are shown in the following table.

	Number	*Percentage*
CSAVCS	300	1.56
Added Years	523	2.72
Partnership	327	1.70

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what incentives are available to encourage members of his staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75102]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport provides the following incentives to encourage staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work:

Salary advances for the purchase of season tickets

Desktop journey planning tools

Promotion of public transport and local and national transport information via intranets, internal newsletters and other communication routes.

Deputy Prime Minister (Government Car)

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of the Deputy Prime Minister's Government car in each of the last 10 years. [70672]

Dr. Ladyman: Guidance on the use and provision of Government cars is set out in Travel by Ministers and the Ministerial Code. It is for individual Ministers to account for their travel arrangements.

Discounted Oil

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential impact on the transport infrastructure of the proposed supply of discounted oil to London from Venezuela. [73649]

Gillian Merron: The supply of oil or oil products at discounted rates to the UK is a commercial decision for Venezuela. The Department is not at present aware of any firm commitment by the Government of Venezuela to do so. It is therefore not possible to speculate on the potential implications for UK's transport infrastructure.

Gershon Report

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants were employed in his Department before the Gershon Report; what net reductions are proposed in the Gershon Report; how many reductions have been made; and how many civil servants are expected to be employed in his Department in the Gershon target month of April 2008. [74285]

Gillian Merron: The Department's 2006 annual report records 16,338 full-time equivalent (FTE) civil servants in the Department for Transport, including its six agencies, for 31 March 2004 and 18,005 FTE for 31 March 2008. The Gershon Report proposed a reduction of 700-500 from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and 200 from the Centre of the Department by 31 March 2008. On 31 March 2006, DVLA and the centre had exceeded their trajectories for 2005-06 and are making good progress towards meeting the 2007-08 target. Further detail will be available in the Department's Autumn Performance Report. The Department's headcount reflects the 700 reductions in back office areas and necessary increases in front-line service areas—transport security, accident prevention, driving test provision, and traffic officer services—in order to meet customer demand. The Department has also taken on the Strategic Rail Authority's responsibilities.

Greater Western Franchise

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the mandatory High Return Alternative Tender for the Greater Western Franchise. [72450]

Derek Twigg: The High Return Alternative Tender (HRAT) formed part of the Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the Greater Western Franchise issued by the Strategic Rail Authority in June 2005. The Department intends to make this public once the franchise agreement has been placed on the public register, and is working to do this as soon as possible.

The Department did not require bidders to submit an HRAT in its Invitation to Tender for the South Western franchise, nor does it intend to require bidders to submit HRATs with future ITTs.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on information technology (IT) sourced from outside his Department in each of the last five years; who is responsible for such projects in his Department; and what IT *(a)* expertise and *(b)* qualifications they possess. [71810]

Gillian Merron: The total spend for the Department for Transport and its agencies on IT sourced from outside the Department in each of the last five years is as follows:-

	£ million
2001-02	70.2
2002-03	158.8
2003-04	151.3
2004-05	167.3
2005-06	244.5

The accounting officer is the person ultimately responsible for IT projects in DfT. This will normally be agency chief executives (who are also the agency accounting officers) or the permanent secretary (the

departmental accounting officer). There are two additional accounting officers in Department for Transport (one for the Driver, Vehicle and Operator Group and one for rail).

Accounting officers will in turn be advised by their head of IT or equivalent, or the project manager for the relevant project.

Bearing in mind disproportionate costs, it is not feasible to identify and list all those involved in DfT with their expertise and qualifications. However, some 400 DfT staff have been trained in programme and project management as part of the Professional Skills for Government initiative. Of these, some 47 in the senior civil service and some 150 below the SCS have so far obtained related qualifications.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was in each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed with outside suppliers over the last five years. [71811]

Gillian Merron: The Department was formed in May 2002. A table showing the five largest information technology contracts agreed by the Department since that date has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

International Car Free Day

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to promote International Car Free Day on 21 September. [76276]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport sponsors the UK Co-ordinator of the "In Town, Without My Car!" Campaign who oversees the process by which local authorities in England and Wales register to participate in International Car Free Day, which is on 22 September.

Each local authority has been sent a newsletter and information about European Mobility Week, which will take place between 16 to 22 September, and they have been invited to register to participate in the event. A new Good Practice Guide has recently been published and is available free of charge to members of the public.

This year, "In Town, Without My Car!" Good Practice Guides and an information sheet "European Mobility Week—You Control Climate Change" were distributed to local authorities in England, Northern Ireland, the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Executive.

An advertisement to promote "In Town, Without My Car!" will shortly appear in an edition of "Local Transport Today" and a copy of the Good Practice Guide will be enclosed in each copy.

Regional workshops are being held and information linked to the campaign disseminated via the DfT website.

Additionally, the results of the campaign are registered on the website of www.22september.org and are used to monitor progress and the effectiveness of individual initiatives.

Local Authority Roads

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the evidential basis was for the conclusion in the annual road maintenance condition survey that there had been a marked improvement in local authority roads; and what evidence was found in relation to roads in the *(a)* Essex county council and *(b)* Colchester borough council area. [76463]

Gillian Merron: The local roads defects index in the national road maintenance condition survey is based on a sample survey of assessment sites throughout England and Wales. As the survey is not designed to provide statistically valid estimates below regional level, results for Essex county council and Colchester borough council are not available.

The conclusions on the visual condition of local roads in England as a whole are set out in Chapters 2 and 3 of the national road maintenance condition survey report, with further details of the statistical process provided in Annexe 3 of the report. The report for 2005 was published on 20 April 2006 and a copy placed in the House of Commons Library.

M4 Widening

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has made any plans for M4 widening. [76962]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department has no current plans for widening the M4.

Milton Keynes and South Midlands Spatial Strategy

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what provisions have been made to improve transport links between Wellingborough and the surrounding area and London in the context of the implementation of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands spatial strategy. [76635]

Gillian Merron: Specific funding is already being made available to support transport schemes around the Wellingborough area.

This includes growth area funding of £4.4 million to improve services and infrastructure on the X4 bus route linking Wellingborough with Northampton, Kettering, Corby, Oundle, Milton Keynes and Peterborough and £2.5 million for the Rushden Town Centre link road.

Northamptonshire have commissioned a series of transportation studies to inform the development of a specific transport strategy for growth.

Nitrogen Dioxide

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what use is being made of diffusion tube data in his Department's work assessing nitrogen dioxide levels in the Heathrow area. [77650]

Gillian Merron: Diffusion tube data have not been used by the Department in assessing the air quality in the Heathrow area as part of the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow. Diffusion tube data may be useful for trend analysis but are not deemed appropriate for the purpose of monitoring compliance. The EC Directive and UK air quality objectives require the use of automatic analysers.

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which methods of measuring concentrations of nitrogen dioxide are considered acceptable by the European Commission in order to demonstrate compliance with the relevant air quality directives. [77651]

Gillian Merron: The reference method for assessing the concentration of nitrogen dioxide to demonstrate compliance with EU air quality legislation is given in Directive 1999/30/EC as that defined in ISO 7996: 1985 "Ambient air—determination of the mass concentration of nitrogen oxides—chemiluminescence method". A member state may however use any other method which it can demonstrate gives equivalent results. Data from the Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN) are used to fulfil the UK's obligations to monitor nitrogen dioxide concentrations in air and to report the results to the European Commission.
The AURN has 94 urban and 16 rural nitrogen dioxide monitoring stations, all of which use the chemiluminescence method.

Northern Way Initiative

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role his Department plays in the delivery of the Northern Way initiative. [74040]

Gillian Merron: The Northern Way is a pan-regional growth strategy being taken forward by the three northern regional development agencies and their partners. Its work has potential to play an important role in delivering the Government's Regional Economic Performance PSA. The Department for Communities and Local Government co-ordinates Government involvement with the Northern Way.

The DCLG, Her Majesty's Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry are currently working with the Northern Way to reinvigorate its work and focus more clearly on a smaller number of key priorities to deliver its strategy. As part of this process, the three Departments have recently been discussing with the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Education and Skills, DfES and the DfT their engagement with the Northern Way and how this might be strengthened. The DfT is represented on both the Northern Way's strategic policy group and the transport compact.

Promotion Boards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what promotion boards have been held in his Department in each of the last five years. [72870]

Gillian Merron: Promotion in the DfT is achieved by way of promotion board panels, often for particular posts, and through assessment centres for certain grades within and below the senior civil service.

Information on the number of boards held is not collected centrally.

Racial Abuse

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints of racial abuse have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in his Department in each of the last 5 years. [72871]

Gillian Merron: There have been a total of four complaints of racial abuse across the Department and its Executive Agencies over the past five years. None of these complaints has been upheld.

Railways

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to encourage the streamlining of rail fares. [76587]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 June 2006]:* The Department do regulate some rail fares but many are a commercial matter for the operator concerned. We are discussing with train operators what might be done to simplify passengers' choice of fares. We are also discussing with National Rail Enquiries how fares information might be better presented.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1280W, on rail services, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's specifications for the construction of the timetable from Paddington to the West Country. [74390]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The timetable specification formed part of the invitation to tender (ITT) for the Greater Western franchise, issued by the Strategic Rail Authority in June 2005. The Department intends to make this public once the franchise agreement has been placed on the public register, and is working to do this as soon as possible.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 641W, on railways, what discussions his Department has had with Network Rail on *(a)* the funding of and *(b)* the likely timetable for the installation of enhanced CCTV at Network Rail railway stations. [71741]

Derek Twigg: *[holding answer 17 May 2006]:* Network Rail and the train operators are taking forward the installation of CCTV at stations as part of an ongoing programme of work. Franchise agreements already include funding to make improvements to station facilities and this would include the installation of CCTV where appropriate. About a third of the 2,500 stations on the national network already have CCTV in place.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what bonuses have been paid as a result of the publication of Network Rail's preliminary results for the year to 31 March; and to whom. [76020]

Derek Twigg: Network Rail is a private sector company, so decisions on bonuses paid to its directors and other employees are a matter for it. Network Rail's preliminary results for the year to 31 March 2006 and accompanying press notice provide information on bonuses and are available on the company's website, www.networkrail.co.uk.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department and Network Rail expect to take a decision on the upgrading of Reading Station. [76957]

Derek Twigg: Reading borough council has submitted to the Department a local transport plan major scheme bid for Reading Station. Decisions on major scheme bids will need to take account of the advice from regions on their priorities within regional funding allocations, which we are currently considering.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with Network Rail concerning the upgrading of Reading Station. [76958]

Derek Twigg: The Department is a member, alongside Network Rail and the Government office for the South East, of the Reading Station Partnership Board which is led by the local authority. Departmental officials last attended the board when the finalised business case for the enhanced capacity elements of the project was presented.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with other agencies concerning a rail link to Heathrow from Reading Station. [76964]

Derek Twigg: The Department continues to discuss the project with relevant parties, especially with regard to the funding of the capital element of the project. In the invitation to tender for the South Western franchise, bidders have been invited to include indicative proposals for the costs of operating AirTrack services, assuming the necessary infrastructure is in place.

Recruitment

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on recruitment, search and selection agencies in each of the last five years. [68336]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport and its agencies have spent the following amount on recruitment, search and selection agencies in each of the last five years:

	£
2001-02	141,000
2002-03	263,000
2003-04	416,000
2004-05	1,152,000
2005-06	634,000

Note:
The figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Redhill Aerodrome

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is towards developing Redhill Aerodrome as a commercial passenger airport; and if he will make a statement. [75911]

Gillian Merron: The Government's policy on airport capacity is set out in "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper. The White Paper did not support major commercial development at Redhill Aerodrome because of its close proximity to Gatwick Airport and the associated airspace conflicts.

Road Improvements (Suffolk)

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much central Government funding has been allocated to *(a)* Suffolk county council and *(b)* each local authority for road improvements in each year since 1997. [75383]

Gillian Merron: The information is as follows:

(a) The following table shows the funding allocated to Suffolk county council in the local transport capital settlements between 1997-98 and 2005-06. The integrated transport block allocations are available for local authorities to use on road and public transport improvements, according to their local priorities.

Suffolk county council

£000

Nature of funding	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Highways Capital Maintenance	—	—	—	4,472	13,467	11 ,808	12,316	14,485	15,274
Integrated Transport	—	—	—	4,000	7,500	8,150	8,250	7,745	7,350
Total allocation	4,939	4,636	5,554	8,472	20,967	19,958	20,566	22,230	22,624

In addition Suffolk county council is receiving £30.5 million for the South Lowestoft Relief Road that will remove the major traffic flows from the old A12 allowing significant bus, safety and environmental improvements.

(b) Information relating to central funding for each local authority for road improvements since 1997 was placed in the Libraries of the House on 18 January 2006 and is also available on the DFT website.

Royal Flight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1285W, on the Royal Flight, on which occasions since 1 January 2003 the BAe 146 and HS125 aircraft of 32 Squadron have been used by members of the Royal Family for private purposes; and what amount was reimbursed for each journey. [74296]

Gillian Merron: Since 1 January 2003, the BAe 146 and HS125 aircraft of 32 Squadron have been used for private purposes on four occasions. The details are as follows:

27 March 2004 - HRH the Duke of Edinburgh

Northolt - Stuttgart - Northolt (HS125) Reimbursement cost £6,375.

8 June 2004 - HM the Queen

Deauville - Northolt (BAe 146) Reimbursement cost £2,150.

5-7 November 2004 - HM the Queen

Northolt - Manchester - Northolt (HS125) Reimbursement cost £3,547.

11 November 2005 - HM the Queen

Blackpool - Northolt (BAe 146) Reimbursement cost £4,054.

Smoking

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the prevalence of smoking on buses where a no-smoking policy is in place. [76150]

Gillian Merron: Where general legislation on smoking is not in force it is for local bus operators to determine and enforce their own policies on passengers smoking on their vehicles, ultimately with recourse through the courts.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is legal to smoke while driving a car. [78340]

Dr. Ladyman: There is no specific prohibition on smoking while driving a vehicle. Road traffic legislation places responsibility on all drivers to have proper control of their vehicles. Any motorist who fails to do so, for whatever reason, such as smoking, or eating and drinking, is liable to prosecution.

Taxi Drivers

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what restrictions apply to the amount of time a taxi driver is allowed to drive in one shift. [75406]

Gillian Merron: The majority of taxi drivers are self-employed and there are no restrictions on the amount of time such drivers are allowed to drive in one shift.

Thames Crossing (Greater Reading Area)

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions his Department has had with local authorities about a third Thames crossing in the Greater Reading area; [76956]

(2) what progress his Department has made on bringing local authorities together to execute a plan for a third Thames crossing in the Greater Reading area. [76965]

Gillian Merron: Although officials in the Government office for the South East have regular meetings with the authorities in the Thames Valley area, they have not been party to any recent meetings to specifically discuss a third Thames crossing in the Greater Reading area.

Transport Acts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list Acts which received Royal Assent between 1976 and 2006 and for which his Department has policy responsibility which remains in force. [69604]

Gillian Merron: The provision of a definitive list would require extensive consultation with other Government Departments and incur disproportionate costs. The following are the general Acts passed during the relevant period which remain in force and which appear to the Department for Transport to be those for which it has primary policy responsibility.

Road Traffic (Drivers' Ages and Hours of Work) Act 1976 (1976 c 3)
Transport Act 1978 (1978 c 55)
Carriage by Air and Road Act 1979 (1979 c 28)
British Aerospace Act 1980 (1980 c 26)
Civil Aviation Act 1980 (1980 c 60)
Highways Act 1980 (1980 c 66)
Transport Act 1980 (1980 c 34)
Ports (Financial Assistance) Act 1981 (1981 c 21)
Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981 (1981 c 14)
Transport Act 1981 (1981 c 56)
Aviation Security Act 1982 (1982 c 36)
Civil Aviation Act 1982 (1982 c 16)
Merchant Shipping (Liner Conferences) Act 1982 (1982 c 37)
Transport (Finance) Act 1982 (1982 c 6)
Transport Act 1982 (1982 c 49)
Civil Aviation (Eurocontrol) Act 1983 (1983 c 11)
International Transport Conventions Act 1983 (1983 c 14)
Level Crossings Act 1983 (1983 c 16)
Ports (Reduction of Debt) Act 1983 (1983 c 22)
Transport Act 1983 (1983 c 10)
Cycle Tracks Act 1984 (1984 c 38)
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (1984 c 27)
Dangerous Vessels Act 1985 (1985 c 22)
London Regional Transport (Amendment) Act 1985 (1985 c 10)
Ports (Finance) Act 1985 (1985 c 30)
Transport Act 1985 (1985 c 67)
Airports Act 1986 (1986 c 31)
Dockyard Services Act 1986 (1986 c 52)

Highways (Amendment) Act 1986 (1986 c 13)
Road Traffic Regulation (Parking) Act 1986 (1986 c 27)
Channel Tunnel Act 1987 (1987 c 53)
Motor Cycle Noise Act 1987 (1987 c 34)
Pilotage Act 1987 (1987 c 21)
Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Act 1988 (1988 c 20)
Merchant Shipping Act 1988 (1988 c 12)
Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Rear Seat Belts by Children) Act 1988 (1988 c 23)
Road Traffic (Consequential Provisions) Act 1988 (1988 c 54)
Road Traffic Act 1988 (1988 c 52)
Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 (1988 c 53)
Parking Act 1989 (1989 c 16)
Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989 (1989 c 22)
Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990 (1990 c 31)
Civil Aviation Authority (Borrowing Powers) Act 1990 (1990 c 2)
Horses (Protective Headgear for Young Riders) Act 1990 (1990 c 25)
British Railways Board (Finance) Act 1991 (1991 c 63)
Motor Vehicles (Safety Equipment for Children) Act 1991 (1991 c 14)
New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (1991 c 22)
Ports Act 1991 (1991 c 52)
Radioactive Material (Road Transport) Act 1991 (1991 c 27)
Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991 (1991 c 26)
Road Traffic Act 1991 (1991 c 40)
Traffic Calming Act 1992 (1992 c 30)
Transport and Works Act 1992 (1992 c 42)
Railways Act 1993 (1993 c 43)
Road Traffic (Driving Instruction by Disabled Persons) Act 1993 (1993 c 31)
Road Traffic Regulation (Special Events) Act 1994 (1994 c 11)
Transport Police (Jurisdiction) Act 1994 (1994 c 8)
Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 (1994 c 22)
Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995 (1995 c 23)
Merchant Shipping Act 1995 (1995 c 21)
Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act 1995 (1995 c 13)
Shipping and Trading Interests (Protection) Act 1995 (1995 c 22)
Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996 (1996 c 61)
Civil Aviation (Amendment) Act 1996 (1996 c 39)
London Regional Transport Act 1996 (1996 c 21)
Railway Heritage Act 1996 (1996 c 42)
Merchant Shipping and Maritime Security Act 1997 (1997 c 28)
Road Traffic Reduction Act 1997 (1997 c 54)
Private Hire Vehicles (London) Act 1998 (1998 c 34)
Road Traffic Reduction (National Targets) Act 1998 (1998 c 24)
Road Traffic (NHS Charges) Act 1999 (1999 c 3)
Road Traffic (Vehicle Testing) Act 1999 (1999 c 12)
Transport Act 2000 (2000 c 38)
Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001 (2001 c 3)
Private Hire Vehicles (Carriage of Guide Dogs etc.) Act 2002 (2002 c 37)
Travel Concessions (Eligibility) Act 2002 (2002 c 4)
Aviation (Offences) Act 2003 (2003 c 19)
Marine Safety Act 2003 (2003 c 16)
Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 (2003 c 20)
Highways (Obstruction by Body Corporate) Act 2004 (2004 c 29)
Traffic Management Act 2004 (2004 c 18)
Railways Act 2005 (2005 c 14)
Merchant Shipping (Pollution) Act 2006 (2006 c 8)

Transport Infrastructure Schemes (Thames Valley)

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funds he has made available for transport infrastructure schemes in the Thames Valley in the last eight years, broken down by local authority area. [76966]

Gillian Merron: Since the Local Transport Settlement in December 1998 the Thames Valley area has received £370 million for local transport improvements and maintenance schemes. This figure is broken down in the following table. In addition Buckinghamshire county council is receiving £32.5 million for the A4146 Stoke Hammond and Linslade Western Bypass.

The Highways Agency has also made available £44 million in funding for the A41 Aston Clinton Bypass as well as £72 million for the A34 Chieveley/M4 Junction 13 improvement since 1998.

Funding for integrated transport block and capital highways maintenance

£ million

	1999-00	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Bracknell Forest	0.839	0.780	1.580	1.756	1.654	2.804	2.479	1.651
Reading	2.562	2.902	7.350	6.294	6.951	9.367	6.747	7.121
Slough	0.863	0.884	1.312	1.500	1.434	1.467	1.536	1.532
West Berkshire	1.850	1.732	2.885	3.130	3.233	3.970	3.969	3.738
Windsor	1.392	1.581	2.725	2.791	3.075	3.353	3.268	3.002
Wokingham	1.118	1.471	2.319	2.372	2.797	2.648	2.644	2.538
Oxfordshire	6.764	10.557	18.545	18.613	19.927	23.957	27.283	22.851
Buckinghamshire	4.377	5.879	13.027	12.340	12.435	13.807	10.773	11.469
Total	19.765	25.786	49.743	48.796	51.506	61.373	58.699	53.902

In addition, the Government are providing record levels of funding for railways infrastructure through the passenger franchises and by direct grant to Network Rail. This funding is not classified by local authority area, but the Thames Valley local authority areas have benefited from work by Network Rail to address the rail infrastructure renewals backlog. Particular local authorities have benefited from rail enhancement projects, including Buckinghamshire from improvements to the Chiltern Line and Berkshire authorities from replacement of "slam door" rolling stock on the Reading/Windsor—Waterloo route.

PRIME MINISTER

Civil Service Bill

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects to be in a position to bring forward a Civil Service Bill; and if he will make a statement. [75886]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Murphy) to my hon. Friend the Member for Cannock Chase (Dr. Wright) on 8 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 159.

Correspondence

Bob Russell: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Colchester of 1 March 2006 and 10 April 2006 on the centenary of the scout movement. [76467]

The Prime Minister: My Office has replied to the hon. Member.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Avian Influenza

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 942, on avian influenza, what steps the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State has taken to hold discussions with the Association of Local Government Ecologists. [68066]

Mr. Bradshaw: At the request of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, DEFRA officials held discussions with Mr. Steve Moon, Chair of the Association of Local Government Ecologists. An offer was extended to Mr. Moon, or another representative of the association, to participate in the DEFRA avian influenza stakeholder group. This offer was declined.

Coastal Access

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what legislation would be required to implement the Countryside Agency's coastal access proposals; [76652]

(2) what the estimated cost is of implementing the coastal access proposals of the Countryside Agency; [76658]

(3) what areas of the country would be exempt from the Countryside Agency's coastal access proposals; [76660]

(4) how many people were involved in the consultation by the Countryside Agency on coastal access; what the cost of the consultation is; which areas are involved in the consultation; what questions are being asked; and when he expects *(a)* the consultation to be completed and *(b)* the findings to be passed to him; [76661]

(5) what assistance his Department will provide *(a)* to landowners and *(b)* to prevent damage to the coastline if the Countryside Agency's coastal access proposals are implemented. [76662]

Barry Gardiner: In line with DEFRA's five-year strategy we are looking at ways to improve access to the English coast. We have asked the Countryside Agency, working together with its Natural England partners, English Nature and the Rural Development Service, to undertake additional research and analysis to identify a range of options.

As part of this work, the Natural England partnership has taken forward an information-gathering exercise to collect data on a national basis to develop a comprehensive picture of the coast and existing access provision. Advice will be submitted to DEFRA at the end of July, and will serve to inform a full public consultation paper in October. The consultation will discuss the best ways to improve access to the English coast, including costs and any legislative changes needed to support their implementation. It will be supported by a partial Regulatory Impact Assessment. The results of the consultation exercise will be published.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions the Countryside Agency has had with *(a)* the relevant authorities in (i) Wales and (ii) Scotland, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* non-governmental organisations and *(d)* non-statutory bodies on its coastal access proposals. [76654]

Barry Gardiner: The Countryside Agency, along with its Natural England partners English Nature and the Rural Development Service, is represented on DEFRA's Coastal Land Advisory Group. Meetings of the Group have provided a forum for coastal access issues to be discussed with the National Trust, Local Government Association, Ministry of Defence, Environment Agency, English Heritage, Welsh Assembly Government and the Forestry Commission.

The National Countryside Access Forum, chaired by the Countryside Agency, considered coastal access issues at its meeting on 17 May 2006. The Forum's membership includes the British Horse Society, British Mountaineering Council, Central Council for Physical Recreation, Country Land and Business Association, Cyclists Touring Club, Local Government Association, Moorland Association, National Farmers' Union, National Trust, Ramblers Association and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Representatives from local access forums, the Countryside Council for Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage also attended the meeting on 17 May 2006.

In addition, the Natural England partnership held a series of stakeholder events in each of four study areas in which they have been doing detailed work on options to improve access to the English coast. At these events they sought the views and expertise of a wide range of local organisations, including the local authorities for each of the areas concerned.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what

discussions the Countryside Agency has had with those administering Crown interests on its coastal access proposals; and when they took place. [76655]

Barry Gardiner: The Countryside Agency held initial discussions with the Crown Estate in 2005. My officials also met representatives from the Crown Estate on 6 December 2005.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* research has been commissioned and *(b)* surveys have been carried out by the Countryside Agency on coastal access in the last five years. [76657]

Barry Gardiner: The Countryside Agency, along with its Natural England partners English Nature and the Rural Development Service, has carried out a detailed data-gathering exercise to support a comprehensive picture of the English coast and existing access provision. This work includes in-depth investigation, testing and costing of a number of possible ways to improve access, and ways to maximise landscape, historic environment and wildlife benefits.

In 2005 the Countryside Agency carried out short studies of six different parts of the English coast to gain an understanding of different coastal environments. In January 2006 the Natural England Partnership selected four study areas in which they are exploring coastal access issues in greater depth. These areas, selected to reflect the diversity of the English coast, are the Suffolk Coast, Southern Cumbrian Coast and Morecambe Bay, County Durham and Hartlepool Coast, North Devon, Exmoor and the West Somerset Coast.

The Countryside Agency has also commissioned a study to examine how coastal access works in other European countries and what might be learnt from their experience. Further survey work is being done to assess current public knowledge about the demand for and use of coastal access, along with research into the costs of possible options to improve coastal access.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultations on coastal access the Department has conducted in the last five years. [76659]

Barry Gardiner: The Department has not carried out any public consultations on coastal access in the last five years.

Housing

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to discuss the recommendations of the Affordable Rural Housing Commission Report with his colleagues in *(a)* the Department for Communities and Local Government and *(b)* other Government Departments; and whether he has set a timetable for the development of a Government (i) response to the report and (ii) plan to implement the agreed recommendations. [74237]

Barry Gardiner: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Minister for Housing and Planning, my hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) and I all took part in discussions of the Affordable Rural Housing Commission report on the day of its launch. Affordable rural housing will continue to be one of the subjects covered in the regular dialogue between the two Departments and across Government.

The Government are currently considering the report and will use a range of channels and mechanisms to respond in a constructive way to the agenda set by the Commission, including in the forthcoming Spending Review.

Payment Schemes

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for the Entry Level Stewardship scheme have been made; and how much had been paid to applicants at the latest date for which figures are available. [76361]

Barry Gardiner: By 7 June 2006, 22,500 applications for Entry Level Stewardship had been received, and a total of £17.4 million paid to agreement holders.

Rural Development Service

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of compiling, printing and posting the leaflet Celebrating the Rural Development Service; and whether there are plans to issue further Rural Development Service leaflets prior to the service's replacement in October. [76650]

Barry Gardiner: The total cost was £8,300.

There are no plans to issue further leaflets.

Single Farm Payments

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to ensure the next round of single farm payments is made on time. [76188]

Barry Gardiner: We are determined that the right lessons are learned from our experience this year with the Single Payment Scheme, first to prepare for the undoubted challenges that will exist in the delivery of the 2006 scheme, and secondly to move to a more stable position for the 2007 scheme year. Work has already started to this end with the measures set out on 29 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 305WH, by my hon. Friend the Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) and the subsequent appointment of Mr. Tony Cooper as interim chief executive of the Rural Payments Agency. But this is a long-term project with no quick or easy solutions.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to ensure all maps used for the calculation of single farm payments are accurate. [76189]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is responsible for the maintenance of the Rural Land Register (RLR), and information from the RLR is used to support claims to the Single Payment Scheme. The process of digitising land and amending existing land registrations has been amended recently, with activity brought back on to RPA's main computer system. This followed a period when an outsourced provider was used to digitise land during a period of exceptionally high demand.

The digitisation process itself includes a number of quality checks to ensure that the correct land parcel and area are digitised. Where errors are found they are corrected before maps are issued to customers. Further amendments are made where customers identify issues with the maps they receive. RPA is aware of a number of cases where there have been issues with maps sent to customers. The re-establishment of an in-house process will aid the cross-check of new and amended land areas to customer details.

Single Payment Scheme

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average cost is of processing a Single Payment Scheme claim; and if he will make a statement. [73468]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* The gross running costs of the Rural Payment Agency (RPA) for 2005-06 were £236.5 million, of which £55.1 million related to one-off costs associated with the RPA change programme and common agricultural policy reform implementation. The balance of £181.4 million represented the costs of RPA's normal operations, of which the administration of the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) forms part.

For the 2005 SPS scheme year, there were 120,000 claims with an expected value of £1.5 million (net of modulation).

Subsidies (Rossendale)

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action his Department is taking to recoup overpayments of subsidies paid to farmers in Rossendale. [68598]

Barry Gardiner: We have identified one farmer in the Rossendale area who has an existing debt with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). The matter has been referred to the RPA Legal Division for a decision on whether legal proceedings should be issued to recover the debt. RPA is not aware of any other existing or potential overpayments in the Rossendale area.

Timber

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what monitoring systems are in place to ensure that all Government purchased timber and timber products are procured in accordance with the Government's timber procurement policy; and what evidence is required to prove that timber purchased is derived from legally harvested trees. [76284]

Barry Gardiner: The model conditions of contract that Departments are advised to use in respect of their timber purchases require contractors to obtain documentary evidence that the timber and wood derived products supplied are legal timber. The conditions further require the contractor to identify a chain of custody from the forest source through to delivery of the final product and to obtain independent verification if requested by the contracting authority.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House if he will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by his office on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77322]

Mr. Straw: My Office already keeps records on alcohol and hospitality costs. It spent approximately £1,150.00 on alcohol in the financial year 2005-06.

WALES

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the chief accounting officer of his Department. [76837]

Mr. Hain: As set out in the annual report (Col. 6385, published 25 May 2006), the Wales Office pays grant to the National Assembly for Wales, accounting directly within the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) for its own expenditure of some £5 million a year. Its director is appointed as an additional accounting officer to the DCA permanent secretary. The director combines these duties with responsibility for the overall organisation, management, staffing and procedures of the Wales Office.

The director is Alan Cogbill, a graduate entrant to the civil service. He has no professional accountancy qualification. He has experience as finance director of the DCA, and has undertaken civil service training in Government finance and accounting. He is assisted by professionally qualified accountants in DCA as need be.

TREASURY

World Poverty

2. **Mr. Hendrick:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contribution his Department is

making to meeting the 2015 targets for reducing world poverty. [77540]

Dawn Primarolo: The Treasury works closely with DFID to deliver a substantial and high quality UK aid programme, and also with the international community to make progress towards the 2015 Millennium Development Goals. DFID's budget is increasing from £3.8 billion in 2004-05 to £5.3 billion in 2007-08—making a real terms increase of 140 per cent. since 1997. I have announced a timetable to reach the UN target of 0.7 per cent. ODA/GNI in 2013.

The MDGs and global poverty were at the heart of the UK Presidencies of the EU and the G7/8 in 2005. The international community committed to raise an additional $50 billion of aid by 2010, to cancel 100 per cent. of the multilateral debts of the world's poorest countries, and to launch the International Finance Facility for Immunisation. G8 leaders also agreed to achieve universal access to AIDS treatment for all those who need it by 2010, and work on Advance Market Commitments for vaccines against malaria, HIV/AIDS and other priority diseases.

These are the sorts of measures needed to get progress towards the MDGs back on track. The key challenge now is for donors to fully implement their commitments and for developing countries to develop 10-year plans to meet the MDGs.

Competitiveness

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the principal factors affecting the competitiveness of UK businesses. [77555]

Mr. Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has had made of the principal factors affecting the competitiveness of UK businesses and industry. [77561]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Members to what I said on the Floor of the House earlier today in reply to the hon. Member for Bromsgrove (Miss Kirkbride).

Biodiesel

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of changes to taxation on biodiesel. [77617]

John Healey: Biodiesel attracts a favourable duty differential of 20 pence per litre less than that for the main road fuels. In line with the alternative fuels framework, we have guaranteed that this differential will continue until 2008-09. Changes to duty rates, including that for biodiesel, are made by the Chancellor in the light of a range of social, environmental and economic factors.

Bonuses

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1842W, on bonuses, why *(a)* the total amount awarded in bonuses to staff rose and *(b)* the total number of awards dropped between 2003-04 and 2005-06. [77200]

John Healey: The payment of end-year bonuses is linked to an individual's overall performance mark in their annual performance appraisal for the previous year. Prior to 2004-05 HMT operated a system for staff below Senior Civil Servant (SCS) with the following categories:

Top 5 per cent.
Next 30-35 per cent.
Next 50-55 per cent.
Next 5-10 per cent.

with those in the top two categories being awarded a bonus.

The categories in appraisal year 2004-05 were changed to:

Top 20 per cent.
Next 60 per cent.
Bottom 20 per cent.

with only those in the top category being awarded a bonus, which were paid in 2005-06. As a result the average size of end-year bonuses increased significantly.

Child Pregnancies

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many girls aged 16 years and under *(a)* became pregnant, *(b)* had an abortion, *(c)* gave birth and gave the child up for adoption and *(d)* gave birth and kept the child in each year since 1985, broken down by (i) age and (ii) region. [75626]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 15 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many girls aged 16 and under (a) became pregnant, (b) had an abortion, (c) gave birth and gave the child up for adoption and (d) gave birth and kept the child in each year since 1985, broken down by (i) age and (ii) region. I am replying in her absence. (75626)

Available figures are estimates of the number of pregnancies that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or termination.

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 14, 14, 15 and 16 from 1987 to 2004 (the latest year for which figures are available) are shown in Table 1. Figures for 1985 and 1986 are not provided because ONS amended the method for calculating woman's age at conception and revised data are not available prior to 1987.

Conception figures are routinely published each year by region for all girls aged under 16. Conception to girls aged 16 years by region can only be made available at a disproportionate cost.

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 16 by region from 1992 to 2004 (the latest year for which figures are available) are shown in Table 2. There have been Government Office Regional boundary changes prior to 1992 and figures prior to then are not compatible with later years.

Number of abortions to girls aged 14 and under, 15 and 16 from 1987 to 2004 (the latest year for which figures are available) are shown in Table 3. Figures for girls for aged 14 and under are grouped to protect small numbers which may be revealed by previously published data.

Numbers of abortions to girls aged 16 and under, by regional offices in England from 1987 to 2004 are shown in Table 4.

Number of live births to girls aged under 12, 12 ,13, 14, 15 and 16 from 1985 to 2005 (the latest year for which figures are available) are shown in Table 5.

Figures on live births by region have been compiled on the same basis as conceptions and number of live births to girls aged under 16 by Government Office Region from 1992 to 2005 are shown in Table 6.

Information is not available on how many girls aged 16 years and under gave birth and gave the child up for adoption and gave birth and kept the child.

Table 1: Conceptions to women under 17 by age, 1987-2004, England and Wales

	Age of mother				
	Under 14	*14*	*15*	*16*	*All under 17*
1987	312	1,777	6,538	16,112	24,739
1988	270	1,652	6,336	15,395	23,653
1989	223	1,650	6,077	14,703	22,653
1990	316	1,754	6,069	13,923	22,062
1991	318	1,686	5,476	12,623	20,103
1992	363	1,632	5,222	11,932	19,149
1993	368	1,774	5,125	11,031	18,298
1994	397	1,938	5,460	11,336	19,131
1995	382	1,834	5,835	12,382	20,433
1996	451	1,961	6,445	14,284	23,141
1997	365	1,964	5,942	14,058	22,329
1998	423	1,988	6,041	13,802	22,254
1999	406	1,866	5,673	13,334	21,279
2000	397	1,890	5,827	13,153	21,267
2001	400	1,890	5,613	13,103	21,006
2002	390	1,858	5,627	13,475	21,350
2003	334	1,888	5,802	13,303	21,327
2004[1]	341	1,751	5,521	13,616	21,229

[1] Provisional.

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Table 2: Conceptions under 16 by Government office region, 1992-2004, England and Wales

	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Wales*	*England and Wales*
1992	478	1,095	907	641	924	571	867	788	764	470	7,217
1993	560	1,140	825	634	917	563	867	794	502	465	7,267
1994	567	1,172	956	632	1,030	576	965	840	552	505	7,795
1995	627	1,165	894	702	998	608	1,019	890	581	567	8,051
1996	659	1,272	971	737	1,103	647	1,171	1,006	646	644	8,856
1997	621	1,106	971	655	1,012	631	1,141	972	598	564	8,271
1998	570	1,177	972	701	1,035	635	1,152	960	653	597	8,452
1999	499	1,178	919	616	890	627	1,058	963	658	537	7,945
2000	522	1,157	831	631	994	613	1,246	983	643	495	8,115
2001	460	1,068	861	610	934	642	1,252	977	603	496	7,903
2002	460	1,090	928	609	904	650	1,229	952	573	480	7,875
2003	498	1,180	876	606	925	636	1,247	984	606	466	8,024
2004[1]	481	1,074	871	611	898	601	1,127	918	598	434	7,613

[1] Provisional.

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Table 3: Total abortions for girls age 16 and under by age, England, 1987-2004

	Age of mother			
	14 and under	*15*	*16*	*Total 16 and under*
1987	859	2,702	5,623	9,184
1988	811	2,573	5,914	9,298
1989	776	2,449	5,365	8,590
1990	830	2,424	5,014	8,268
1991	839	2,155	4,435	7,429
1992	864	1,963	3,984	6,811
1993	913	2,001	3,401	6,315
1994	978	1,953	4,037	6,968

Table 3: Total abortions for girls age 16 and under by age. England, 1987-2004

	Age of mother			
	14 and under	*15*	*16*	*Total 16 and under*
1995	889	2,177	4,097	7,163
1996	1,023	2,380	4,911	8,314
1997	967	2,279	4,952	8,198
1998	1,032	2,490	5,031	8,553
1999	1,002	2,387	5019	8,408
2000	990	2,559	5,162	8,711
2001	1,009	2,429	5,308	8,746
2002	1,021	2,498	5,357	8,876
2003	1,100	2,644	5,456	9,200
2004	983	2,591	5,433	9,007

Source:
Department of Health

Table 4: Total abortions for girls age 16 and under by region, England, 1987[1]-2004

	Northern and Yorkshire	*Trent*	*Anglia and Oxford*	*North Thames*	*South Thames*	*South and West*	*West Midlands*	*North West*	*Total*
1987	1,285	1,000	432	1,316	1,247	1,353	1,290	1,261	9,184
1988	1,328	988	402	1,339	1,203	1,360	1,258	1,420	9,298
1989	1,287	972	402	1,261	1,112	1,215	1,169	1,172	8,590
1990	1,258	858	361	1,206	1,058	1,272	1,087	1,168	8,268
1991	1,144	804	299	1,075	944	1,025	1,019	1,119	7,429
1992	1,043	726	252	1,029	901	948	899	1,013	6,811
1993	1,083	756	256	662	870	910	850	928	6,315
1994	1,047	760	516	951	956	835	905	998	6,968
1995	1,043	711	684	1,024	1,021	786	901	993	7,163
1996	1,164	906	752	1,187	1,154	922	1,043	1,186	8,314
1997	1,129	880	752	1,214	1,109	897	1,048	1,169	8,198
1998	1,181	917	805	1,213	1,183	980	1,091	1,183	8,553
1999	1,143	936	839	1,417	1,050	946	1,077	1,000	8,408
2000	1,140	880	929	1,424	1,086	1,039	1,131	1,082	8,711
2001	1,067	859	871	1,544	1,091	1,071	1,192	1,051	8,746

	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Total*
2002	491	1,264	975	646	1,050	762	1,830	1,169	689	8,876
2003	581	1,306	967	691	1,056	830	1,851	1,192	726	9,200
2004	542	1,328	954	690	1,014	761	1,681	1,286	751	9,007

[1] Prior to 1987 there were boundary changes within regions.

Source:
Department of Health.

Table 5: Livebirths to females under 17 by age, 1985-2005, England and Wales

	Age of mother						
	Under 12	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*All under 17*
1985	0	2	21	216	1,163	4,431	5,833
1986	0	1	31	190	1,144	4,303	5,669
1987	2	3	20	177	1,103	4,398	5,703
1988	1	3	19	196	1,042	4,494	5,755
1989	0	6	22	180	1,109	4,239	5,556
1990	0	0	16	188	1,102	4,166	5,472
1991	0	2	27	216	1,181	4,140	5,566
1992	0	2	22	200	1,090	3,800	5,114
1993	1	1	26	226	1,149	3,900	5,303
1994	0	6	28	245	1,074	3,651	5,004
1995	1	2	34	248	1,216	4,043	5,544
1996	0	2	32	259	1,331	4,497	6,121
1997	1	3	26	258	1,313	4,500	6,101
1998	0	2	40	245	1,255	4,273	5,815
1999	0	4	35	228	1,204	4,103	5,574
2000	8	5	37	246	1,186	3,825	5,307
2001	8	9	37	241	1,138	3,699	5,132
2002	2	13	46	214	1,076	3,604	4,955

Table 5: Livebirths to females under 17 by age, 1985-2005, England and Wales

	Age of mother						
	Under 12	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*All under 17*
2003	2	7	26	186	1,025	3,621	4,867
2004	1	1	24	183	1,013	3,633	4,855
2005	4	4	15	189	977	3,514	4,703

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Table 6: Livebirths under 16 by Government office region, 1992-2005, England and Wales

	Non residents	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*
1992	0	119	213	166	128	157
1993	0	111	235	173	123	190
1994	0	104	219	137	127	200
1995	2	137	233	191	125	191
1996	1	139	215	170	145	223
1997	1	139	238	195	133	181
1998	2	132	214	197	133	173
1999	0	88	207	198	142	168
2000	1	97	221	183	120	170
2001	0	108	217	143	126	173
2002	0	72	179	159	115	169
2003	0	60	199	147	111	156
2004	1	74	199	139	124	147
2005	0	74	167	146	121	143

	East	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Wales*	*England and Wales*
1992	84	161	125	88	73	1,314
1993	99	184	124	86	78	1,403
1994	100	153	130	81	102	1,353
1995	105	181	140	102	94	1,501
1996	106	206	162	116	141	1,624
1997	104	211	164	111	124	1,601
1998	95	211	165	107	113	1,542
1999	115	194	157	103	99	1,471
2000	107	177	182	118	106	1,482
2001	100	201	157	115	93	1,433
2002	99	195	160	106	97	1,351
2003	113	139	158	94	69	1,246
2004	79	151	138	103	67	1,222
2005	86	146	135	84	87	1,189

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Robert Key: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many girls under the age of 16 years in Salisbury constituency gave birth in each year since 1995. [76984]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 15 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question about how many girls under 16 years in Salisbury constituency gave birth in each year since 1995. I am replying in her absence. (76984).

Where constituencies are not co-terminous with local authority boundaries, ONS do not generally release figures based on recording of mother's age at birth registration. This is to protect against disclosure of information provided in confidence. Figures are provided for the relevant local authority instead. There were 14 girls resident in Salisbury county district who gave birth under the age of 16 during the period 1995 to 2005, too few to provide figures by year without breaching confidentiality.

Construction Industry (Registration Cards)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many construction industry services registration cards have been issued in each *(a)* year and *(b)* quarter since 1 April 2001; and if he will make a statement; [77067]

(2) how many construction industry services registration (CIS4) cards *(a)* have been issued and *(b)* are in use; and if he will make a statement. [77041]

John Healey: There have been 2.4 million construction industry registration cards (CIS4) issued since the scheme began in 1999. Of these 1.9 million have been used.

Unused cards are attributable to: holders of recently issued cards having not yet been paid within CIS; holders that normally work within the domestic sector having applied for a card in case they become involved

in CIS work; and where one or two partners in a company use their cards on behalf of the company (with those of the other partners being unused).

A quarterly breakdown of the number of CIS4 cards issued since 1 April 2001 is given in the following table. These figures include replacements for cards that have been lost, stolen or have expired (in the case of temporary cards).

Number of CIS 4 cards issued

Quarter	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
April to June	56,000	61,000	63,000	74,000	77,000
July to September	61,000	83,000	73,000	83,000	82,000
October to December	48,000	55,000	63,000	65,000	63,000
January to March	58,000	70,000	78,000	75,000	81,000
Total	223,000	269,000	277,000	297,000	303,000

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what checks are made of *(a)* immigration status and *(b)* nationality before issuing construction industry services registration cards; and if he will make a statement; [77068]

(2) what changes he plans to make to the construction industry services registration card system in 2007; what *(a)* identity checks and *(b)* immigration status checks will be put in place; and if he will make a statement. [77042]

John Healey: Neither the legislation for the current construction industry scheme (CIS) nor the legislation for the new scheme empowers HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to question the immigration status or nationality of applicants for CIS registration cards. There is also no legal exchange of information gateway to allow such information that might be obtained by HMRC to be passed to the Home Office.

Under both the current and new schemes, HM Revenue and Customs must be satisfied about the applicants' identity and addresses. They may be required to produce appropriate documentation to evidence their identity, which might include a passport or driving licence. The new CIS scheme will also allow HMRC to require attendance in person to provide such information as satisfies HMRC on an applicant's identity and address.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited into *(a)* the Treasury and *(b)* his private office in each of the last three years. [77203]

John Healey: No staff over the age of 55 have been recruited to the Chancellor's private office in the last three years. The number recruited to the Treasury can be found in the following table:

	Department
2003-04	4
2004-05	5
2005-06	4

Exotic Animals (Smuggling)

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been caught attempting illegally to bring exotic *(a)* animals and *(b)* birds into Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [77426]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have interpreted exotic birds and animals to be live birds or animals of endangered species.

Details of seizures made by HMRC from January 1999 to December 2004 as a result of breaches in Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade herein are available on the UK CITES website at http://www.ukcites.gov.uk/news/tradestatistics.htm.

There have been no seizures of live animals or birds of endangered species in Northern Ireland from outside the EU in the period in question. Travellers arriving at Northern Ireland airports from outside the EU almost exclusively arrive via another airport either in Great Britain or Eire.

Fuel Smuggling (Northern Ireland)

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were caught smuggling fuel in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [77131]

John Healey: In the last five years the following number of vehicles have been seized in Northern Ireland as a consequence of hydrocarbon oils offences, including smuggling:

	Number of vehicles seized
2000	312
2001	684
2002	1,576
2003	901
2004	812

Gaming Machines

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the freeze on gaming machine stake and prize levels on tax revenues; [77156]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on tax revenues of an increase of category C and section 34 gaming machine stake and prize levels to 50 pence and £35, respectively. [77157]

John Healey: No assessment has been made of the effects of the freeze on gaming machine stake and prize levels on tax revenues. Similarly no assessment has been

made of the likely effect for tax revenues of an increase of category C stake and prize levels to 50p and £35, respectively. Decisions on the stake and prize limits which venues can offer are made by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport for reasons unconnected to tax.

Male Longevity

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average male longevity was at age 65 in each parliamentary constituency at the last date for which figures are available. [77139]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 15 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question concerning what the average male longevity at 65 was in each parliamentary constituency at the last date for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (77139)

Figures on life expectancy at different ages are derived from the life tables, calculated using data in both mortality and populations. The figures requested cannot be provided for parliamentary constituencies as population estimates are not available. Results for local authorities in England and Wales can be provided however. A table containing these figures for male life expectancy at age 65 for 2002-04 (the most recent period available) has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on how many occasions he has met the Paymaster General to discuss tax credits since 1 June 2005; and if he will make a statement; [76943]

(2) how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* the Paymaster General have had on the subject of tax credit fraud since 1 January 2006; and if he will make a statement. [76947]

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he last met the Paymaster General to discuss tax credits; [77817]

(2) when he last *(a)* received and *(b)* sent written correspondence to the Paymaster General regarding tax credits. [77818]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers are in constant contact with each other in person, over the telephone and in writing about a wide range of issues, including tax credits.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Endangered Species

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether revised sentencing guidelines have been issued to the judiciary regarding the Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulations. [76714]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been no sentencing guidelines issued in relation to these regulations.

HM Prison Belmarsh

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the number of inmates at HM Prison Belmarsh who report feeling unsafe; what action he is taking to reduce the incidence of such reports; and if he will make a statement. [73767]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Regular surveys into issues of prisoner personal safety are undertaken for Standards Audit and violence reduction purposes. The results assist in addressing and improving the quality of life experienced by prisoners. On arrival at Belmarsh, prisoners are advised how to report instances of bullying or feelings of self-harm. In addition information is displayed throughout the prison offering support and setting out what is readily available should support be required.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what stage the Government have reached in preparing for *(a)* signing and *(b)* ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on trafficking. [76675]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is currently assessing whether to sign the Council of Europe Convention. Whilst the UK supports the multiple aims of the Convention there are certain provisions which present concerns and which remain under consideration. The Home Office recently sought views on aspects of the Convention in the consultation paper 'Tackling Human Trafficking-Consultation on Proposals for a UK Action Plan'. In reaching a decision on signature we will take into account the views expressed by respondents. A summary of responses to the consultation will be published shortly.

Illegal Drugs

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been for using illegal drugs on buses in each region in each year since 2001. [76151]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Lambert Report

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date he *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* received the report by David Lambert into operational issues arising from the death of Joseph Scholes; what consultation was conducted with the family of the deceased; what the cost was of the report; what its principal conclusions were; what measures

have been taken in response to its recommendations; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [75306]

Mr. Sutcliffe: David Lambert was asked to conduct a review of operational issues arising out of the death of Joseph Scholes. The review was formally commissioned on 21 September 2004. Mr. Lambert began work the following month. He sent his completed report to the Home Office on 12 October 2005. Home Office officials, in consultation with the Youth Justice Board and the Prison Service, have been considering the recommendations in the report, and the action that needs to be taken in response to them. The Government will set out their response, and give details of the action we are taking, in due course. We will also address the issue of disclosure.

I understand David Lambert offered in August 2005 to discuss with Mrs. Scholes the findings of the review, and repeated the offer the following month, but that Mrs. Scholes did not wish to take up the offer.

The cost of the report was £10,589.50.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* Acts and *(b)* parts of Acts which received Royal Assent between 1976 and 2006 which remain in force for which his Department has policy responsibility. [69148]

Mr. Byrne: I have placed in the Libraries of the House a list of Acts which received Royal Assent between 1976 and 2006 for which the Home Office had policy responsibility at the time of Royal Assent. Some of these Acts have been amended or repealed in whole or part, so not all of their provisions remain in force. Nor are all of these Acts still within the policy responsibility of the Home Office. It is not however possible to provide a definitive list of the provisions which remain in force and which are within the policy responsibility of the Home Office without incurring disproportionate cost.

Leyhill Open Prison (Absconded Prisoners)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made by the Avon and Somerset constabulary of the volume of crime committed in the Avon and Somerset area since 1999 by prisoners who have absconded from Leyhill Open Prison; and if he will make a statement. [73423]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I understand from Avon and Somerset Constabulary that no estimates are available.

Mentally Ill Prisoners

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reoffending rate was for people who were identified as mentally ill while in prison in 2005-06. [76778]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not available.

Miscarriages of Justice

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what basis the Independent Assessor to the Home Secretary on Miscarriages of Justice makes recommendations for interim payments to claimants; and whether interim payments have been made on compassionate grounds. [76920]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Exceptionally, an interim payment of compensation in respect of a miscarriage of justice may be made by the Home Secretary, on the advice of the independent Assessor, before the final amount is determined. The amount of any interim payment will be paid on account and will be deducted from the final award. The Assessor's consideration of whether, and how much, interim payment might be made in a particular case is based on the information available to him about the miscarriage of justice in respect of which compensation is being paid and the consequences which flowed from it, not simply on what the applicant's financial needs are at the time. In very exceptional circumstances interim payments may be made on compassionate grounds depending on the circumstances and provided the payment is within the scope of compensation under the scheme.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what average time was taken for the office of the independent Assessor to the Home Secretary on miscarriages of justice to reply to correspondence in the last period for which figures are available; [76922]

(2) what the standard procedure of the independent Assessor to the Home Secretary on miscarriages of justice is in responding to correspondence from claimants' legal representatives; [76923]

John Reid: The independent Assessor for compensation for miscarriages of justice does not generally correspond directly with applicants or their legal representatives. All correspondence is handled by the Miscarriages of Justice Team in the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. They attempt to resolve any apparent discrepancies in the submissions from applicants or their representatives, to ensure that the Assessor has all the information he needs to make an assessment. Claims for compensation can amount to hundreds of thousands of pounds and some run into millions. Claims are complex and time consuming and often require investigation by forensic accountants, and, on occasion, high-level legal advice. In many cases an interim award is paid before a final assessment of compensation is made. All correspondence requiring a response should receive an interim or substantive response within the Home Office target of 20 working days. In the circumstances of these applications an interim reply is often unavoidable. Detailed statistics on performance against target for correspondence for this work are not immediately available and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible with performance figures for the last quarter.

Misuse of Drugs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people convicted of drugs offences as a result of the Drugs Act 2005 and *(b)* how many of them have received a prison sentence. [76976]

Mr. Coaker: It is too early to see any impact of the provisions of the Drugs Act 2005 in the annually published conviction data.

Motoring Offences

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the 10 most common motoring offences were for which men were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* convicted, *(c)* fined and *(d)* sent to prison in England and Wales in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by age group. [75536]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Available information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the 10 most common motoring offences for which men were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* convicted, *(c)* fined and (d) sent to prison in 2004 (latest available) is given in the following tables.

Data for 2005 will be available early in 2007.

Ten most common motoring offences for which men aged 21 and over were prosecuted, found guilty, fined and given a custodial sentence. England and Wales, 2004

Offence description	*Rounded Total proceedings*
Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	311,900
Vehicle test offences	251,500
Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	213,300
Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	156,700
Speed limit offences	134,900
Other insurance offences (excluding fraud and forgery)	96,700
Other miscellaneous motoring offences	91300
Failing to produce driving licence	73,600
Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	65,300
Driving while disqualified	43,600

Offence description	*Rounded Total findings of guilt*
Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	222,500
Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	135,900
Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	133,500
Vehicle test offences	130,600
Speed limit offences	112,000
Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	62,000
Other miscellaneous motoring offences	59,400
Driving while disqualified	38,700
Failing to produce driving licence	30,800
Other insurance offences (excluding fraud and forgery)	28,300

Offence description	*Rounded Total fined*
Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	162,500
Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	130,800
Speed limit offences	110,300
Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	75,200
Vehicle test offences	61,100
Other miscellaneous motoring offences	54,800
Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	44,300
Other vehicle registration offences (excluding fraud & deception)	18,300
Driving without due care and attention	17,000
Failing to produce driving licence	8,300

Offence description	*Rounded Total immediate custody*
Driving while disqualified	16,500
Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	3,800
Dangerous driving	2,100
Unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle etc	1,800
Driving and failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine)	900
Causing injury and damage by aggravated vehicle taking	800
Theft of a motor vehicle	500
Failing to stop after accident, etc	400
Causing criminal damage of £5,000 or under by aggravated vehicle taking	300
Unfit to drive through drink and drugs (impairment)	200

Note:
A person appearing in court can be dealt with for more than one offence at that appearance. The tables show the number of offences dealt with and not the number of persons appearing in court.

Police

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what complaints to the Independent Police Complaints Commission have been upheld in each year since its inception; what *(a)* response was made and *(b)* action was taken by the relevant police force to implement the recommendations; and if he will make a statement. [77250]

Mr. McNulty: The Independent Police Complaints Commission is responsible for the management of the police complaints system. I will ensure that the chairman receives a copy of the question and replies to you directly. Copies of the letter containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the House Libraries.

Prisoners' Compensation

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1049W to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies), on prisoners' compensation, if he will break down the awards by the prison where the prisoner was being held. [73338]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A copy of the table will be placed in the Library.

Prisons

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners under the age of 18 years are in HMP Gloucester; and what plans he has to transfer those individuals to specialist youth institutions. [74500]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There were no prisoners under the age of 18 held in HMP Gloucester on 8 June 2006.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* maximum, *(b)* mean and *(c)* median amount of money is held in prisoners' private cash accounts at each prison establishment; and if he will make a statement. [78194]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Prostitution

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Prostitution Strategy announced in January 2006 has been implemented; and if he will make a statement. [76708]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Implementation of the prostitution strategy is currently under way. This involves working with a range of stakeholders from across Whitehall as well as with non-government organisations and voluntary sector groups.

Present activity includes:

Working up the proposed new rehabilitative penalty for the offence of loitering and soliciting.

Working with police training provider, Centrex, to design a training package for police, with a multi-agency focus, for tackling prostitution in local areas.

Expansion of the scheme to report "dodgy punters" through a national Crimestoppers campaign (Ugly Mugs scheme).

Working with the Suzy Lamplugh Trust to develop Personal, Social, Health Education guidance for schools—with a focus on prevention and safety.

Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions restraint was used on trainees at Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre between July and October 2005. [76204]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the four months July-October 2005, trainees at Rainsbrook were restrained on 194 occasions. This figure includes low-level interventions, such as a trainee being led away from a potential incident.

Safety Cameras

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the police in Wiltshire use the LTI 20.20 mobile speed cameras. [76705]

Mr. McNulty: There are a number of speed meters type approved for police use, including the LTI 20.20. It is for individual police forces to decide which type approved to purchase and use. I understand that the Wiltshire constabulary do use the LTI 20.20.

Security Industry

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many meetings senior officials of the Security Industry Authority have held with officials of the National Security Inspectorate to discuss the implementation of the new approved contractor scheme. [75663]

Mr. Coaker: Insight Certification (the parent organisation of the National Security Inspectorate) was one of eight assessing bodies appointed in August 2005 to carry out assessments for the Approved Contractor Scheme. Accordingly there has been regular and frequent contact between the SIA personnel responsible for the ACS and NSI personnel at all levels.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks are in place to ensure that applicants for a security licence from the security industry authority originating from *(a)* other EU countries, *(b)* sub-Saharan Africa and *(c)* South East Asia do not have a criminal record in their country of origin. [75664]

Mr. Coaker: The SIA require that all applicants provide a complete five year address history preceding their application. If at any time during the past five years any applicant was abroad for six continuous months or more, they are required to provide an overseas criminality certificate (OCC) from the official competent issuing authority of the country concerned. This policy is uniform in its application and applies to all applicants irrespective of the country concerned.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what target has been set for processing applications for licences issued by the Security Industry Authority; and what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* modal period has been for processing applications since its inception. [71143]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 May 2006]:* The SIA do not calculate the mean or modal period processing times for applications. Some, such as those involving overseas criminal records checks, unavoidably take a considerable time. The SIA have a published target of

processing 80 per cent. of all applications within six weeks, measured from the date that a properly completed application enters the processing system to the date that a licence is issued. From April 2004 until August 2005 the SIA processed 62 per cent. within six weeks and 88 per cent. within nine weeks. Since September 2005, there has been a backlog of applications that have been waiting to enter the system. These have added an additional time of between two and four weeks to the process, so it is now taking up to 10 weeks to process most applications.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the ability of the Security Industry Authority to respond to telephone enquiries; and if he will make a statement. [55234]

Mr. Coaker: On average, the SIA call centre handles approximately 1,000 calls a day. During March 2006, average call volumes were four times higher than normal, reaching a peak of 8,000 calls on 20 March 2006. This high level of demand resulted from a late influx of cases.

To address this high demand, the SIA have increased the number of phone lines, hired more operators, and made their website more user-friendly. For example, the SIA are going to put onto their website an online tracker facility enabling applicants to check the progress of their application and to inform them of the date when they are likely to receive their licence.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many security personnel at *(a)* ports, *(b)* harbours and *(c)* airports are required to have Security Industry Authority licences by 20 March 2006; and how many have yet to receive such licences. [58986]

Mr. Coaker: There are no figures available of the number of personnel working at UK sea ports and harbours who are required to hold a SIA licence, although the Department for Transport (DfT) estimates the number to be relatively small.

To avoid double licensing, security personnel at UK airports have been exempted from SIA licensing where they are already subject to the DfT's directed personnel security and training regimes. This applies to all contracted security staff working airside at passenger terminals.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Gender Pay Gap

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the effects of occupational segregation in the gender pay gap. [75576]

Meg Munn: Occupational segregation has been identified as a significant contributor to the gender pay gap as women are highly concentrated in lower paid jobs or part-time occupations, which tend to be lower paid.

There is a body of evidence, most recently in "Shaping a Fairer Future", the report of the Women and Work Commission, which indicates that occupational segregation narrows the pool of talent that employers can choose from, which means that not everyone's skills are being utilised to the full. Government are committed to taking action on the recommendations and will issue an action plan later in the year.

Rape Sentences

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with the Solicitor-General about the Sentencing Guidelines Council's recent recommendation that men convicted of rape should receive a lighter sentence if they had been close to their victim before the offence. [75578]

Meg Munn: The draft sentencing guidelines on sexual offending were published on 7 June and I will be discussing them with colleagues at the forthcoming inter-ministerial group on sexual offending. I sit on this group in my capacity as Deputy Minister for Women and Equality.

Women (Parliament)

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of progress in more women being *(a)* selected and *(b)* elected to Parliament. [75355]

Meg Munn: In 2002 we introduced the Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates) Act allowing positive measures towards women's increased participation. This legislation is having an impact and the numbers are rising particularly in the parties that made use of these measures.

The Labour Party was able to increase the percentage of women MPs in the last general election by using all-women shortlists to select candidates in its retirement seats.

By contrast the Liberal Democrat Party and the Conservative Party respectively only selected 32 per cent. and 12 per cent. of women candidates for its 50 most winnable seats.

Overall, 20 per cent. of MPs are now women compared with 9 per cent. before 1997. Nearly 27.4 per cent. of Labour MPs are now women, while 8.6 per cent. of Conservative MPs and 14.3 per cent. of Liberal Democrat MPs are women.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bus Vouchers (Pensioners)

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she

will provide *(a)* petrol and *(b)* taxi vouchers to pensioners who live in rural areas which do not have bus services; and if she will make a statement. [74171]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

There are no plans to provide a statutory entitlement to petrol or taxi vouchers for older people. However, local authorities have the discretion to offer concessionary travel schemes which give discounted travel on public transport other than buses, such as taxi vouchers.

Cultural Strategy (Coventry)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department is providing towards Coventry council's cultural strategy. [76451]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* Through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund my Department is supporting projects that contribute towards cultural activities in Coventry. They include:

'Coventry Fusion': £486,000—Preventative programmes to reduce crime, the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour. The project will deliver activity and diversionary programmes to children and young people.

'Lady Godiva Half Marathon': £50,000—To continue to establish the half marathon event as a flagship initiative with the aim of promoting exercise in general, particularly in priority neighbourhoods. It will also look to broaden the diversity of participants.

'One Body, One Life': £300,000—The project delivers a health programme for children, young people and families. The programme will be targeted at 1,000 individuals.

'Coventry—let's walk': £200,000—The project aims to develop a co-ordinated programme of activities around walks.

Coventry New Deal for Communities Partnership, is part of the Coventry Partnership and is a priority neighbourhood within the Coventry Partnership.

The NDC has also funded a number of projects that contribute towards the delivery of the cultural strategy albeit in the NDC area only. These include the provision of additional sport and recreation areas, leisure activities programmes, community music facilities, dance and theatre productions, totalling some £2.6 million in grant aid.

In addition, general Government support for local services, including cultural activity, is provided through the unhypothecated formula grant. Coventry receives increases in formula grant of 2.4 per cent. in 2006-07 and 4.0 per cent. in 2007-08.

Fires (Schools)

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many daytime fires in schools have been reported since 2001. [77453]

Angela E. Smith: The number of daytime fires reported to, and attended by fire and rescue services in England since 2001 is set out as follows:

Number of daytime school fires attended

	Number
2000-01	526
2001-02	748
2002-03	682
2003-04	657
2004-05[1]	656

[1] Provisional figures.

Notes:

1. Day time assumed to be 8.30 am—4.00 pm.
2. Figures include weekends and school holidays.
3. Fires were not recorded during the strike periods in November 2002 and January/February 2003.

Source:

Fire and Rescue Service FDR1 returns to DCLG

Home Ownership

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in each electoral ward in the Stroud constituency own their own home. [77789]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 15 June 2006:

The National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people in each electoral ward in the Stroud constituency own their own home. I am replying in her absence. (77789)

In the 2001 census information on owner occupancy was collected at the household as opposed to the person level. Therefore, the attached table below shows the number of "owner occupied" households in each ward within Stroud constituency on Census day (29 April 2001), broken down by type of ownership. The figures have been extracted from Table KS18 on the Key Statistics for Output Areas DVD, which is available on request from Census Customer Services (census.customerservices@ons.gov.uk)

Stroud parliamentary constituency number of households : owner occupied

Area	All households	All owner occupied households	Owns outright	Owns with a mortgage or loan	Shared ownership[1]
Amberley and Woodchester	880	725	401	321	3
Berkeley	1,744	1,259	570	680	9
Bisley	886	753	449	304	0
Cainscross	2,688	2,011	832	1,165	14
Cam East	1,773	1,426	670	742	14
Cam West	1,734	1,268	534	731	3
Central	776	561	280	277	4
Chalford	2,612	2,290	905	1,379	6

Stroud parliamentary constituency number of households : owner occupied

Area	*All households*	*All owner occupied households*	*Owns outright*	*Owns with a mortgage or loan*	*Shared ownership*[1]
Coaley and Uley	911	724	399	325	0
Dursley	2,521	1,713	772	918	23
Eastington and Standish	686	532	244	280	8
Farmhill and Paganhill	971	629	296	329	4
Hardwicke	1,871	1,462	452	1,003	7
Minchinhampton	1,710	1,301	787	514	0
Nailsworth	2,510	1,822	801	1,007	14
Over Stroud	720	626	291	332	3
Painswick	1,852	1,472	959	510	3
Rodborough	1,847	1,614	731	883	0
Severn	1,701	1,325	615	707	3
Slade	935	568	197	371	0
Stonehouse	3,003	2,113	800	1,299	14
The Stanleys	1,719	1,309	616	690	3
Thrupp	894	773	321	446	6
Trinity	927	630	291	330	9
Uplands	926	677	229	445	3
Upton St. Leonards	854	728	398	330	0
Vale	673	523	262	261	0
Valley	930	602	217	378	7
Wotton-under-Edge[2]	2,619	1,947	901	1,041	5

[1]Pays part rent and mortgage.
[2] These data relate to the constituency boundary as defined at the end of 2003. The wards have been provided on a best-fit basis to that boundary. Data for the whole of Wooton-under-Edge ward have been provided in this response but the ward is actually split between Stroud and Cotswold Parliamentary Constituencies.
Source:
2007 Census Table KS 18 in Key Statistics for Output Areas

IT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on information technology (IT) sourced from outside her Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years; who is responsible for such projects in her Department; and what IT *(a)* expertise and *(b)* qualifications they possess. [71786]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was created in May 2006 and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in May 2002. Expenditure on IT sourced externally over this period is as follows:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2002-03	26,748,425
2003-04	20,913,037
2004-05	16,815,471
2005-06	18,108,962

Note:
These figures include VAT where appropriate.

Regarding responsibility for IT projects, ODPM introduced dual key sign off in 2005-06, under which IT expenditure is approved jointly by the CIO and the relevant business manager. Prior to this responsibility rested with project Executives (formerly Senior Responsible Owner under Prince2 methodology).

There is no central record of project Executives, their expertise and qualifications; providing this information could not be achieved without incurring disproportionate cost.

Libraries

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many libraries have been closed in the last two years, broken down by region; and what estimate she has made of the number of libraries that will be closed in 2006. [76889]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The table shows the change in the number of static public libraries, grouped into bands by opening hours, over the last three years and, for context, the comparable figures for 1997-98. The same information, by region, can be found in the Public Library Statistics published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

There have been a number of library closure proposals in recent months. I have written to the leaders of all the 149 library authorities in England asking them to consider carefully what would be lost through closures. Since then a number of the original proposals have either been dropped or scaled down.

Although some proposals remain it is too early to speculate on their likely outcome. However, my officials continue to monitor the situation closely.

Static libraries in England

	Hours open per week				
	60 plus	*45 to 59*	*30 to 44*	*10 to 29*	*<10*
1997-98	6	449	1,279	1,323	157
2002-03	42	598	1,168	1,240	91
2003-04	51	683	1,143	1,186	80
2004-05	69	727	1,139	1,106	96

Local Government Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funds were distributed to each London borough to increase efficiency in local government in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [75698]

Angela E. Smith: Funding to support efficiency in local authorities is distributed to nine Regional Centres of Excellence (RCEs). Each RCE has its own local governance arrangements for supporting authorities across the region.

Funding for individual projects, many of which operate across local authority boundaries, are decided by the RCE Board. Specifically, since 2004-05, funding made available to the London RCE in relation to taking forward the Efficiency Agenda is as follows:

Receiving authority	*Grant payable (2004-05)*	*Grant payable (2005-06)*	*Additional core funding (2005-06)*	*Workstream specific efficiency support (2005-06)*
London Regional Centre of Excellence	1.25 million	1.6 million	50,000	228,366.25 100,000

Individual projects supported by the London RCE are listed at:

http://www.lcpe.gov.uk/workstreamsexemplars/List_of_Current_Projects.asp

The Spending Review 2004 set out the expectation that local government (including councils, schools, police and fire authorities) would make at least £6.45 billion efficiency gains by 2007-08. This target is based on the achievement of annual gains equivalent to 2.5 per cent. of 2004-05 baseline expenditure. Local authorities have responded well to this challenge and councils are expecting to deliver £1.9 billion of efficiency gains by end 2005-06 against the target of £1.0 billion.

Private Office Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much has been paid in *(a)* salary, *(b)* travelling expenses, *(c)* subsistence allowance and *(d)* removal expenses to special advisers in his private office in each of the last five years. [69054]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each payband. For information relating to the last financial year I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 158-61WS. Information on special advisers for this financial year is currently being collected and will be published in the normal way when available.

This information prior to 2003 is not available in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All official travel by special advisers is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Small Change Big Difference

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department and its agencies have taken following the launch of the Government's Small Change Big Difference Campaign. [72006]

Angela E. Smith: The Department and its agencies have introduced a number of initiatives which support the Government's Small Change Big Difference Campaign. These are aimed at encouraging staff to make choices which increase physical activity and improve diet.

The Department provides healthy options in the restaurants and has made available a series of "lunch time walks". Awareness of national campaigns is raised using the Department's intranet and staff are encouraged to participate in annual Sports Days and take exercise at departmental sports clubs.

As the programme of work develops the Department of Health will be working across all of Government to ensure the programme joins up to promote maximum impact. DH is leading the implementation for this initiative as part of its cross-Government commitment to deliver the public health White Paper "Choosing Health".

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Ascension Island

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many guided missiles *(a)* have been launched from Ascension Island and *(b)* have landed on Ascension Island since 1976 as permitted in article 2 (General Description of Rights), point 1a of the Bahamas Agreement 1956; and on what dates. [75465]

Mr. Hoon: No guided missiles have been launched from Ascension Island or landed on Ascension Island since 1976 as permitted in article 2 (General Description of Rights), point 1a of the Bahamas Agreement 1956.

Bahamas Agreement

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what payment has been made in each year since 1976 by the United States Administration towards the maintenance of the services listed in article X (public services) of the Bahamas Agreement 1956. [75456]

Mr. Hoon: Regular payments by the United States Administration towards the maintenance of the services listed in article X (public services) of the

Bahamas Agreement 1956 have only been made since the introduction of a system of taxation in April 2002. Since that time the US has paid contract employee income tax and import duty as follows:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	GBP (£) 2005-06
Income Tax	430,401	496,956	499,641	[1]518,506
Tobacco	0	0	7,023	5,724
Alcohol	27,554	31,114	29,005	[1]26,754
Fuel	0	0	0	0
Property Tax	0	0	0	0
Total	457,955	528,070	535,669	550,984
Grand total		2,072,678		

[1] 2005-06 subject to assessment.

Prior to April 2002, contributions were made on an ad hoc basis. These contributions continue in addition to the tax the US pays.

Bonuses

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of her staff in each of the last three years; and at what total cost. [73035]

Mr. Hoon: The following table sets out the number and value of non-consolidated, non-pensionable bonus payments made to UK-based Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff over the last three years in relation to salary.

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Number of staff receiving a bonus	5,863	6,066	6,455
Value of bonus payments (£)	4,027,693	5,514,978	6,019,834
UK-based staff paybill (£)	177,045,646	185,914,353	192,458,797
Bonuses as a percentage of paybill	2.27	2.97	3.13

British Passport Holders

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British passport holders she estimates live abroad, broken down by country. [77479]

Dr. Howells: I estimate that there are approximately 4,500,000 British passport holders living overseas. The following table provides a breakdown by country.

Passport issuing post	Country	Estimated number of British passport holders
Buenos Aires	Argentina	10,600
Canberra	Australia	615,500
Vienna	Austria	13,600
Baku	Azerbaijan	2,900
Bahrain	Bahrain	9,700
Dhaka	Bangladesh	10,000
Bridgetown	Barbados	33,700
Brussels	Belgium	44,300
La Paz	Bolivia	2,000
Gaborone	Botswana	4,600
Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	12,300
Bandar Seri Begawan	Brunei	5,800
Ottawa	Canada	232,600
Santiago	Chile	5,600
Beijing	China	15,000
Hong Kong	China	798,800
Bogota	Colombia	4,300
San Jose	Costa Rica	7,300
Havana	Cuba	700
Nicosia	Cyprus	63,800
Prague	Czech Republic	6,700
Santo Domingo	Dominican Republic	1,600
Quito	Ecuador	2,700
Cairo	Egypt	14,000
Tallinn	Estonia	800
Addis Ababa	Ethiopia	1,500
Suva	Fiji	1,200
Helsinki	Finland	4,300
Paris	France	206,200
Banjul	Gambia	2,000
Dusseldorf	Germany	181,500
Accra	Ghana	6,500
Athens	Greece	26,900
Georgetown	Guyana	1,700
Budapest	Hungary	4,600
Reykjavik	Iceland	900
New Delhi/Mumbai	India	37,700
Tehran	Iran	3,000
Dublin	Ireland	108,900
Tel Aviv	Israel	57,800
Rome	Italy	49,000
Jakarta	Indonesia	12,000
Kingston	Jamaica	23,700
Tokyo	Japan	26,500
Amman	Jordan	8,300
Nairobi	Kenya	40,500
Kuwait	Kuwait	7,900
Beirut	Lebanon	6,200
Tripoli	Libya	3,600
Lilongwe	Malawai	9,200
Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	18,200
Valletta	Malta	8,400
Port Louis	Mauritius	8,300
Mexico City	Mexico	12,600
Ulaanbaatar	Mongolia	300
Rabat	Morocco	2,800
Windhoek	Namibia	1,400
Kathmandu	Nepal	1,600
Amsterdam/ Copenhagen	Netherlands	78,500
Wellington	New Zealand	215,900
Lagos	Nigeria	16,000
Oslo	Norway	19,200
Muscat	Oman	7,600
Islamabad/Karachi	Pakistan	35,000
Lima	Peru	6,000

Passport issuing post	Country	Estimated number of British passport holders
Manila	Philippines	19,200
Warsaw	Poland	5,700
Lisbon	Portugal	22,900
Doha	Qatar	8,700
Bucharest	Romania	2,200
Moscow	Russia	6,600
Riyadh/Jeddah	Saudi Arabia	24,800
Belgrade	Serbia and Montenegro	1,800
Victoria	Seychelles	1,700
Freetown	Sierra Leone	2,900
Singapore	Singapore	51,500
Pretoria	South Africa	174,600
Seoul	South Korea	3,600
Madrid	Spain	195,000
Colombo	Sri Lanka	4,800
Stockholm	Sweden	18,700
Geneva	Switzerland	72,200
Damascus	Syria	2,200
Dar Es Salaam	Tanzania	6,600
Bangkok	Thailand	45,600
Port of Spain	Trinidad and Tobago	13,400
Tunis	Tunisia	1,500
Ankara/Istanbul	Turkey	12,600
Abu Dhabi/Dubai	UAE	61,500
Kampala	Uganda	3,700
Kiev	Ukraine	1,100
Washington	USA	527,500
Caracas	Venezuela	7,200
Hanoi	Vietnam	4,000
Sana'a	Yemen	1,900
Lusaka	Zambia	7,900
Harare	Zimbabwe	25,100
Total		4,521,000

Canada

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her Canadian counterpart on *(a)* the threats posed by home grown terrorists and *(b)* how such threats can best be countered. [75876]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* My right. hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not yet had the opportunity to discuss counter terrorism issues with her Canadian counterpart. My right. hon. Friend the then Home Secretary discussed counter terrorism issues with Stockwell Day, Canadian Minister for Public Safety, on 27 March 2006.

This is also an area on which we have frequent contacts at official level.

Departmental Property

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many properties the Department owns in the UK; and where they are located. [77626]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office owns three freehold properties in the UK. These are:
Old Public Offices, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH
Old Admiralty Building, London, SW1A 2PA
Hanslope Park, Milton Keynes, MK19 7HR

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of her staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77101]

Mr. Hoon: On 1 June 2006 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) had 6,166 staff. Of these, 5,396 were aged between 17 and 54 years and 770 are aged 55 years or over. These figures are for UK civil servants only and exclude staff engaged locally at FCO Posts overseas for which details are not held centrally.

Departmental Training

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials from her Department were sent on courses run by the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre in each year since 1997; for what purpose; and at what cost. [76688]

Dr. Howells: The information requested is not held centrally. To obtain this information officials would need to contact all members of staff, or their departments past and present and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the risk of terrorist activity by Methodist preachers who are United States citizens before adjudication following requests for entry clearance to the United Kingdom for the purpose of vocational religious education; and if she will make a statement. [77611]

Dr. Howells: All entry clearance applications worldwide are checked against a warnings index which contains the details of individuals identified as posing a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. For security reasons, I am unable to give details of which individuals or groups may be on this index.

We are, however, concerned to ensure that legitimate entry clearance applications for legitimate vocational religious education should not be unreasonably impeded and there will be further consideration of the issues with the Home Office.

UK Mission (Bugging)

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made by the Belgian authorities in identifying

who bugged the UK mission in the Justus Lipsius Council of Ministers building in 2003; and if she will make a statement. [77520]

Mr. Hoon: The Belgian authorities are continuing their investigations. No results are yet available. We, and the other member states concerned, have co-operated fully with the Belgian authorities.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Northern Way

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what role her Department plays in the delivery of the Northern Way initiative, with particular reference to tackling social exclusion in Northern England. [74043]

Hilary Armstrong: The delivery of the Northern Way initiative is the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Cabinet Office will support the Department for Communities and Local Government in delivering their agenda around social exclusion. In addition, my role is to build on the achievements of the Government to date and spearhead a renewed drive to address the most socially excluded in our society. This will include chairing the new Cabinet Committee on Social Exclusion and publishing an Action Plan in the autumn setting out how we will reach the most excluded. The immediate priority will be to focus on the following:

improving the early identification of the most at-risk households, individuals and children; children in care; teenage pregnancy; mental illness; and supporting ongoing work by the Respect Unit.

We are also producing a 10 year review of the long-term trends and drivers of social exclusion and the systemic reform needed to address them.

Public Sector Information

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment she has made of the *(a)* effectiveness, *(b)* audience share and *(c)* number of viewers of public information programmes produced by the Central Office of Information being screened in the early hours of the morning. [76740]

Mr. McFadden: The Central Office of Information (COI) captures data on transmission numbers and estimated airtime value by film and by sponsoring department. Public information films are also assessed as part of wider research on multi media campaigns. COI records an estimated viewing level figure for each transmission of a film, based on the average number of viewers of the station in question across a particular section of the schedule (daypart). Dayparts are broken down as shown in the table.

Time	*Daypart*
06:00-09:29	Breakfast
09:30-11:59	Morning
12:00-17.14	Afternoon
17:15-23:59	Evening
24:00-05:59	Night-time

Sir Alistair Graham

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what public appointments have been held by Sir Alistair Graham since May 1997; and what his total remuneration was for each position in that period. [73479]

Hilary Armstrong: Information regarding the public appointments held Sir Alistair Graham since May 1997 and remuneration details are in the following table. The information relates to those bodies referred to in the annual Cabinet Office publication 'Public Bodies'.

Body	*Position*	*Dates in post*	*Remuneration*
Appeals Panel for students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, Learning and Skills Council	Northern Chairman	10 March 2002 to date	£600 per appeal hearing Chaired
British Transport Police Authority	Chairman	1 July 2004 to date	1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 - £25,000 pa 1 July 2005 to date - £25,800 pa
British Transport Police Committee (as Chairman Designate of BTPA)	Member	2 February 2004 to 30 June 2004	£5,000 pa
Committee on Standards in Public Life	Chairman	26 April 2004 to date	26 April 2005 to 5 May 2005 - £380 per day 6 May 2005 to date - £440 per day
Committee on Standards in Public Life	Member	1 October 2003 to 25 April 2004	£180 per day
Employment Appeals Tribunal	Member	1 April 2003 to date	2003-04 - £261 per day 2004-05 - £268 per day 2005-06 - £276 per day 2006-07 - £279 per day
NHS Appointments Commission	Regional Commissioner	1 November 2003 to 30 April 2004	£22,711 pa

Body	Position	Dates in post	Remuneration
Parades Commission for Northern Ireland	Chairman	27 March 1997 to 28 February 2000	27 March 1997 to 18 February 1999 - £30,000 pa 19 February 1999 to 28 February 2000 - £31,500 pa[1]
Police Complaints Authority	Chairman	1 April 2000 to 31 March 2004	2000-01 - £81,303 pa 2001-02 - £83,742 pa 2002-03[2] - £50,245 pa 2003-04 - £50,245 pa
West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority	Chairman	1 April 2002 to 31 October 2003	2002-03 - £20,420 pa 2003-04 - £20,930 pa

[1] Sir Alistair continued to receive his salary from Leeds Training and Enterprise Council and did not receive any additional remuneration for his Parades Commission Role. All remuneration in respect of this appointment was paid to Sir Alistair's employer—Leeds Training and Enterprise Council).
[2] From full-time in 2001-02 to 3 days a week in 2002-03 and 2003-04.

SCOTLAND

Air Miles

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1335W, on air miles, what factors he took into account when deciding not to keep a record of free air miles accrued by senior civil service servants in his Department on official business; and if he will keep such a record. [77437]

David Cairns: The retention of a record of air miles is not considered necessary for the effective management of the travel and subsistence regime in the Scotland Office or for the proper financial monitoring and control of budgets for this expenditure.

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his Department's press office. [74361]

David Cairns: The overall number of staff in the Scotland Office's press office was published in our Annual Report for 2006. Information on ethnicity is collected on a voluntary basis but, in view of the small number of staff involved, this information is not published.

Bonuses

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of his staff in each of the last three years; and at what total cost. [73060]

David Cairns: The following table shows the number, cost and percentage of paybill of the non-pensionable bonuses awarded by the Scotland Office:

Payment year	Total number of bonuses	Total cost of bonuses (£)	Percentage of total paybill
2003-04	6	2,800	0.11
2004-05	3	1,400	0.06
2005-06	8	3,750	0.20

Departmental Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from his Department in each of the last five years. [71782]

David Cairns: The top 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from the Scotland Office and the Advocate General for Scotland are as follows:

2001-02

Chesterton
Faulds Advertising
Carlson Wagonlit
Group 4
Amey
TMP Worldwide
Covent Gardens Bureau
ATIS REAL Weatheralls
Select
Charlton Chauffer Drive

2002-03

Carlson Wagonlit
ATIS REAL Weatheralls
Faulds Advertising
Amey
Group 4
Whitespace
Littles Chauffer Drive
Chesterton
Verbatim Reporters
Adecco

2003-04

Carlson Wagonlit
Amey
Mckibben
Group 4
ATIS REAL Weatheralls
Whitespace
Kilby & Gayford
Traditional Cleaning
Royal Mail
Serco

2004-05
Carlson Wagonlit
Mckibben
Amey
Group 4
Flexiform
Whitespace
Pressdata Bureau
Serco
NRG Group
Pertemps

2005-06
Carlson Wagonlit
Mckibben
Group 4
Amey
SRS Telecom
TSO
Pertemps
Kelly Services
Serco
OEP

Economic Trends

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on recent economic trends in Scotland. [75189]

David Cairns: The macroeconomic stability and labour market policies put in place by this Government continue to benefit all of the UK, including Scotland. Scottish employment and economic activity have increased to their highest levels since records began in 1992, unemployment is lower than it has been for a generation and Scottish economic growth in 2005—at 1.8 per cent.—was on trend and equal to that of the UK. All business surveys are reporting a strong performance in the year to date and principal independent economic forecasters predict the Scottish economy will continue to grow at around or above trend in both 2006 and 2007.

Gaming Machine Stakes

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the impact on *(a)* seaside economies and *(b)* public houses in Scotland of the freeze on gaming machine stake and prize levels. [77260]

David Cairns: There is no policy to freeze stake and prize limits. The Government announced in October 2004 that our policy has been to increase the maximum stake for amusement with prizes (AWP) machines from 30p to 50p, and for jackpot machines in bingo halls from 50p to £1. This would be on full implementation of the Gambling Act in September 2007.

Inward Investment

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what efforts his Department is making to attract Japanese investment into *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Glasgow; and if he will make a statement. [74607]

David Cairns: My hon. Friend will be aware that inward investment promotion for Scotland is a shared responsibility between the Scottish Executive and the Department for Trade and Industry.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 994W, on ministerial visits (accommodation), what factors he took into account when deciding not to keep a record of overnight accommodation arrangements or costs; and if he will keep such a record. [77438]

David Cairns: The maintenance of a record of the star rating of the hotels used, or the countries visited, by staff in the Scotland Office is not considered necessary for the effective management of the travel and subsistence regime in the Office or for the proper financial monitoring and control of budgets for this expenditure.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he classifies *(a)* al-Qaeda operatives based within Afghanistan, *(b)* al-Qaeda operatives based outside Afghanistan, *(c)* Taliban forces based within Afghanistan and *(d)* Taliban forces based outside Afghanistan as (i) insurgents and (ii) terrorists for the purposes of possible engagement by UK forces based in Helmand Province. [74482]

Des Browne *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* No such classification is required for the purposes of possible engagement by UK forces in Helmand of the various armed groups operating in the province, which may have criminal, tribal or other (including Taliban or, in some cases, al-Qaeda) allegiances.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the mission of the *(a)* UK troops and *(b)* other coalition troops in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. [75910]

Des Browne: UK forces, along with coalition partners, are deployed in Helmand province to form part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) expansion into southern Afghanistan. ISAF will work to build security and Government institutions, and to support the Afghan Security Forces in combating insurgents and illegally armed groups. Coalition troops operating under the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom are primarily tasked with conducting counter terrorism missions.

Air Sampling Missions

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what records his Department holds of air sampling missions to measure emissions from foreign nuclear weapons testing carried out before 1980 by *(a)* the Strategic Reconnaissance Force and *(b)* other units of the Royal Air Force. [77719]

Des Browne: The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory holds historical records relating to the health and safety of crew who carried out foreign nuclear weapons testing air sampling work and the routine radioactive contamination monitoring of high flying aircraft prior to 1980. The information in the records primarily relates to monitoring procedures, and aircraft surface contamination monitoring results.

Armed Forces Pay Review

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 17 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2514W, on the armed forces pay review, what the *(a)* current manpower requirement and *(b)* manning level is as an absolute figure in each of the operational pinch points listed. [64082]

Mr. Ingram: I am withholding the information requested as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice the effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Body Armour

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training is given to members of the UK armed forces in the use of body armour. [74968]

Mr. Ingram: Body armour is a passive system and therefore training in its use consists of advice on putting it on, adjusting it to fit and maintenance.

Body armour is worn in operational environments and certain training exercises —for example, live firing. In each situation all personnel are advised on how and when it should be worn.

Defence Intelligence Staff

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* permanent staff, *(b)* contractors, *(c)* reservists and *(d)* other staff were employed by the Defence Intelligence Staff in each year since 1997; and what the service breakdown was in each of those years. [76408]

Mr. Ingram: Defence Intelligence Staff manpower figures for 1997 onwards are shown as follows. Data for contractors are not captured and reservist data are not held centrally.

Civilian/service strengths: Chief of Defence Intelligence

		All services		
April	*Civilian permanent staff (FTE)*	*Officers*	*Other ranks*	*Total*
1997	1,600	400	2,300	2,700
1998	1,600	400	2,300	2,700
1999	1,500	400	2,200	2,600
2000	1,500	400	2,300	2,700
2001	1,400	400	2,000	2,400
2002	1,400	400	2,000	2,400
2003	1,500	400	2,100	2,500
2004	1,600	400	2,200	2,600
2005	1,600	400	2,200	2,600
2006	1,600	[1]400	[1]2,200	[1]2,600

[1] Service personnel figures for 2006 are provisional.

Notes:

1. Full-time equivalence counts part-time staff by the number of hours they work as a proportion of their full-time conditioned hours.
2. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. UK Regular Forces includes nursing services, but excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, mobilised reservists and Naval Activated Reservists.

There are 20 or fewer civilian casual staff employed in each year.

The breakdown of Service personnel numbers is only available from 2001.

Number of UK Regular Forces[1] employed by Chief of Defence Intelligence since 2001, broken down by Service

	Royal Navy	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
2001[2]	200	1,200	900
2002[2]	200	1,200	1,000
2003[2]	200	1,200	1,000
2004[2]	300	1,200	1,200
2005	300	1,100	1,200
2006	300	[3]1,100	[3]1,200

[1] UK Regular Forces includes Nursing services, but excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, mobilised reservists and Naval Activated Reservists.

[2] All figures for 2001 to 2004 are estimates.

[3] Figures for Army and RAF at April 2006 are provisional.

EU INSPIRE Directive

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK's national security of the EU INSPIRE directive; and whether his Department has made representations to the European Commission on this matter. [76681]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence has been fully involved in scrutinising the evolving INSPIRE directive for any possible impact on defence and national security. The INSPIRE text adopted as the Common Position on 23 January 2006, was acceptable in this respect. We will, however, maintain our scrutiny in relation to any proposed amendments to the Common Position emerging from the ongoing European parliamentary process.

As the lead Department within Government, DEFRA officials have met with the European Commission on a number of occasions to discuss a

wide range of issues, including the British Government's clear and well-known position that INSPIRE should not jeopardise national security, defence and international relations.

European Anti-missile Site

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans NATO has to install an anti-missile site in Europe; what discussions he has had on this matter with *(a)* the USA, *(b)* Poland and *(c)* the Czech Republic; and if he will make a statement. [76610]

Des Browne: NATO is currently examining the implications of a feasibility study into ballistic missile defence for alliance territories and population centres and as yet no plans have been developed or approved. I have not discussed the implications of the study with my counterparts in the USA, Poland or the Czech Republic.

Intelligence Corps

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 19 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 674W, on military intelligence, if he will make a statement on the work of the Intelligence Corps. [76411]

Des Browne: The Intelligence Corps continues its important work worldwide in providing intelligence and security support to operational commanders throughout the land forces environment at all levels of formation command. It also provides significant resources for defence intelligence and special forces requirements.

Iraq

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his oral answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1183, on Iraq, what the minimum standard is for body armour on land vehicles used by British troops in Iraq. [74273]

Des Browne *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* Enhanced Combat Body Armour is currently the minimum standard for British troops operating in vehicles in Iraq. However, two other body armour sets are available in theatre, for use according to the commander's assessment of the nature of the task and the current threat. Enhanced Personal Protective Equipment (known as Kestrel) is used by the drivers of fighting vehicles and by Top Cover Sentries. We are in the process of raising the minimum standard of protection above that provided by Enhanced Combat Body Armour, through the delivery of Improved Performance Body Armour (known as Osprey).

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has established a link between the loss of the Lynx helicopter over Basra in May and missile technology supplied by Iran; and if he will make a statement. [77389]

Des Browne *[holding answer 14 June 2006]:* The circumstances surrounding the loss of the Lynx helicopter in Basra on 6 May 2006 are currently being investigated by a Board of Inquiry. Once the Board of Inquiry has completed its investigation, a summary of the findings will be placed in the Library.

Iraqi Authority (Arms)

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence further to his Departmental Minute of 15 December 2004, on the gifting of military arms and equipment to the Iraqi interim authority in relation to the 5,666 9mm pistols, what was their *(a)* cost, *(b)* model and manufacturer, *(c)* date of dispatch from the UK and delivery in Iraq, *(d)* condition, *(e)* status in relation to arms export controls and *(f)* country of origin; what UK companies were involved in procurement or transhipment; whether each weapon carried a serial number; and whether he has received any reports of the diversion of these weapons for illicit purposes. [63815]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 18 April 2006]:* The Iraqi Security Forces were equipped with 5,666 x 9mm pistols and ammunition at a total cost of £1,292,878 as part of the Project OSIRIS security sector reform project, initiated by the Prime Minister in 2004.

Of these weapons, 2,822 pistols were model 92Fs manufactured by Beretta S.P.A., of Italy. They were procured by the Defence Procurement Agency's Dismounted Close Combat Integrated Project Team. The shipment was received at Heathrow, from Italy, on 24 February 2005. They were then moved to the Ministry of Defence Base Ordnance Depot in Donnington, Shropshire, for inspection before being despatched to Basra, where they arrived on 27 February 2005.

The remaining 2,844 pistols were manufactured by a company whose identity is being withheld. They were imported by a second, separate company—whose name is similarly being withheld—on 18 February 2005, and despatched to Iraq on 23 February 2005. Provision of further detail would be regarded by those concerned as a breach of confidence.

The weapons supplied in both shipments were new, not refurbished. Since it is illegal for an arms manufacturer to produce weapons without details stamped or etched upon them, all the pistols complied fully with international standards, bearing recorded serial numbers.

Each shipment was considered under the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. The weapons were legally gifted to the Government of Iraq. Parliament approved the gifting in principle on 15 December 2004.

As I have sought to make clear in earlier answers on the subject, we have received no evidence of any of these weapons being diverted for illicit purposes.

Prisoners

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many prisoners have been transferred

from the custody of UK forces to that of the US in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each quarter since 1 January 2002; [73727]

(2) what his policy is regarding the *(a)* exchange and *(b)* handing over of prisoners held by UK forces in Iraq and Afghanistan to the custody of US forces in those countries; and to what extent his policy has changed in the last year; [73726]

Des Browne *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* In Iraq, following the end of hostilities and the completion of the UK's prisoner release programme in April 2003, a total of 358 prisoners taken into custody by the UK were transferred to US custody at Camp Bucca. With the opening of the UK's Divisional Temporary Detention Facility in December 2003, our records show that they (along with further individuals transferred into US custody in the interim), were either released, or transferred back to UK custody. During 2003, a further six individuals were transferred to US custody in different circumstances. Four individuals, who have since been released, were transferred to US custody and held at Abu Ghraib. Two individuals classified as High Value Targets were taken into custody by the UK and subsequently transferred to US custody. They were subsequently transferred to the jurisdiction of the Iraq Special tribunal, although they remain in US physical custody.

Since December 2003, a further 13 security internees, have been transferred from UK to US custody at various times. All have since been released. Our policy on the transfer of detainees to US custody is to consider each case on its merits taking into account the operational circumstances and appropriate safeguards on their treatment. This policy has not changed over the last year.

In Afghanistan, UK forces operate in accordance with NATO's policy on detention for the International Security Assistance Force, which is either to transfer detainees to Afghan custody as soon as practicable or, if appropriate, to release them. I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 24 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 1982, to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram), in which he stated that the UK does not plan to transfer individuals detained in Afghanistan into the custody of US forces. This policy has not changed over the previous year.

Private Military Companies

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on private military companies guarding British bases abroad *(a)* in total, *(b)* in Iraq and *(c)* in Afghanistan in the last year for which figures are available. [75395]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence does not contract any private military companies or private security companies, and we do not monitor those employed by third parties except for purposes of deconfliction within the UK area of operations.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Business Education Partnerships

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what changes have occurred in the level of funding for Business Education Partnerships since the inception of the Learning and Skills Council. [66336]

Jim Knight: We do not fund Education Business Partnerships nationally. However, through the LSC, we annually provide £25 million to support the local delivery of school business links activity. Mark Haysom, chief executive of the LSC has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 19 May 2006:

I write in response to your recent Parliamentary Questions regarding Business Education Partnerships (EBPs).

Firstly, I will answer your question about the future role of EBPs.

EBPs are independent providers. The ways in which they carry out their role now and in the future is a matter for those partnerships themselves. The LSC values the work of the EBPs, evidenced by the significant sums of Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funding which they receive.

There is a huge challenge ahead of us in implementing the Government's 14-19 agenda. This agenda requires high levels of partnerships and collaboration between business, schools and colleges so that all young people are better prepared for the world of work.

A particular challenge is to make sure every young person has access to the new specialised diplomas which are being developed. This challenge is not just to the education service, but also to business and employers to engage and to contribute to what young people learn and experience during their time at school and college. The future funding and organisational arrangements must reflect this changing agenda. For example, the Government have given a significant increase in funds this financial year for enterprise and the development of the vocational curriculum—these funds have been targeted at schools, and not providers. It is for the schools themselves to determine which providers can best meet the individual needs of their pupils in the light of the school's circumstances. I have no doubt that the best providers will continue to deliver high quality provision.

For our part, we are looking at the whole delivery of education business link activity in the context of the developing 14-19 and skills agendas. We plan to consult on our conclusions in the near future.

Clearly, the LSC will need to ensure that its funds and partnership activity can make the maximum impact in delivering the Government's agenda for young people. My colleagues and I plan to discuss further with the national EBP network how the EBPs and the LSC can best work together to achieve this impact.

Regarding your Parliamentary Question about the levels of funding for EBPs since the inception of the LSC. EBPs, alongside other independent providers like Trident and Young Enterprise, receive income from a range of sources, including a substantial share of the LSC's education business link funding.

The LSC receives £25 million from the DfES for education business link activity. This amount has remained the same since the LSC took over the funding of this activity in 2001. As you will see from the figures below, from 2001-2006 the LSC has supplemented this resource with specific LSC funds. The actual amounts allocated for education business link activity by the LSC are as follows:

	£ million
2001-02	28,600,000
2002-03	32,312,085
2003-04	35,320,415
2004-05	36,133,797
2005-06	[1]31,075,965

[1]Provisional outturn, subject to audit review

The LSC values the work of EBPs which have strong partnerships in support of the curriculum offer to young people in schools and colleges.

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the future role for Business Education Partnerships is in developing links with *(a)* business, *(b)* the wider community and *(c)* schools. [66337]

Jim Knight: Business involvement with schools is essential to our education reforms, especially at 14 to 19. Education Business Partnerships, and other intermediary bodies, facilitate support for schools from an estimated 300,000 employers.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) are currently reviewing the delivery structure for Education Business Link activities. Therefore, Mark Haysom, chief executive of the LSC has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply has been placed in the Library.

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[1] Provisional outturn, subject to audit review

The LSC values the work of EBPs which have strong partnerships in support of the curriculum offer to young people in schools and colleges.

Trust this is helpful.

Class Sizes

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of secondary school students were in classes containing more than 30 pupils in *(a)* Torbay and *(b)* England in the last period for which figures are available. [77868]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the following table.

Maintained secondary schools: class sizes[1,2]. As at January 2006 (Provisional).

	Classes taught by one teacher					
	Classes with 1 to 30 pupils		Classes with 31 or more pupils		All classes	
	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils
England	2,746,070	88.6	351,960	11.4	3,098,030	100.0
Torbay local authority area	7,960	93.3	570	6.7	8,530	100.0

[1] Classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
Source:
Schools Census

Free School Meals

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of schoolchildren were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* receiving free school meals in Torbay in each year since 1997. [77866]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the following table.

Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools[1]: school meal arrangements, January 1999-2006 (provisional). Torbay local authority area[2]

Maintained nursery and primary

	Number on roll[3]	Number of pupils taking free school meals	Percentage taking free school meals	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
1999	10,254	1,944	19.0	2,368	23.1
2000	10,288	1,814	17.6	2,255	21.9
2001	10,328	1,505	14.6	1,999	19.4
2002	10,399	1,536	14.8	1,932	18.6
2003	10,325	1,473	14.3	1,846	17.9
2004	10,306	1,523	14.8	1,958	19.0
2005	10,128	1,443	14.2	1,799	17.8
2006[4]	9,836	1,312	13.3	1,625	16.5

Maintained secondary

	Number on roll[3]	Number of pupils taking free school meals	Percentage taking free school meals	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
1999	8,467	1,023	12.1	1,371	16.2
2000	8,552	1,008	11.8	1,285	15.0
2001	8,708	875	10.0	1,210	13.9
2002	8,863	849	9.6	1,265	14.3
2003	9,024	933	10.3	1,250	13.9
2004	9,211	951	10.3	1,268	13.8
2005	9,183	850	9.3	1,235	13.4
2006[4]	9,237	792	8.6	1,152	12.5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Torbay local authority came into effect in April 1998 as a result of local government reorganisation, therefore there is no data available prior to this.
[3] Prior to 2003 'number on roll' includes all full-time and part-time pupils who are solely registered, excluding boarding pupils. Due to underlying changes in data collection, this coverage was extended to also include all pupils with dual (main) registration and boarding pupils from 2003.
[4] Provisional.
Source:
Schools Census

Government Grants

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the Government grant per pupil in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary education in (i) Torbay and (ii) England was in each year since 1997. [77865]

Jim Knight: From 1997-98 to 2005-06 the majority of school funding was provided through the local government finance settlement. The following tables set out the funding provided through the settlement and the grants paid per pupil in each year:

Funding per pupil, Torbay 1997-98 to 2005-06

Real terms, excluding pensions transfer to EPS and LSC from 2003-04 to 2005-06

	3 to 10-year olds			11 to 15-year-olds		
	SSA/EFS per pupil (£ million)	Grants per pupil (£ million)	Funding per pupil (£)	SSA/EFS per pupil (£ million)	Grants per pupil (£ million)	Funding per pupil (£)
1997-98	2,310.0	140.0	2,450	3,160.0	40.0	3,200
1998-99	2,370.0	100.0	2,470	3,220.0	20.0	3,240
1999-2000	2,450.0	140.0	2,590	3,290.0	70.0	3,360
2000-01	2,470.0	330.0	2,800	3,410.0	200.0	3,610
2001-02	2,550.0	380.0	2,920	3,450.0	300.0	3,750
2002-03	2,540.0	410.0	2,950	3,480.0	380.0	3,850
2003-04	2,810.0	290.0	3,100	3,450.0	440.0	3,900
2004-05	2,880.0	320.0	3,190	3,590.0	470.0	4,070
2005-06	3,020.0	350.0	3,370	3,690.0	530.0	4,220

Funding per pupil, England 1997-98 to 2005-06

Real terms, excluding pensions transfer to EPS and LSC from 2003-04 to 2005-06

	3 to 10-year-olds			*11 to 15-year-olds*		
	SSA/EFS per pupil (£ million)	*Grants per pupil (£ million)*	*Funding per pupil (£)*	*SSA/EFS per pupil (£ million)*	*Grants per pupil (£ million)*	*Funding per pupil (£)*
1997-98	2,250.0	170.0	2,420	3,270.0	30.0	3,300
1998-99	2,430.0	80.0	2,510	3,340.0	40.0	3,380
1999-2000	2,530.0	150.0	2,680	3,400.0	110.0	3,510
2000-01	2,580.0	330.0	2,910	3,520.0	280.0	3,800
2001-02	2,640.0	440.0	3,080	3,580.0	420.0	4,000
2002-03	2,690.0	460.0	3,160	3,640.0	450.0	4,090
2003-04	2,990.0	370.0	3,360	3,630.0	540.0	4,180
2004-05	3,090.0	400.0	3,490	3,790.0	580.0	4,370
2005-06	3,250.0	420.0	3,670	3,910.0	620.0	4,530

Notes:
1. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three-year-old maintained pupils and estimated three to four-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
2. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged three to 10 and 11 to 15 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
3. 1997-98 figures for authorities subject to local government reorganisation in that year have been estimated, pro-rata to their post LGR figures.
4. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of standard spending assessment/education formula spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
5. 2003-04 to 2005-06 figures are provisional as some grants have not yet been finalised/audited.
6. Real terms at 2004-05 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 23 December 2005. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Higher Education

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many undergraduate students aged *(a)* 21 to 25 years and *(b)* over 25 years were enrolled on courses in each higher education institution in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06. [76272]

Bill Rammell: The latest figures are shown in the following table. Figures for the 2005/06 academic year will become available at the beginning of 2007.

UK-domiciled undergraduates at each English institution by academic year and age group

	2002/03			*2003/04*			*2004/05*		
Institution	*Under 21*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Under 21*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Under 21*	*21-25*	*Over 25*
Open University	3,990	15,330	122,120	5,000	17,485	128,105	5,445	18,415	130,800
Cranfield University	295	125	60	225	85	45	115	55	30
Royal College of Art	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal College of Nursing	0	35	510	0	40	490	[1]—	55	585
Bishop Grosseteste College	475	255	160	505	120	200	545	140	280
Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College	2,980	2,160	3,140	2,745	2,130	2,920	2,640	2,140	2,925
Central School of Speech and Drama	205	140	40	240	140	45	265	140	35
University of Chester	3,545	1,585	3,295	3,485	1,755	4,175	3,690	1,835	4,350
Canterbury Christ Church University	3,040	1,495	5,030	3,105	1,790	5,805	3,175	1,900	6,080
York St. John College	2,195	875	1,730	2,150	885	1,465	2,245	975	1,590
College of St. Mark and St. John	985	580	1,305	1,010	670	1,940	980	570	745
Dartington College of Arts	190	110	65	225	125	55	265	125	50
Edge Hill College of HE	2,880	1,375	3,905	3,075	1,545	4,495	3,505	1,765	4,910
University College Falmouth	675	450	225	785	505	225	885	550	205
Harper Adams University College	750	480	95	750	475	85	775	480	320
Homerton College	160	305	1,525	180	365	1,820	190	385	2,165
Kent Institute of Art and Design	840	500	230	895	475	210	980	525	185

UK-domiciled undergraduates at each English institution by academic year and age group

	2002/03			2003/04			2004/05		
Institution	*Under 21*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Under 21*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Under 21*	*21-25*	*Over 25*
University of Winchester	2,180	835	1,415	2,140	880	1,325	2,075	835	1,155
Liverpool Hope University	2,480	1,360	1,425	2,330	1,455	1,685	2,345	1,365	1,650
University of the Arts, London	2,905	2,540	1,330	2,985	2,715	1,295	3,300	2,725	1,330
University of Luton	2,035	2,060	3,460	1,875	1,930	3,930	1,865	1,805	3,930
University of Northampton	4,030	2,115	3,190	3,900	2,145	3,340	3,485	2,080	2,995
Newman College of Higher Education	755	390	635	730	385	725	695	465	840
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	380	250	100	455	275	85	525	310	90
Roehampton University	2,785	1,445	1,625	2,925	1,370	1,525	3,160	1,425	1,350
Rose Bruford College	340	135	250	335	135	135	335	145	235
Royal Academy of Music	140	70	5	165	65	5	150	70	[1]—
Royal College of Music	185	85	[1]—	175	90	5	150	75	5
Royal Northern College of Music	255	120	[1]—	240	115	[1]—	225	115	[1]—
Southampton Solent University	4,815	2,970	1,545	4,810	3,140	1,410	4,810	3,210	1,465
St. Martin's College	2,035	1,105	3,825	2,235	1,550	4,425	2,400	2,125	4,335
St. Mary's College	1,510	590	180	1,535	690	320	1,460	670	405
Trinity and All Saints College	1,460	515	125	1,300	575	145	1,345	520	180
Trinity College of Music	155	110	15	240	145	10	265	150	10
Surrey Institute of Art and Design, University College	1,455	860	240	1,365	855	235	1,365	795	230
University of Worcester	1,735	1,075	3,055	1,680	1,060	3,240	1,765	1,025	3,135
Anglia Polytechnic University	4,830	3,825	11,510	4,600	3,950	10,055	4,785	4,175	12,125
Bath Spa University	1,820	760	745	2,050	915	860	2,160	1,035	780
University of Bolton	1,145	1,360	2,760	1,095	1,360	2,905	1,095	1,350	3,065
Bournemouth University	4,880	3,215	3,800	4,960	3,455	4,330	4,925	3,455	4,215
University of Brighton	4,715	3,620	5,175	4,750	3,865	5,345	5,095	3,830	5,300
University of Central England in Birmingham	5,395	5,145	7,040	5,375	5,400	7,570	5,590	5,455	7,280
University of Central Lancashire	7,775	4,930	9,860	7,835	5,090	9,850	8,295	4,785	8,865
University of Gloucestershire	3,525	1,940	1,945	3,275	2,050	2,285	2,995	2,015	1,810
Coventry University	5,600	3,695	4,525	5,185	3,830	4,830	5,100	3,760	5,940
University of Derby	4,295	3,145	3,010	4,515	3,055	3,180	4,260	3,105	3,435
University of East London	2,360	2,760	3,805	2,215	3,035	4,205	2,165	3,165	4,525
University of Greenwich	4,135	3,470	5,330	4,090	3,570	5,475	4,185	3,930	5,855
University of Hertfordshire	6,580	3,790	4,565	7,180	3,955	4,935	8,010	3,975	4,440
University of Huddersfield	5,035	3,460	5,630	4,920	3,430	6,000	4,955	3,195	5,605
University of Lincoln	4,380	1,985	4,975	5,090	1,995	3,955	5,715	1,970	3,130
Kingston University	6,330	3,960	2,690	6,595	4,380	2,735	6,615	4,770	2,810
Leeds Metropolitan University	8,385	5,560	6,820	8,615	5,950	7,495	8,930	5,860	6,630

UK-domiciled undergraduates at each English institution by academic year and age group

Institution	2002/03			2003/04			2004/05		
	Under 21	21-25	Over 25	Under 21	21-25	Over 25	Under 21	21-25	Over 25
Liverpool John Moores University	7,735	4,310	4,270	8,350	4,685	4,480	8,370	4,820	4,060
Manchester Metropolitan University	11,845	6,875	4,875	12,310	7,175	5,480	12,390	7,370	4,870
Middlesex University	4,820	5,000	5,420	4,085	4,595	5,145	4,555	5,005	5,945
De Montfort University	7,740	4,965	4,620	7,875	5,085	4,805	8,200	4,980	5,015
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	7,370	4,590	6,230	7,705	4,495	5,980	7,950	4,545	5,765
Nottingham Trent University	10,085	4,655	2,945	10,530	5,100	4,900	10,160	5,495	4,295
Oxford Brookes University	4,280	2,935	3,230	4,555	2,830	3,355	4,765	2,820	4,040
University of Plymouth	7,960	4,525	8,710	8,065	4,795	9,330	8,215	4,840	9,295
University of Portsmouth	6,320	3,250	3,230	6,935	3,375	3,515	7,535	3,540	3,250
Sheffield Hallam University	9,770	5,335	4,115	9,955	5,310	4,050	10,010	5,355	4,290
London South Bank University	2,455	3,585	7,865	2,300	3,610	8,775	2,335	3,510	8,390
Staffordshire University	5,405	3,305	3,300	4,675	3,080	3,345	4,405	2,855	3,665
University of Sunderland	3,860	2,590	5,805	3,900	2,575	6,785	3,945	2,630	7,170
University of Teesside	4,470	3,215	9,220	4,570	3,485	9,960	4,475	3,455	9,155
Thames Valley University	1,655	3,480	8,290	1,540	3,370	8,885	1,930	3,610	10,245
University of the West of England, Bristol	8,765	5,710	5,430	9,110	5,855	5,965	9,145	5,765	5,855
University College Chichester	1,325	680	1,055	1,450	710	980	1,510	690	1,070
University of Westminster	5,320	4,485	5,390	5,605	4,540	5,435	5,805	4,575	5,255
Wimbledon School of Art	175	150	125	165	160	130	200	155	135
University of Wolverhampton	5,750	4,350	6,155	5,890	4,415	7,015	6,045	4,410	6,735
Aston University	3,360	1,510	150	3,420	1,640	165	3,480	1,650	200
University of Bath	4,525	1,825	2,415	4,585	1,965	1,855	4,485	2,145	1,790
University of Birmingham	10,860	3,560	4,125	11,180	3,785	3,535	11,210	3,765	2,375
University of Bradford	2,870	2,120	2,240	2,840	1,980	2,375	2,855	1,985	2,320
University of Bristol	6,810	2,825	3,795	6,905	2,955	3,855	7,180	2,960	4,100
Brunel University	5,570	2,855	1,575	5,005	2,800	1,565	5,065	2,690	1,590
University of Cambridge	7,890	2,550	4,645	7,955	2,410	4,450	7,835	2,380	4,400
City University	2,575	2,475	6,305	2,775	2,510	6,565	2,815	2,440	7,605
University of Durham	7,750	1,640	875	8,250	1,700	780	8,575	1,750	740
University of East Anglia	4,225	1,485	4,385	4,505	1,585	4,925	4,730	1,590	3,695
University of Essex	3,075	910	2,045	3,355	1,025	1,855	3,605	1,120	1,815
University of Exeter	5,575	1,440	1,840	5,770	1,520	1,880	6,010	1,660	1,700
University of Hull	5,520	2,375	8,150	5,555	2,400	7,215	5,950	2,455	7,425
University of Keele	3,375	840	5,195	3,825	955	3,435	4,170	1,115	3,040
University of Kent	4,865	1,770	3,345	5,495	1,830	3,285	5,850	2,090	3,420
University of Lancaster	6,115	1,210	5,205	6,435	1,235	5,450	6,455	1,350	4,805
University of Leeds	14,220	5,000	4,350	14,915	5,010	3,785	15,490	5,085	4,240

UK-domiciled undergraduates at each English institution by academic year and age group

	2002/03			2003/04			2004/05		
Institution	*Under 21*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Under 21*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Under 21*	*21-25*	*Over 25*
University of Leicester	5,135	1,555	1,630	5,495	1,700	1,745	5,080	1,820	1,895
University of Liverpool	8,115	3,240	4,380	8,675	3,430	3,595	8,795	3,320	3,465
Birkbeck College	250	2,150	15,510	165	1,565	10,330	180	1,490	9,085
Goldsmiths College	1,600	1,195	1,465	1,530	1,160	1,325	1,605	1,115	1,350
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	3,705	1,880	75	3,575	1,880	45	3,480	1,995	50
Institute of Education	0	5	50	0	5	50	[1]—	5	70
King's College London	5,785	3,695	3,125	5,725	3,745	3,625	5,620	3,670	3,865
London Business School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London School of Economics and Political Science	1,595	310	35	1,755	320	25	1,815	370	25
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Queen Mary and Westfield College	3,895	2,075	565	3,980	2,135	630	3,950	2,200	635
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	2,665	880	420	2,975	1,040	550	3,240	865	300
Royal Veterinary College	380	275	35	450	330	35	555	370	30
St. George's Hospital Medical School	535	860	1,335	530	845	1,310	500	860	1,385
School of Oriental and African Studies	625	430	250	665	450	270	695	510	235
School of Pharmacy	280	195	65	290	205	65	310	225	80
University College London	6,090	3,025	585	5,850	2,900	520	5,790	3,000	510
University of London (Institutes and activities)	65	15	[1]—	60	15	[1]—	60	15	[1]—
Loughborough University	7,135	2,470	220	7,200	2,565	195	7,220	2,555	180
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	8,045	2,470	1,215	8,360	2,785	515	8,275	3,175	460
University of Nottingham	11,090	3,615	6,210	11,600	3,875	6,240	11,775	4,000	6,435
University of Oxford	8,010	2,345	4,410	8,050	2,325	3,660	7,920	2,525	3,650
University of Reading	5,385	1,450	2,775	5,570	1,495	2,110	5,510	1,570	2,295
University of Salford	5,795	3,780	4,820	5,685	3,860	4,845	5,670	3,870	5,115
University of Sheffield	10,085	3,760	3,515	10,200	3,855	3,230	10,555	3,880	2,920
University of Southampton	7,685	3,395	4,450	7,810	3,410	3,795	7,830	3,390	3,710
University of Surrey	2,980	1,715	4,110	3,155	1,940	4,240	3,220	1,805	3,285
University of Sussex	3,630	1,615	3,170	3,420	1,720	2,805	3,490	1,730	2,925
University of Warwick	6,670	2,050	7,965	6,690	2,230	8,430	6,890	2,465	7,350
University of York	4,550	1,040	1,790	4,960	1,065	1,780	5,095	1,030	1,845
Institute of Cancer Research	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Writtle College	515	285	375	470	245	310	465	230	330
Norwich School of Art and Design	265	220	110	275	215	115	360	220	130
Northern School of Contemporary Dance	85	30	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria Institute of the Arts	475	240	140	520	250	150	540	235	115

UK-domiciled undergraduates at each English institution by academic year and age group

Institution	2002/03			2003/04			2004/05		
	Under 21	21-25	Over 25	Under 21	21-25	Over 25	Under 21	21-25	Over 25
Royal Agricultural College	285	125	10	330	145	20	355	160	20
Arts Institute at Bournemouth	545	340	215	595	365	200	725	405	185
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	105	100	30	250	180	60	360	300	65
Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies	1,340	755	355	1,130	770	520	1,115	760	700
Courtauld Institute of Art	70	20	10	75	20	10	80	30	5
London Metropolitan University	5,335	7,610	8,225	4,525	7,225	7,725	4,065	6,675	7,075
University of Buckingham	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	20	50
University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology	2,630	990	95	2,730	915	110	0	0	0
University or Manchester	10,430	4,455	3,695	11,350	4,405	6,020	14,540	5,405	5,930
Total	496,195	282,105	498,400	507,145	291,580	508,435	517,795	296,700	505,945

[1] Indicates less than 3 and grester than 0.
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, so components do not sum to totals.
2. Data on the University of Buckingham are not available for years earlier than 2004/05.
3. UMIST merged with University of Manchester in 2004: Figures are amalgamated for 2004/05.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time students are enrolled in each higher education institution. [76273]

Bill Rammell: The latest available figures for 2004/05 are shown in the following table. Figures for the 2005/06 academic year will become available at the beginning of 2007.

UK-domiciled undergraduates at each English institution by mode of study, 2004/05

Institution	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Open University	0	154,660	154,660
Cranfield University	200	0	200
Royal College of Art	0	0	0
Royal College of Nursing	0	645	645
Bishop Grosseteste College	945	20	965
Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College	5,175	2,535	7,710
Central School of Speech and Drama	435	0	435
University of Chester	6,465	3,415	9,880
Canterbury Christ Church University	6,095	5,060	11,155
York St. John College	3,440	1,370	4,810
College of St. Mark and St. John	1,900	395	2,290
Dartington College of Arts	435	C U	440
Edge Hill College of HE	5,450	4,730	10,180
University College Falmouth	1,585	55	1,640
Harper Adams University College	1,190	385	1,575
Homerton College	935	1,805	2,740
Kent Institute of Art and Design	1,570	120	1,690

UK-domiciled undergraduates at each English institution by mode of study, 2004/05

Institution	Full-time	Part-time	Total
University of Winchester	3,095	965	4,060
Liverpool Hope University	3,985	1,380	5,360
University of the Arts, London	6,795	560	7,355
University of Luton	4,520	3,080	7,600
University of Northampton	6,370	2,190	8,560
Newman College of Higher Education	1,295	705	2,000
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	925	0	925
Roehampton University	5,275	660	5,935
Rose Bruford College	485	225	715
Royal Academy of Music	220	[1]—	225
Royal College of Music	230	[1]—	230
Royal Northern College of Music	340	0	340
Southampton Solent University	7,840	1,645	9,485
St. Martin's College	4,430	4,425	8,860
St. Mary's College	2,250	280	2,535
Trinity and All Saints College	1,920	125	2,045
Trinity College of Music	430	0	430
Surrey Institute of Art and Design, University College	2,315	80	2,395
University of Worcester	3,375	2,570	5,945
Anglia Polytechnic University	8,425	12,660	21,085
Bath Spa University	3,680	295	3,975
University of Bolton	2,910	2,605	5,515
Bournemouth University	8,870	3,725	12,595
University of Brighton	10,125	4,095	14,220
University of Central England in Birmingham	11,895	6,430	18,325

UK-domiciled undergraduates at each English institution by mode of study, 2004/05

Institution	Full-time	Part-time	Total
University of Central Lancashire	14,265	7,685	21,950
University of Gloucestershire	5,145	1,670	6,820
Coventry University	8,985	5,810	14,795
University of Derby	8,045	2,750	10,795
University of East London	6,810	3,045	9,855
University of Greenwich	9,690	4,300	13,990
University of Hertfordshire	13,375	3,050	16,425
University of Huddersfield	8,605	5,145	13,755
University of Lincoln	7,965	2,850	10,815
Kingston University	12,325	1,875	14,200
Leeds Metropolitan University	13,890	7,530	21,420
Liverpool John Moores University	13,225	4,025	17,250
Manchester Metropolitan University	20,555	4,070	24,625
Middlesex University	11,745	3,760	15,505
De Montfort University	14,265	3,930	18,195
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	13,685	4,580	18,265
Nottingham Trent University	15,610	4,340	19,950
Oxford Brookes University	8,510	3,115	11,625
University of Plymouth	15,615	6,735	22,350
University of Portsmouth	12,080	2,245	14,325
Sheffield Hallam University	15,960	3,695	19,650
London South Bank University	7,575	6,660	14,235
Staffordshire University	7,815	3,110	10,925
University of Sunderland	6,280	7,465	13,740
University of Teesside	7,980	9,110	17,090
Thames Valley University	7,060	8,725	15,785
University of the West of England, Bristol	15,710	5,065	20,770
University College Chichester	2,565	705	3,270
University of Westminster	9,565	6,070	15,635
Wimbledon School of Art	420	65	485
University of Wolverhampton	10,970	6,215	17,185
Aston University	5,100	230	5,330
University of Bath	6,605	1,820	8,425
University of Birmingham	14,990	2,355	17,350
University of Bradford	5,615	1,545	7,160
University of Bristol	10,115	4,125	14,240
Brunel University	8,285	1,060	9,345
University of Cambridge	10,390	4,220	14,615
City University	5,620	7,235	12,860
University of Durham	10,700	360	11,065
University of East Anglia	7,190	2,825	10,015
University of Essex	4,900	1,640	6,540
University of Exeter	7,930	1,435	9,370
University of Hull	8,855	6,980	15,835
University of Keele	5,490	2,835	8,325
University of Kent	7,955	3,405	11,365
University of Lancaster	7,220	5,395	12,615
University of Leeds	21,065	3,750	24,815
University of Leicester	7,020	1,775	8,795
University of Liverpool	12,110	3,470	15,575
Birkbeck College	5	10,745	10,755
Goldsmiths College	2,900	1,175	4,070
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	5,520	2	5,525
Institute of Education	20	55	75

UK-domiciled undergraduates at each English institution by mode of study, 2004/05

Institution	Full-time	Part-time	Total
King's College London	10,420	2,740	13,155
London Business School	0	0	0
London School of Economics and Political Science	2,120	90	2,205
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	0	0	0
Queen Mary and Westfield College	6,475	305	6,785
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	3,970	435	4,405
Royal Veterinary College	945	10	955
St. George's Hospital Medical School	1,670	1,080	2,750
School of Oriental and African Studies	1,410	30	1,435
School of Pharmacy	600	15	615
University College London	9,075	220	9,300
University of London (Institutes and activities)	75	0	75
Loughborough University	9,730	220	9,955
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	11,785	120	11,910
University of Nottingham	16,835	5,370	22,210
University of Oxford	10,375	3,720	14,090
University of Reading	7,330	2,045	9,375
University of Salford	11,695	2,960	14,655
University of Sheffield	15,390	1,965	17,355
University of Southampton	12,580	2,350	14,930
University of Surrey	5,860	2,455	8,315
University of Sussex	5,730	2,410	8,140
University of Warwick	8,395	8,315	16,710
University of York	6,565	1,400	7,970
Institute of Cancer Research	0	0	0
Writtle College	790	230	1,025
Norwich School of Art and Design	700	10	710
Northern School of Contemporary Dance	0	0	0
Cumbria Institute of the Arts	855	35	885
Royal Agricultural College	530	5	535
Arts Institute at Bournemouth	1,190	125	1,315
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	715	10	725
Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies	1,830	745	2,575
Courtauld Institute of Art	115	0	115
London Metropolitan University	11,525	6,290	17,810
University of Buckingham	95	25	120
University of Manchester	21,055	4,820	25,875
Total	838,145	482,300	1,320,445

[1] Indicates less than 5.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, so components do not sum to totals.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Nuclear Scientists/Engineers

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the number of nuclear scientists and engineers. [77714]

Bill Rammell: The Government are committed to increasing the number of students taking up higher education courses in mathematics, scientific and engineering disciplines. The 10 year science and innovation investment framework, published two years ago jointly by Treasury, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department for Education and Skills, sets out a range of measures to develop a strong supply of scientists, engineers and technologists. It is a matter for each individual higher education institution to decide which courses to offer, including whether to offer courses related to nuclear science.

Primary Schools

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether it is his policy that primary schools in England with fewer than 100 pupils should be closed. [76843]

Jim Knight: It is not the Departments policy that primary schools in England with fewer than 100 pupils should be closed. Local authorities are responsible for balancing the supply and demand of places in their areas to ensure schools serve the needs of their local communities and provide good quality education in the most cost effective way. As part of this, they need to determine the numbers and sizes of schools they need, taking into account the views and aspirations of parents and other stakeholders.

Many small schools are also rural schools and there is a presumption against the closure of these schools. Although this does not mean that no rural school will ever close, the case for closure needs to be strong and clearly in the best interests of education provision in the area. Since the presumption was introduced in February 1998 the number of rural schools approved for closure has fallen from an average of 30 a year to six a year. Statutory guidance to school organisation committees and the schools adjudicator also makes clear that they must not assume a school must be of a certain size to be a good school.

Universities (Industrial Action)

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many university students he estimates will be unable to graduate *(a)* at all and *(b)* without a full record of performance of marks as a result of the recent industrial action. [76704]

Bill Rammell: Although this dispute was between universities and trade unions, I have kept closely in touch with both sides throughout its progress and consistently urged that the dispute be urgently resolved and the impact on students lifted.

I welcome the agreement reached between the HE employers and unions on pay and the immediate suspension of the university and college union's industrial action. This is good news for staff and students alike. I expect that institutions and staff will work hard to ensure that every student gets their marks and the opportunity to graduate in good time. The employers and UCU have agreed to work together to ensure a quick return to normal business. I can assure the hon. Gentleman that we will continue to monitor closely the situation with regard to any residual effects of the dispute.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the chief accounting officer of his Department. [76790]

Mr. Thomas: Suma Chakrabarti is the Permanent Secretary of the Department of International Development. His qualifications are as follows: New College, Oxford (BA PPE); and Sussex University (MA Econ).

His relevant experience to the work of the Department is as follows:

ODI fellow and economist, Government of Botswana, 1981-84;

Senior economic assistant and economic adviser, overseas development administration (ODA), 1984-88;

Assistant to UK executive director, IMF and World Bank, Washington 1988-1990;

Private Secretary to right hon. Lynda Chalker, ODA, 1990-92;

Assistant secretary, Aid Policy and Resources Department, ODA, 1992-96;

Environment, Transport and Regions Team, Spending Directorate, HM Treasury, 1996-98;

Director, Budget and Public Finances, HM Treasury, 1998;

Director of Performance and Innovation Unit, Cabinet Office, 1998-2000;

Head of Economic and Domestic Affairs Secretariat, Cabinet Office, 2000-01; and

Director General for Regional Programmes, DFID, 2001-02.

The accounting officer is a role that the Permanent Secretary combines with his personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the department and for department-wide procedures in financial and other matters. The accounting officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by suitably qualified and experienced senior managers such as the finance director.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will estimate the pension liability of his Department over the next 30 years. [75236]

Mr. Thomas: HM Treasury made a full statement about the total liability of unfunded public service

pension schemes as at 31 March 2005. A technical note was placed in the Library on 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-390, following an oral Statement in Parliament by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The note provides detailed information about the size and nature of the liabilities and how they are calculated.

The principal civil service pension scheme is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme. Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual departments, they are estimated for individual pension schemes, as shown in the breakdown of liabilities per pension scheme given in Table 1 of the technical note.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77422]

Mr. Thomas: As at 31 December 2005, there were 1,659 staff under 55 years of age and 213 staff over 55 years of age employed by the Department for International Development.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people over the age of 55 years were recruited into his Department in each of the last three years. [77423]

Mr. Thomas: Numbers of DFID staff over the age of 55, recruited into the Department in each of the last three financial years, are in the following table.

	Number
2003-04	7
2004-05	11
2005-06	3

Fair Trade

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with retailers on promoting fair-trade products. [76139]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government are a strong supporter of fair-trade products. They help farmers and other producers earn a decent living and get more of the final value of the product. DFID supports a number of initiatives to help more producers benefit from fair-trade certification. DFID has given over £1 million to the Fairtrade Foundation, including support for new product development and encouraging engagement with UK retailers.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development and I have recently been in written communication with some of the large UK retailers, including Marks and Spencer and Sainsbury's on their fair-trade product development and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development is in contact with them on the related issue of standards and sourcing products in developing countries.

HIV/AIDS

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress was made at the most recent UN General Assembly meeting in relation to increased provision of treatment for HIV/AIDS. [75629]

Mr. Thomas: On June 2, the United Nations General Assembly agreed a Political Declaration which provides a political blueprint for achieving Universal Access. It sets out commitments for countries to develop, by the end of 2006, ambitious national plans to scale up towards universal access by 2010. The commitments include:

working towards comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, with interim targets for 2008;

providing $20 to 23 billion annually by 2010 for AIDS responses;

promoting the rights and reducing the vulnerability of sex workers, men who have sex with men, children, women, adolescent girls and drug users;

intensifying efforts to develop new technology especially microbicides and vaccines; ensuring that no credible, sustainable national plan should go unfunded; and

strengthening countries' capacity to use the flexibilities within TRIPS because of their importance in protecting public health.

The UK delegation—led by my right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development and by the Minister of State for Public Health, including four representatives from civil society, two parliamentarians and one representative from the Overseas Territories—played an active role in the difficult negotiations which led to the agreement of this Declaration. The document broadly reflects the core issues that the UK wanted to see included. We would have preferred to see explicit reference to vulnerable groups—sex workers, men who have sex with men, drug users, prisoners and migrants. But the Declaration does commit to promote the rights of these groups. As such, it presents progress—something which will promote future action towards universal access, and that can be used as the basis for future discussions.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Act of Union (Commemoration)

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans her Department has to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Act of Union with Scotland in 2007. [77618]

Mr. Lammy: The Secretary of State has no plans at present to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Act of Union with Scotland in 2007.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of her staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77198]

Mr. Lammy: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, there are 11 staff over the age of 55 years and 506 staff under the age of 55 years.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into her Department in each of the last three years. [77199]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is a relatively small department with little external recruitment during the last three years. As the numbers are so small we are unable to reveal the figures on the grounds of confidentiality.

Flag Flying

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many days since May 1997 the St. George's flag has been flown from her Department's buildings. [77751]

Mr. Lammy: The St. George's flag is flown on Government buildings with two or more flag poles on St. George's Day, 23 April.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not flown the St. George's Flag from its building. However, we plan to fly the flag on 23 April 2007.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's policy is on flying the *(a)* St. George's flag and *(b)* EU flag from departmental buildings. [77752]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport issues guidance to Government Departments for flying flags on buildings. This instructs all Government Departments in England that have more than one flag pole to fly the flag of St. George on St. George's Day 23 April and the European Flag on Europe Day 9 May, alongside the Union Flag provided the Union Flag is flown in a superior position.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will ensure the Union Flag is flown from her Department's buildings on every day the offices are open. [77753]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for issuing rules for hoisting the Union flag on Government Buildings. The rules are approved by the Queen on advice from the Department.

The Union Flag is flown on Government buildings to mark the birthdays of members of the Royal Family undertaking official duties and specific national events including Remembrance Sunday, Europe Day, St. George's Day, Her Majesty's Accession and Wedding Day. The Union Flag is also flown on other occasions—for example, for state visits.

There are no plans at present to change this arrangement. However individuals, local authorities and other organisations can fly the Union Flag whenever they wish, subject to compliance with local planning requirements.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Aerospace Industry

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the effect of spending on aerospace on the economy. [77558]

Margaret Hodge: The Department submitted evidence to the Trade and Industry Committee inquiry into the competitiveness of the UK aerospace industry in 2005. The Department's evidence addresses the contribution of UK aerospace to the economy and Government support for the aerospace industry. The DTI's memorandum is available on the Trade and Industry Committee website at http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmerduid.htm

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with BAE Systems on securing ongoing export contracts for the Brough site; and if he will make a statement. [76612]

Margaret Hodge: None. Primary responsibility for the promotion of export sales of the Hawk military fast jet training aircraft produced by BAE Systems at Brough rests with the Ministry of Defence's Defence Export Services Organisation.

Bankruptcy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people in Coventry South have been declared bankrupt in each year since 1997. [70331]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 16 May 2006]:* Regional insolvency statistics are only available on the basis of the locations of Official Receivers offices, each of which cover a group of county courts where the cases are heard and the courts having jurisdiction over these. As such, they are not directly comparable with standard geographies such as government office regions, local authorities etc. Coventry South is best matched to Coventry county court, under the Birmingham B Official Receiver's office. Figures are shown in the following table, but it should be noted that, for the above reasons, these will not be an exact measure of bankruptcies in Coventry South.

	Number of bankruptcy orders made in Coventry county court
1998	69
1999	119
2000	113
2001	147
2002	152
2003	184
2004	203
2005	314

Citizens Advice

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the Statement of 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 560, on Citizens Advice, how much funding was received by Citizens Advice directly from the Government in each of the last five years. [73556]

Mr. McCartney: Citizens Advice receives funding from a number of Government Departments. Details can be found in the Citizens Advice's Annual Reports for each year. Copies can be found in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the statement of 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 560, on Citizens Advice, how much funding he expects the Government to allocate to Citizens Advice for 2006-07; and whether the Government plans to fund individual citizens' advice bureaux. [73557]

Mr. McCartney: The Department has not yet decided on the level of funding for Citizens Advice in 2006-07. The Government have no plans to fund the core activities of local CAB. That is largely a matter for the relevant local authority. However, from time to time, CAB are awarded contracts to run specific initiatives and schemes such as the recent Face-to-Face debt advice programme.

Consumer Affairs Council

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the Government's position was in the negotiations on the Working Time Directive at the Consumer Affairs Council meeting in Luxembourg on 1 June 2006; what the outcome was of the meeting; and if he will make a statement. [76755]

Mr. McCartney: The Government's policy and negotiating priorities for the new Working Time Directive remain to achieve a solution that retains the voluntary individual opt out from the 48 hour weekly working limit and that addresses the problems caused to Europe's health and emergency services by the European Court of Justice's rulings on the SiMAP and Jaeger cases.

Member states failed to reach political agreement at the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council in Luxembourg. The UK Government tried to find a way forward, but there remained two opposing views.

Fair Trade

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the change in volume of fair trade products sold in the United Kingdom has been over the last three years. [70917]

Mr. McCartney: The volume of Fairtrade certified products sold in the UK has grown by 111 per cent. since 2003, reaching £195 million in 2005. The UK is the largest Fairtrade market across the 20 Fairtrade Labelling Organisation (FLO) participating countries. Particular examples include: sales of Fairtrade coffee in the UK reached £65.8 million in 2005, from £34.3 million in 2003; and Fairtrade bananas are now worth £47.7 million, up from £24.3 million in 2003.

The UK Government support the aims of the Fairtrade movement, and in March 2005 increased its funding to the Fairtrade Foundation, through DfID, by a further £750,000. This brings the Government's total level of support to over £1 million between 2002 and 2007, to raise business and consumer awareness of fairly traded products through educational and promotional activities.

Fire Regulations

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what checks are made to ensure that imported furniture, mattresses and fabrics comply with UK fire resistance regulations. [73830]

Mr. McCartney: The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 set levels of fire resistance for domestic upholstered furniture, including cover fabrics, and mattresses imported into the UK. These Regulations are enforced by Trading Standards, who have powers to check products and suspend or seize those not meeting the requirements of the Regulations. These powers also allow Trading Standards to prosecute the suppliers of non-compliant products.

Internet Governance Forum

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how his Department is preparing to communicate the multi-stakeholder view at the Internet Governance Forum; and what consultation his Department has undertaken on the subject. [75409]

Margaret Hodge: The World Summit on the Information Society, which met in Tunis in November 2005, recommended the creation of an Internet Governance Forum (IGF) to bring together industry, civil society and governments to look at important Internet issues such as freedom of expression and the free flow of information, security and user protection, linguistic diversity, and the digital divide.

In January 2006, DTI hosted a UK consultation on the IGF, and the conclusions of this meeting have been fed into the international consultation and are published on the IGF website (http://www.intgovforum.org/contributions/igf.pdf). The creation of a forum where stakeholders can meet on an equal footing is seen as a positive step: industry, civil society and users working with governments can develop practical ways of addressing concerns on the use and misuse of the Internet. The IGF should be open and inclusive, and focus on a few topics.

We now want industry and civil society to take the lead in preparing for the first IGF meeting in October. I am pleased that Nominet, the registry for dot.uk Internet domain names is organising a first meeting on 4 July 2006 in the Houses of Parliament, bringing together industry, civil society, and government. I hope to be involved in this discussion.

The Oxford Internet Institute is also developing a dialogue on issues on the IGF agenda.

Initiatives like these will help us identify clear ideas and objectives for the IGF and will help UK stakeholders to make a very positive contribution to the discussion.

Personal Debt

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps regulatory authorities have taken to prevent adverse effects on individuals' credit ratings in cases in which, where the validity of a debt is in dispute, banks sell on the debt to other companies who then refuse to enter into dialogue over the disputed claim. [73840]

Mr. McCartney: Information on credit ratings is kept by the Credit Reference Agencies (CRA) who are under a legal obligation to publish accurate and up-to-date information. If any information is disputed, the individual concerned should write to the relevant CRA. The CRA will then flag the entry in question as a disputed item which should not be relied upon, while raising the matter with the relevant lender in order to reach a view about the validity of the entry.

An individual in dispute about an entry on their credit file can also ask the Information Commissioner to consider the details of their case.

Peugeot

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions his Department has had regarding the future of Peugeot in the UK; and where and when those discussions took place. [76997]

Margaret Hodge: DTI has a long history of dialogue with Peugeot in the UK and has had frequent meetings with the company to discuss their UK manufacturing operations. Most recently, the then Secretary of State met the Chief Executive Officer of PSA Peugeot Citroen, Jean-Martin Folz, on 26 April in London. My predecessor met Mr. Folz on 18 April in London. We remain in regular contact with Peugeot at official level.

During a Westminster Hall debate on 13 June, I agreed to meet my hon. Friend and other local MPs to discuss Peugeot and wider manufacturing issues in the Coventry area in further detail.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions his Department has had with Peugeot management regarding the trade unions alternative plan. [76998]

Margaret Hodge: My predecessor met the Chief Executive Officer of PSA Peugeot Citroen, Jean-Martin Folz, on 18 April. The then Secretary of State met Mr. Folz on 26 April. The trade unions have kept DTI officials updated on the developments of their counter-proposals, for which we are grateful. HM Government have made clear to Peugeot the importance of open and constructive dialogue, consistent with legal obligations under information and consultation legislation.

During a Westminster Hall debate on 13 June, I agreed to meet my hon. Friend and other local MPs to discuss Peugeot and wider manufacturing issues in the Coventry area in further detail.

Social Enterprises

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many social enterprise advisers there are in *(a)* Luton and *(b)* Bedfordshire. [76724]

Margaret Hodge: Research has identified that a range of organisations are taking a leading role in providing support to social enterprises in Bedfordshire and Luton, although it has not been possible to identify exact numbers of specific social enterprise advisors. The organisations identified include:

Chamber of Commerce/Business Link

Voluntary Action Luton

Luton Borough Council

Cranfield Trust

Luton and Dunstable Innovation Centre

Social Firms Eastern Region

University of Luton

Spires Innovation Centre.

The East of England Development Agency's (EEDA) Investing in Communities (IiC) programme and the Social Enterprise Steering Group in Bedfordshire and Luton have recently commissioned a report to review social enterprise activity in Bedfordshire and Luton, which in turn has informed the development of a social enterprise draft action plan.

South West Regional Development Agency

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many jobs the South West Regional Development Agency has created in *(a)* Swindon and *(b)* each district council in Wiltshire in each year since 2003. [76985]

Margaret Hodge: I am advised by the South West of England Regional Development Agency that it does not hold information on jobs created by local authority area. As a strategic organisation many of the activities in which it is involved operate at regional level, or across county or unitary boundaries. The Agency reports on a range of outcomes that are directly attributable to its investment in support of projects and activities across the region, one of which is jobs created or safeguarded. The figures for jobs created/safeguarded by the Agency in the region since 2003 are as follows:

	Number
2004-05	6,060
2003-04	6,024
2002-03	6,508

Strawberry Imports

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he has taken to impose anti-dumping measures against the import of frozen strawberries from China. [76855]

Mr. McCartney: None. The European Commission is currently investigating a complaint of dumping.

Sun Beds

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment the Health and Safety Executive has made of the safety implications of the use of hired sun beds for use in the home; and if he will make a statement. [77461]

Mr. McCartney: I am advised that there have been no assessments of the safety implications of the use of hired sun beds for use in the home by the Health and Safety Executive.

Supermarkets

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many complaints the Office of Fair Trading has received on breaches of the code of conduct by supermarkets. [71435]

Mr. McCartney: The Office of Fair Trading has received 20 complaints about breaches of the Code since it came into force on 17 March 2002. Those who have complained more than once or have raised more than one complaint about breaches are treated as a single complaint. Those complaining about supermarkets more generally are not included in the figures.

Unscrupulous Lenders

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on his Department's recent discussions on strengthening enforcement against unscrupulous lenders. [77544]

Mr. McCartney: The Consumer Credit Act 2006 will improve the regulation and monitoring of consumer credit businesses and extend protections, rights and means of redress for consumers against unscrupulous lenders. Furthermore, the Loan Shark Pilots the Government have funded in Birmingham and Glasgow will enable Trading Standards to prosecute illegal lenders in these areas and gain a clearer understanding of the scope, extent and impact of illegal money lending. Finally, the Financial Inclusion Fund includes £45 million to increase face-to-face debt advice capacity, with particular regard to the needs of vulnerable consumers.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Data Protection

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the statement on 20 November 2005 by a spokesman for her Department on the practice of selling personal data about drivers, what action has been taken to prevent the practice by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [76913]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

I refer to my written statements of 2 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 50-1WS and 16 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 123-4WS.

Consultation concluded at the end of March and I am considering the 126 responses. While I am keen to make an announcement as soon as possible, this is an important and complex matter and I intend to give it full and careful consideration before doing so.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 16 June 2006

TRANSPORT

A127/A13

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured on (i) the A127 and (ii) A13 between the M25 and Southend in (A) each of the last five years for which figures are available and (B) 2006 to date. [77503]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of people killed or seriously injured in personal injury road accidents that have been reported to the police, on the A127 and A13 between the M25 and Southend in each of the last five years from 2000 to 2004 (the latest year for which figures are available), is given in the following table. Main results on personal injury road accidents reported to the police in 2005 will be published shortly. Figures for 2006 will become available in summer 2007.

	Severity of casualty	
	Fatal	*Seriously injured*
(i) Number of killed or seriously injured casualties on the A127: 2000-04		
2000	3	43
2001	5	52
2002	2	27
2003	11	51
2004	6	35
(ii) Number of killed or seriously injured casualties on the A13 between its junction with M25 and the junction with A127 in Southend town centre: 2000-04.		
2000	2	32
2001	7	41
2002	4	40
2003	7	49
2004	4	36

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75103]

Gillian Merron: Across the Department for Transport, including its agencies, the number of staff who received markings indicating that performance was not acceptable or that objectives were not achieved were:

	Number of staff	*Percentage of total staff*
2003-04	65	0.6
2004-05	79	0.7
2005-06	[1]	[1]

[1] Figures not yet available.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into his Department in each of the last three years. [77420]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport and its agencies have recruited the following number of people over the age of 55 over the last three years:

	Number
2005-06	218
2004-05	161
2003-04	105

The Crown is an equal opportunities employer and aims to recruit, retain and promote the best available people. Applications are welcome from all qualified individuals regardless of their sex, gender identity, disability, marital status, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, employment status, working patterns, caring responsibility and trade union membership, union office or trade union activities.

Leominster Train Station

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to include Leominster train station on the Access for All Station List; and if he will make a statement. [78366]

Derek Twigg: The Access for All Station List published on 23 March 2006 details the stations that the Government have asked Network Rail to assess for improvement in the first phase of the 10 year Access for All programme up to 2009.

In due course we will draw up a list of stations for the next phase of the programme from 2009-14. Leominster will be assessed for inclusion alongside the other stations which have not been improved as part of the first phase.

M4 Widening

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions are under way on plans for M4 widening schemes. [76963]

Dr. Ladyman: The draft South East Plan contains a proposed infrastructure framework, including a proposal for widening the M4 between Junctions 5 and 8/9. The Highways Agency is in discussion with the

South East England Regional Assembly and other regional stakeholders about this.

In the South West the M4 Junction 18 eastbound climbing lane scheme was opened to traffic in November 2005. There are no other widening plans at present, but the Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study is examining possible widening of the M4 and publication of its recommendations is imminent.

Marine Environment

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria are used to identify Marine Environment High Risk Areas. [77664]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Lady to my answer of 8 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1519-21W to the hon. Member for St. Ives (Andrew George).

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Isles of Scilly are no longer a Marine Environment High Risk Area. [77665]

Dr. Ladyman: The Isles of Scilly have never been designated as a Marine Environmental High Risk Area (MEHRA). Although Lord Donaldson's report "Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas" suggested a number of areas that he felt might be identified as MEHRAs, some of these subsequently did not meet the criteria, based on environmental importance along with accident frequency and pollution risk from shipping. Only those areas which scored highly both in terms of environmental sensitivity and in terms of risk from shipping qualified as MEHRAs.

Consequently, the written statement from the former Secretary of State for Transport on 13 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 58-59WS, announcing the locations of the MEHRAs, did not include the Isles of Scilly.

Nuclear Waste

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which London railway lines are used for the transportation of nuclear waste. [75851]

Derek Twigg: The Department does not hold this information. The transport of radioactive material by rail is a highly regulated activity that is carried out in accordance with stringent national and international regulations. The intention of the regulatory system is to ensure that these shipments are safe irrespective of the route chose.

Plymouth-Saltash Travel

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average daily flow of passengers was from Plymouth to Saltash in each of the last five years, broken down by mode of transport. [71885]

Derek Twigg: Information for rail is not collected in the form requested. Based on analysis of ticket sales data, the average number of daily passenger journeys made by train from Plymouth to Saltash in each of the last five financial years is estimated to be as follows:

	Journeys
2001-02	14
2002-03	10
2003-04	10
2004-05	9
2005-06	9

The information requested is not available for other transport modes.

TREASURY

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 12 April from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on Interest in Possession Trusts. [78041]

Dawn Primarolo: I expect to be in a position to write to the hon. Gentleman in about a week's time in the light of the forthcoming debate in the Finance Bill Committee on inheritance tax provisions to which his letter refers.

Student Loans

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of outstanding student loans that will be written off over the next 30 years; and if he will make a statement. [75865]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

Borrowers are required to repay student loans only when their income reaches the relevant income threshold; and loans are written off when borrowers reach the relevant age threshold, after 25 years, become permanently unfit for work, or die.[1]

At the end of the 2004-05 financial year our estimate was that, in England and Wales, £620 million of the £12.4 billion of outstanding income contingent maintenance loans and £420 million of the £1.5 billion of outstanding mortgage style loans would be written off. We do not estimate write offs which will occur specifically within the next thirty years as loans (particularly where borrowers do not reach the threshold) could have a longer lifetime.

[1] Income contingent loans will be written off after 25 years (instead of at age 65) for students receiving them for the first time from September 2006. Mortgage style loans will not be written off while arrears remain outstanding except in the case of death or disability.

Sunscreen (VAT)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost in VAT revenue forgone of reclassifying sunscreen as a preventative medicine rather than a cosmetic. [77526]

Dawn Primarolo: The VAT treatment of sun protection products is no different from the VAT treatment of medicines. VAT is not charged on medicines and sun protection products when dispensed by a pharmacist on the prescription of a registered doctor. When otherwise supplied by retail sale they are chargeable with VAT at the standard rate.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of new tax credit claims, renewals and change of circumstances were decided within five working days of receipt in each year from 2003-04. [75773]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has Service Delivery Agreement targets for deciding tax credits claims, renewals and changes of circumstance within five working days. The performance for 2003-04 was published in the former Inland Revenue's Annual Report for 2003-04 and HMRC's Annual Report for 2004-05. These Reports are available on the HMRC website, www.hmrc.gov.uk. Indicative results for 2005-06 will be published in the spring Report in due course.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims there have been for tax credits in Birkenhead constituency at the latest available date; and how many were *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid. [78022]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates for 2003-04 and 2004-05 of the numbers of in-work families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards 2003-04 Geographical Analysis" and the "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards 2004-05 Geographical Analysis". These publications and provisional estimates for the number of in-work families by constituency with tax credit awards as at selected dates in 2005-06 are available on the HMRC website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average tax credit overpayment in each region of the United Kingdom in 2005-06. [78126]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

Estimates of numbers and values of overpayments or underpayments for 2005-06 awards at 5 April 2006 will not be available until after family circumstances and incomes for 2005-06 have been finalised.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in Wales have received overpayments in *(a)* child tax credits and *(b)* working tax credits in (i) 2004 and (ii) 2005; what the average overpayment was to such people; and if he will make a statement; [78289]

(2) how many people in Wales have received underpayments in *(a)* child tax credits and *(b)* working tax credits in (i) 2004 and (ii) 2005; what the average underpayment was; and if he will make a statement. [78297]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates for 2003-04 and 2004-05 of the numbers of in-work families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments, based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits Finalised Awards. 2003-04. Geographical Analyses" and the "Child and Working Tax Credits Finalised Awards. 2004-05. Geographical Analyses". These publications and provisional estimates for the number of in-work families by region with tax credit awards as at selected dates in 2005-06 are available on the HMRC website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

We do not produce statistics separately for child and working tax credits.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many overpayments of *(a)* child tax credits and *(b)* working tax credits to people living in Wales were clawed back in (i) 2004 and (ii) 2005; and if he will make a statement. [78298]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the amount of tax credit overpayments in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2004-05 which will be recovered in each year from 2004-05 to 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [78411]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on the 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 861-62W.

Zimbabwe

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value of *(a)* UK imports from Zimbabwe and *(b)* UK exports to Zimbabwe (i) was in each of the last three years and (ii) has been in 2006. [77692]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is as follows:

Value of the trade in goods for UK imports from, and UK Exports to Zimbabwe from 2003 to 2006 (year to date)

	£ million[1]	
	(a) Imports	*(b) Exports*
2003	58.3	29.3
2004	47.8	26.0
2005[2]	43.6	22.1
2006[2, 3]	5.5	5.3

[1] Value of goods declared.
[2] Data are provisional and subject to update.
[3] 2006 data are for January to April.
Source:
HM Revenue and Customs - Overseas Trade Statistics

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum/Immigration

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account his Department takes of *(a)* a local authority's performance in implementing the Hillingdon judgment and *(b)* the availability of appropriate welfare support when placing asylum-seeking children with local authorities. [76643]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

The DfES collects annual statistics through the National Data Collection exercise on the number of children, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), who become looked after and the age at which they cease to be looked after. These figures show how local authorities are supporting looked-after children who are UASC.

Neither the Home Office nor the Department for Education and Skills places children with individual local authorities. However, immigration service and National Asylum Support Service officials do make referrals to local authorities of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who appear to them to be children in need, within the meaning of the Children Act 1989. Where there is any doubt about the identity of the responsible local authority, this takes place in accordance with guidance that has been agreed with the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS).

The Home Office in partnership with DfES and relevant local authorities intends soon to consult on how consistent standards for the accommodation and support of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children might best be developed. The Home Office in partnership with DfES and relevant local authorities intends soon to consult on how consistent standards for the accommodation and support of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children might best be developed.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost was of detaining an individual in an immigration removal centre for one week in the latest period for which information is available. [76491]

Mr. Byrne: The average direct cost (not including overheads) of holding an individual in an immigration removal centre for one week is £812.

Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter of 4 April from the hon. Member for Aylesbury (reference B9272/6) about the application for leave to remain of Mr. S. K. of Aylesbury (case reference K426659). [76345]

Mr. Byrne: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the hon. Gentleman on 14 June 2006.

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Liverpool, West Derby of 10 March in respect of the case of Ms Jane Okah Agwola. [76697]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* I replied to my hon. Friend on 14 June 2006.

Criminal Justice Act

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many additional probation officers will be recruited in the London area to provide increased supervision of defendants following the implementation of the custody plus provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [76867]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* In September 2004, prior to the start of the Act's implementation, staffing in the London probation area stood at 2,459. By April 2006 it had risen to 2,759. The area is looking at further increases to take account of work arising from the Act and its other responsibilities.

Most of the sentencing provisions in the Criminal Justice Act were implemented in April 2005. We are working towards an implementation date of autumn 2006 for custody plus but we shall not go ahead unless we are satisfied that the national probation service can cope with the additional work.

Defendant Anonymity

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the granting of anonymity to defendants in certain cases in some EU member states and the implications for open justice. [77477]

Mr. Sutcliffe: None. Open justice is a fundamental principle of our criminal justice system which requires no support from comparative research. Nor would research into the practice in other EU jurisdictions necessarily be of assistance in forming a view on this issue, as defendant anonymity needs to be considered in the context of individual countries' criminal justice systems generally.

Departmental Expenditure

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on IT systems in each year since 1997; what the purpose of each system is; what the outturn against planned expenditure of each system was; and what the outturn time for implementation against planned time was. [41322]

Mr. Byrne: Since 1997 the Home Office has spent the amounts in the following table on its IT systems.

The increases over the years reflect an increasing usage of, and reliance on, technology to support all aspects of the Department's business. In addition, step changes reflect increases in scope of the central figures. For example, the creation of the National Probation Service in April 2001 brought probation IT costs within the scope of the Department's IT expenditure for the first time. New major IT contracts in the core Home Office and the Immigration and Nationality Directorate have also affected the profile of expenditure.

Detailed project information on: purpose; outturn against planned expenditure; or outturn time for implementation against planned time, for each IT system cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

	£
1996-97	12,373,764
1997-98	12,079,231
1998-99	15,405,567
1999-00	20,662,396
2000-01	53,910,051
2001-02	63,783,017
2002-03	124,750,696
2003-04	133,633,252
2004-05	159,019,624

Departmental Security

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which companies have contracts for providing security at his Department's premises. [73669]

Mr. Byrne: The companies which currently have contracts for providing security at the Department's premises are as follows:

Capita
Carlisle Security
Chubb Security Personnel Ltd.
First Security Group
Group four Securicor
ICTS Ltd.
Legion Security
OCS
Pegasus Security Group
Taylormade Investigations Security Services Ltd.

The list does not cover buildings where the Home Office is the minority occupier of premises and a contract has been placed by another Government Department as the major leaseholder with responsibility for perimeter security.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employers in the West Midlands have been prosecuted for employing illegal immigrants in each of the last 10 years. [75378]

Mr. Byrne: The Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform shows that in the last 10 years there has been one prosecution in the West Midlands for employing illegal immigrants and this occurred in 2004.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Immigration and Nationality Directorate will reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, of *(a)* 4 April 2006 on behalf of Tafie Ahmed Saleh (Home Office reference number S1123081, acknowledgement reference B9194/6) and *(b)* 9 January on behalf of Mr. Tamburai Chirewo and Mrs. Tamari Chirewo (Home Office reference C1140345). [76468]

Mr. Byrne: The information is as follows.

(a) The Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to my right hon. Friend on 13 June 2006.

(b) The Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to my right hon. Friend on 13 June 2006.

Miscarriages of Justice

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding applications for compensation are being considered by the Independent Assessor to the Home Secretary on Miscarriages of Justice, broken down by the number of years the case has been under consideration. [76921]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are currently 27 cases with the Independent Assessor for final assessment of compensation. Of those, two were submitted to him more than two years ago, two others more than one year ago. Those four applications form part of a large number of applications that arose from a series of quashed convictions relating to a wide-ranging fraud case. There are complex and overlapping issues affecting the whole group. All the applicants involved, including those who made final submissions, have been asked for further information in relation to their application. In a number of cases replies have not been received. The remainder were submitted to him within the last 12 months. Of those, 12 were submitted within the last three months, three between three and six months ago, seven between six and nine months, and one, also arising from the complex fraud case referred to, between nine and 12 months.

The four cases referred to the Assessor more than one year ago have all had interim payments awarded by him, and of the remaining 23 which were referred within the last year, 20 have had interim payments.

A further 109 cases have had eligibility confirmed by the Home Secretary. In these cases final submissions have not been made by the applicants and information regarding the level of compensation being claimed is awaited from the applicants or their representatives, before final assessments can be considered by the Assessor.

Mohammed Hussain

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will make a statement on the use of restraint on Mohammed Hussain in Rainsbrook secure training centre between July and August 2005; [77137]

(2) whether oxygen was provided to Mohammed Hussain following an incident of restraint at Rainsbrook secure training centre between July and October 2005; and if he will make a statement. [77138]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I will write to my hon. Friend.

Police

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers were employed by each police force in each of the last five years. [75902]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in the table. Community support officers were introduced as part of the Police Reform Act 2002 so data are only available from 2003 onwards.

Community support officer strength (full-time equivalent)[1] by police force area, (2003-05)

Police force	March 2003	March 2004	March 2005	September 2005
Avon and Somerset	0	45	139	146
Bedfordshire	0	12	37	43
Cambridgeshire	6	57	87	92
Cheshire	2	50	81	77
Cleveland	37	77	98	86
Cumbria	0	0	17	19
Derbyshire	0	0	43	43
Devon and Cornwall	19	51	74	75
Dorset	6	8	47	56
Durham	10	28	69	72
Essex	10	86	179	193
Gloucestershire	0	54	73	62
Greater Manchester	160	173	269	264
Hampshire	0	0	26	23
Hertfordshire	14	46	98	135
Humberside	0	0	20	20
Kent	0	59	105	103
Lancashire	77	110	161	159
Leicestershire	28	41	103	119
Lincolnshire	29	38	75	78
London, City of	0	0	14	14
Merseyside	40	72	170	161
Metropolitan	513	1,463	2,144	2,053
Norfolk	12	33	68	67
Northamptonshire	12	10	39	38
Northumbria	0	51	130	143
North Yorkshire	0	52	75	69
Nottinghamshire	10	56	113	112
South Yorkshire	14	59	125	125
Staffordshire	0	7	63	62
Suffolk	0	15	34	33
Surrey	21	56	115	102
Sussex	22	83	228	231
Thames Valley	0	7	98	109
Warwickshire	11	25	56	56
West Mercia	8	57	81	86
West Midlands	0	39	219	247
West Yorkshire	70	265	394	433
Wiltshire	15	23	41	38
Dyfed Powys	0	5	25	24
Gwent	30	45	77	81
North Wales	0	0	46	61
South Wales	0	59	107	116
Total 43 forces	1,176	3,418	6,261	6,324

[1] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Note: This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA profiles of individuals *(a)* under and *(b)* over 16 years old living in North Somerset are held by Avon and Somerset constabulary; and how many have not been convicted of a criminal offence in each case. [73985]

Joan Ryan: There are an estimated 67,556 individuals who have a DNA profile on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) taken by Avon and Somerset constabulary, of which 1,994 are currently under 16 years of age and 65,562 are 16 years or over (as at 30 May 2006). Information held on the NDNAD is available on a police force area basis only and although the DNA sample in these cases was taken by Avon and Somerset constabulary, the individuals to whom the sample relates will not necessarily be resident in Avon and Somerset.

Data on whether these individuals have been convicted or acquitted of a criminal offence are held on the police national computer (PNC) but not on the NDNAD.

PNC data are available for 60,521 individuals only, of which 1,490 are under 16 years of age and 59,031 are 16 years or over. Of the 1,490 persons who are under 16, 1,243 have not been convicted of an offence and of the 59,031 persons who are 16 years or over, 15,824 have not been convicted of an offence. (It should be noted that for the purposes of these data, cautions are included as non convictions.)

The difference of approximately 7,000 individuals between the NDNAD records and the PNC records is largely accounted for by the fact that, until recently, records for persons who were acquitted of an offence were removed from the PNC, but retained on the NDNAD. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the ages of these 7,000 who were acquitted as the records are no longer available.

Prisoner Transport

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1220W, on prisoners, (1) how many *(a)* pregnant and *(b)* mobility impaired prisoners have been transported in cellular vehicles in each of the last five years; [76434]

(2) how many complaints have been made in each of the last five years about the transportation of *(a)* pregnant and *(b)* mobility impaired prisoners; and what the nature was of each complaint; [76435]

(3) on how many occasions in each of the last five years *(a)* pregnant and *(b)* mobility impaired prisoners have not been assessed by prison operational managers and health care professionals prior to transportation; and if he will make a statement. [76436]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no requirement in the contracts for contractors to record separately the movement of pregnant and mobility impaired prisoners. Information on the transport of pregnant or mobility impaired prisoners in cellular vehicles is not recorded centrally.

There are a number of methods by which prisoners may make complaints. These are to prison staff at the establishment or to the senior operational manager as well as to Prison Service HQ. Complaints may also be made by prisoners under transport to the contractors. It has not proved possible to separate out complaints made by or about pregnant or mobility impaired prisoners from available records.

All prisoners should be assessed as being fit for travel by a health care professional before being transported. Guidance has been issued to all women's prisons to remind them of correct assessment procedures and there is a strong presumption that pregnant prisoners should not travel in cellular vehicles. A similar presumption applies to the transport of mobility impaired prisoners.

Prisons

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he is taking to avoid moving prisoners between establishments as a result of overcrowding, with particular reference to those who are participating in education programmes; and if he will make a statement. [77246]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* Prisoners are usually transferred when their security category has been changed, to enable them to meet the requirements of their sentence plan, for compassionate reasons, as part of their preparation for release and for operational security reasons. High population levels can also lead to prisoners being transferred to establishments with a greater number of vacancies.

Existing guidance requires prison governors to consider family contact issues and the education and training needs of individual prisoners before moving them, and to move them to prisons which can most suitably meet their work and training requirements.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) are developing new learning and skills delivery arrangements. These include plans to ensure educational records are available electronically when prisoners transfer between establishments.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to bring into use temporary pre-fabricated units to address prison overcrowding; and if he will make a statement. [77247]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* There are no plans to accommodate prisoners in temporary units such as the modular temporary units used in 2002.

Victims of Crime

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to prevent convicted criminals contacting *(a)* the victims of their crimes and *(b)* the relatives of their victims. [76782]

Mr. McNulty: Various arrangements are in place to reduce the risk of unwanted contact from offenders, including:

Victims or their relatives who receive unwanted contact from offenders in custody may contact the National Offender Management Service victims' helpline. Helpline staff will forward concerns to the relevant prison governor to consider and take action as appropriate.

The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 places a statutory duty on the Probation Service to provide services to victims of crimes committed by specified offenders. Prior to such an offender being released from custody, victims receiving services under these arrangements will be asked if they wish to make representations about conditions that might be attached to an offender's licence. Conditions which relate to victims, might for example, include non-contact with the victim or members of their families or a geographical exclusion zone into which the offender is not allowed to travel. Breaches of these conditions can result in the offender's recall to custody.

Young Offenders

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of the 10 to 17-year-olds who received a custodial sentence for breach of an antisocial behaviour order received a *(a)* concurrent and *(b)* consecutive custodial sentence for other matters in the period between December 2003 and September 2005; [77715]

(2) how many 10 to 17-year-olds received a custodial sentence for breach of an antisocial behaviour order in the period between December 2003 and September 2005; [77716]

(3) how many *(a)* antisocial behaviour orders and *(b)* individual support orders were issued to 10 to 17-year-olds in the period between December 2003 and September 2005; [77717]

(4) how many antisocial behaviour orders issued to 10 to 17-year-olds were breached in the period between December 2003 and September 2005. [77718]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* Antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) breach data are currently available for the period from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2003 for ASBOs issued since 1 June 2000.

The number of ASBOs issued at all courts to persons aged 10 to 17, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, from 1 December 2003 to 30 September 2005 is 2,085.

Individual Support Orders (ISOs) were introduced under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 as from 1 May 2004 and are available at the magistrates court for ASBOs issued on application only to persons aged 10 to 17. Between 1 May 2004 to 30 September 2005, of the 789 ASBOs issued on application at the magistrates court to 10 to 17-year-olds, 31 persons also received an ISO.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what alternatives to prison for convicted non-violent young offenders are available to the courts. [78652]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The range of non-custodial sentences available to the courts includes Referral Orders and Action Plan Orders for less serious and first time offenders through to the Community Rehabilitation Order and the Supervision Order, which are more robust and to which can be attached the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP).

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House which Private Members' Bills were drafted by his Department in each Session since 1997; and which subsequently received Royal Assent. [77840]

Mr. Straw: None.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House (1) which Government Bills sponsored by his Department remain to be introduced during the 2005-06 Session; [77841]

(2) which Government Bills sponsored by his Department he has bid for in the next Session of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [77842]

Mr. Straw: The Queen's Speech of 17 May 2005 and subsequent announcements have set out the Government's legislative priorities for this Session. Any further announcement relating to the legislative programme for the current session would be made at the appropriate time.

As Chair of the Cabinet Committee on the Legislative Programme, I am responsible for discussing with colleagues the Government's legislative priorities for the next Session. The outcome of those discussions will be set out in the Queen's Speech later this year.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Braille/Audio/Large Print Publications

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to increase the number of *(a)* Braille, *(b)* audio and *(c)* large print books, newspapers and magazines available in the UK. [73656]

Mr. Woodward: We have been facilitating discussions among publishers, authors, the Royal National Institute of the Blind, and the National Library for the Blind on a project to investigate the possibility of transforming published material into formats accessible to the visually impaired.

Currently, a feasibility study is under way and results will be reported back to a Steering Group, chaired by DTI officials, shortly.

Commonwealth Institute Building

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations she has received from the Commonwealth Institute regarding the future of the Commonwealth Institute building. [77644]

Mr. Lammy: There have been a number of representations from the Commonwealth Institute on the future of the Commonwealth Institute building since November 2004. The most recent is a letter from the Chairman of the Trustees of the Commonwealth Institute dated 30 May.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what organisations she has consulted regarding the future of the Commonwealth Institute building. [77656]

Mr. Lammy: The future of the Commonwealth Institute building has been the subject of discussions with a number of Government Departments and the Commonwealth Institute. On 6 June I met the chairman and chief executive of English Heritage and my officials have met representatives of the Twentieth Century Society. Additionally representations have been received from a number of other organisations.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 788W, on the Commonwealth Institute building, what representations she has received from English Heritage on the future of the Commonwealth Institute building. [77698]

Mr. Lammy: I met the chairman and chief executive of English Heritage on 6 June to discuss the Commonwealth Institute building. During that discussion English Heritage raised a number of concerns. The meeting was constructive and discussions are ongoing.

Departmental Advisers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1408W, on departmental advisers, what the reason was for the increase in money spent on travel and subsistence for special advisers between *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [77195]

Mr. Lammy: The increase in travel and subsistence expenditure over the last year is because the Department gained an additional Special Adviser, making three in total, in connection with the Secretary of State's additional responsibilities for Women, humanitarian assistance and the Olympics.

Ministerial Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on foreign travel by her Department in each of the last eight years. [76055]

Mr. Lammy: Departmental expenditure for overseas travel and subsistence by officials is shown in the table.

Regarding Ministers' visits overseas, since 1999 the Government have published, on annual basis, the total cost of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. This information is available in the Library. Information for the financial year 2004-05 was published on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, 158WS. Information for the financial year 2005-06 is in the process of being collated and will be published shortly.

All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code and Civil Service Management Code.

Overseas travel and subsistence costs by officials

	£
2005-06[1]	289,007.64
2004-05	279,710.59
2003-04	235,210.16
2002-03	195,442.41
2001-02	129,164.75
2000-01	188,337.76
1999-2000	193,742.97
1998-99	151,307.28

[1] Subject to finalisation of the annual resource accounts.

Olympic Games

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 935W, on the 2012 Olympics, when she expects to announce the constituencies to be visited as part of the 2012 Olympics roadshow. [78116]

Mr. Caborn: As soon as details of the roadshow itinerary are finalised, a list of the locations to be visited will be made available on the Department's website (www.culture.gov.uk). We expect this to be within the next week.

Taking Part Survey

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 483-84W, on activity levels, when the new national Taking Part survey first expects to report; and what criteria it will use to make an assessment of participation levels. [78234]

Mr. Lammy: First results from the Taking Part survey were published on the Department's website on 15 December 2005.

To date, three reports have been released on the survey results. These can be accessed at: http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/research/taking_part_survey/survey_ouputs. htm.

Two of the reports released so far have provided provisional baselines on the Department's public service agreement target 3 (PSA3). The third report looked more generally at participation and attendance across activities within the Department's remit.

For the two PSA3 reports participation levels are assessed against the definitions of the PSA3 target agreed with HM Treasury. These differ by type of activity and frequency for each sector. Full details are given in the technical note which is available at http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_dcms/publicservice agreements.htm.

In the third more general report the same criteria have been used except for arts and sports sectors. Full details of this difference are included in the report which was published on 24 March 2006 showing provisional results from the first six months of the 2005-06 survey.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Asylum-seeking Children

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department takes to ensure that *(a)* the Hillingdon Judgment and *(b)* Local Authority Circular (2003)13 are applied by local authorities responsible for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. [76641]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department collects annual statistics through the National Data Collection exercise on the number of children, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), who become looked after and the age at which they cease to be looked after. These figures show how local authorities are supporting looked after children who are UASC.

Adherence to the framework set by statute, regulations and guidance, including that relating to Local Authority Circular (2003)13, together with

making appropriate responses to judicial review and other case law judgments, are matters that are the responsibility of local authorities.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding is available from central Government to support local authorities in the discharge of their obligations towards asylum seeking children. [76642]

Mr. Dhanda: Since 2004-05, my Department established the UASC Leaving Care Grant to assist those authorities facing increased financial pressure arising from the impact of the Hillingdon Judgment. Local authorities which support substantial numbers of such young people are eligible to receive funding through the grant, to assist towards meeting the costs of supporting additional numbers of "former relevant children" under Section 23C of the Children Act 1989.

In addition, the Home Office has, for a number of years, provided specific grant support to local authorities which support unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged under 18.

City Academies

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of children who attended city academies in the latest period for which figures are available had been statemented for special educational needs, broken down by academy; and if he will make a statement. [75371]

Mr. Dhanda: The available information is given in the table.

Final figures for 2006 are expected to be available by the end of June.

Academies: number and percentage of pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN)[1]. Position in January each year: 2005 and 2006 (provisional).

		2005			2006 (provisional)		
LA name	*Establishment name*	*Number (headcount) of pupils*	*Number (headcount) of pupils with statements of SEN*	*Percentage of school population with statements of SEN[2]*	*Number (headcount) of pupils*	*Number (headcount) of pupils with statements of SEN*	*Percentage of school population with statements of SEN[2]*
Barnet	London Academy	1,199	53	4.4	1,252	53	4.2
Bexley	The Business Academy Bexley	1,379	76	5.5	1,013	51	5.0
Bradford	Dixons City Academy	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	1,082	16	1.5
Brent	Capital City Academy	911	20	2.2	969	26	2.7
Bristol, City of	The City Academy Bristol	1,095	41	3.7	1,181	42	3.6
Doncaster	Trinity Academy	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	1,233	29	2.4
Ealing	West London Academy	1,129	26	2.3	847	24	2.8
Greenwich	St. Pauls Academy	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	634	42	6.6
Hackney	Mossbourne Community Academy	218	9	4.1	423	21	5.0
Haringey	Greig City Academy, Haringey	712	5	0.7	[4]n/a	[4]n/a	[4]n/a
Hillingdon	Stockley Academy	584	19	3.3	669	10	1.5
Hillingdon	The Harefield Academy	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	538	14	2.6
Kent	The Marlowe Academy	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	559	16	2.9
Lambeth	Lambeth Academy	184	12	6.5	358	12	3.4
Lewisham	Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	710	24	3.4
Lewisham	Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	1,334	23	1.7
Liverpool	The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	567	7	1.2
Manchester	Manchester Academy	726	7	1.0	795	18	2.3
Middlesbrough	Macmillan Academy	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	1,461	7	0.5
Middlesbrough	Unity City Academy	1,123	32	2.8	1,075	27	2.5

Academies: number and percentage of pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN)[1]. Position in January each year: 2005 and 2006 (provisional).

		2005			2006 (provisional)		
LA name	*Establishment name*	*Number (headcount) of pupils*	*Number (headcount) of pupils with statements of SEN*	*Percentage of school population with statements of SEN[2]*	*Number (headcount) of pupils*	*Number (headcount) of pupils with statements of SEN*	*Percentage of school population with statements of SEN[2]*
Middlesbrough	The King's Academy	1,042	95	9.1	1,097	94	8.6
Northamptonshire	Northampton Academy	1,244	33	2.7	1,281	41	3.2
Nottingham	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	1,580	[5]	[5]	1,628	[5]	[5]
Salford	Salford City Academy	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	560	6	1.1
Southwark	City of London Academy (Southwark)	361	22	6.1	574	28	4.9
Southwark	The Academy at Peckham	1,079	39	3.6	1,132	49	4.3
Walsall	Walsall Academy	630	17	2.7	755	24	3.2

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] The number of pupils with statements of SEN expressed as a percentage of the school population.
[3] Not applicable.
[4] Not available. Provisional data, outstanding survey return.
[5] One or two pupils, or a rate based on one or two pupils.
Source:
Schools' Census

Degree Subjects

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many higher education institutions offered *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* physics, *(c)* biology and *(d)* chemistry-related degrees in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06. [75292]

Bill Rammell: The latest available data are shown in the following table. Data for the academic year 2005-06 will become available at the beginning of 2007.

Number of HE institutions with students enrolled on first degree courses in mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology in 2003-04 and 2004-05

	2003-04	*2004-05*
Mathematical Sciences[1]	106	106
Of which:		
Mathematics	105	102
Physical Sciences[2]	116	116
Of which:		
Physics	68	61
Chemistry	82	80
Biological Sciences[3]	125	125
Of which:		
Biology	111	110

[1] Mathematical Sciences include disciplines such as statistics and operational research in addition to mathematics courses.
[2] Physical sciences include disciplines such as geography, geology, materials science, forensics and archaeology in addition to physics and chemistry courses.
[3] Biological Sciences include disciplines such as microbiology, biochemistry and molecular biology in addition to biology courses.
Notes:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December each year.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Disability Access

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether any building in his Department falls short of disability access regulations. [72995]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills occupies a total of five buildings in London, Sheffield, Darlington and Runcorn, none of which fall short of disability access regulations.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which Government Bills sponsored by his Department remain to be introduced during the 2005-06 session. [77837]

Mr. Dhanda: None.

Primary Schools

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many primary schools there are in England with fewer than 100 pupils; [76844]

(2) how many primary schools there are with fewer than 100 pupils in each local education authority area. [76845]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* The information requested is shown in the following table.

Maintained primary schools[1, 2] : number of schools with less than 100 pupils[3] as at January 2006[4]

	Local authority area	
	England	2,540
201	City of London	0
202	Camden	1
203	Greenwich	0
204	Hackney	0
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	0
206	Islington	0
207	Kensington and Chelsea	0
208	Lambeth	0
209	Lewisham	0
210	Southwark	0
211	Tower Hamlets	0
212	Wandsworth	0
213	Westminster	0
301	Barking and Dagenham	0
302	Barnet	1
303	Bexley	0
304	Brent	1
305	Bromley	6
306	Croydon	0
307	Ealing	0
308	Enfield	1
309	Haringey	0
310	Harrow	0
311	Havering	0
312	Hillingdon	0
313	Hounslow	0
314	Kingston upon Thames	0
315	Merton	0
316	Newham	0
317	Redbridge	0
318	Richmond upon Thames	0
319	Sutton	0
320	Waltham Forest	0
330	Birmingham	2
331	Coventry	0
332	Dudley	0
333	Sandwell	0
334	Solihull	0
335	Walsall	1
336	Wolverhampton	1
340	Knowsley	3
341	Liverpool	3
342	St. Helens	1
343	Sefton	1
344	Wirral	3
350	Bolton	2
351	Bury	3
352	Manchester	1
353	Oldham	2
354	Rochdale	1
355	Salford	1
356	Stockport	0
357	Tameside	2
358	Trafford	0
359	Wigan	2

Maintained primary schools[1, 2] : number of schools with less than 100 pupils[3] as at January 2006[4]

	Local authority area	
370	Barnsley	4
371	Doncaster	2
372	Rotherham	1
373	Sheffield	2
380	Bradford	4
381	Calderdale	8
382	Kirklees	18
383	Leeds	5
384	Wakefield	6
390	Gateshead	5
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	2
392	North Tyneside	0
393	South Tyneside	2
394	Sunderland	0
420	Isles of Scilly	0
800	Bath and North East Somerset	10
801	Bristol, City of	6
802	North Somerset	9
803	South Gloucestershire	10
805	Hartlepool	1
806	Middlesbrough	0
807	Redcar and Cleveland	1
808	Stockton-on-Tees	2
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	3
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	37
812	North East Lincolnshire	1
813	North Lincolnshire	13
815	North Yorkshire	164
816	York	3
820	Bedfordshire	46
821	Luton	1
825	Buckinghamshire	42
826	Milton Keynes	15
830	Derbyshire	109
831	Derby	1
835	Dorset	31
836	Poole	0
837	Bournemouth	0
840	Durham	59
841	Darlington	1
845	East Sussex	26
846	Brighton and Hove	0
850	Hampshire	42
851	Portsmouth	2
852	Southampton	4
855	Leicestershire	57
856	Leicester	0
857	Rutland	4
860	Staffordshire	64
861	Stoke-on-Trent	1
865	Wiltshire	58
866	Swindon	1
867	Bracknell Forest	0
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	5
869	West Berkshire	15

Maintained primary schools[1, 2] : number of schools with less than 100 pupils[3] as at January 2006[4]

	Local authority area	
870	Reading	1
871	Slough	0
872	Wokingham	2
873	Cambridgeshire	23
874	Peterborough	0
875	Cheshire	43
876	Halton	3
877	Warrington	2
878	Devon	125
879	Plymouth	1
880	Torbay	1
881	Essex	51
882	Southend-on-Sea	0
883	Thurrock	1
884	Herefordshire	40
885	Worcestershire	52
886	Kent	55
887	Medway	2
888	Lancashire	96
889	Blackburn with Darwen	2
890	Blackpool	0
891	Nottinghamshire	44
892	Nottingham	3
893	Shropshire	55
894	Telford and Wrekin	2
908	Cornwall	93
909	Cumbria	120
916	Gloucestershire	66
919	Hertfordshire	34
921	Isle of Wight	14
925	Lincolnshire	91
926	Norfolk	137
928	Northamptonshire	52
929	Northumberland	67
931	Oxfordshire	61
933	Somerset	76
935	Suffolk	85

Maintained primary schools[1, 2] : number of schools with less than 100 pupils[3] as at January 2006[4]

	Local authority area	
936	Surrey	44
937	Warwickshire	17
938	West Sussex	37

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Provisional data—returns from six primary schools are known to be outstanding. No estimate has been made for missing data.
[3] Based on the full-time equivalent number of pupils. Part-time pupils are counted as 0.5.
[4] Provisional
Source:
Schools' Census

Science Courses (Higher and Further Education)

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many science courses have been available in *(a)* higher and *(b)* further education establishments in each year since 1997 in (i) England, (ii) each English region and (iii) the Tees Valley. [73654]

Bill Rammell: Information on the numbers of courses offered by institutions is not held centrally. The following tables show the number of students enrolled on science courses since 1997.

Undergraduate students[1] enrolled on science courses[2] Government Office Region[3] 1997-98 to 2004-05

Region of institution	1997-98	1998-99
North	27,970	29,850
North West	62,540	66,125
Yorkshire and Humberside	51,645	54,420
East Midlands	36,450	37,350
West Midlands	44,090	45,300
East Anglia	9,165	9,765
South East	79,960	79,645
South West	36,235	38,170
Greater London	81,760	83,735
Total English Regions	429,815	444,360
The Tees Valley	6,005	5,740

Region of institution	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
North East	30,435	31,600	31,090	34,740	36,130	36,285
North West	68,570	70,760	71,000	77,570	82,135	81,925
Yorkshire and Humberside	55,725	56,095	56,105	64,210	62,235	62,320
East Midlands	36,190	37,345	38,410	42,850	46,895	46,470
West Midlands	46,315	47,995	49,500	54,595	57,415	57,350
Eastern	33,890	33,065	34,680	39,900	39,095	42,080
South East	52,620	53,370	54,200	59,815	103,220	110,420
South West	38,770	39,785	41,330	45,010	47,355	47,550
Greater London	89,715	93,975	98,040	105,845	106,410	109,870
Total English Regions	452,230	463,990	474,360	524,540	580,885	594,270
The Tees Valley	7,310	9,020	8,450	10,360	11,070	10,655

[1] Based on a snapshot count of students, as at 1 December each year.
[2] A new method of allocating students to subject groups was introduced in 2002-03, the main effect of which was to increase the number of students allocated to specific named subjects and decrease the number of students allocated to "Combined Subject" courses. This will have contributed to the rise in science enrolments between 2001-02 and 2002-03. Science includes medicine/dentistry, subjects allied to medicine, biological sciences, veterinary sciences, veterinary science, agriculture, physical sciences, mathematical sciences, computer science, engineering/technology and architecture.
[3] The classification of Government Office regions was revised in 2000-01. Merseyside has been included with the north west.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Learning Aim Enrolments in FE in Science and Mathematics Area of Learning for 2002-03 to 2004-05

Enrolments by Region	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
National Office	25,394	716	674
East England	50,529	41,182	38,906
East Midlands	39,945	30,263	29,877
Greater London	86,676	72,696	64,060
North-East	35,756	30,567	27,992
North-West	85,789	75,601	68,740
South-East	81,984	71,333	69,410
South-West	42,660	38,143	40,495
West Midlands	70,339	58,726	54,783
Yorkshire and Humberside	52,353	50,926	45,789
National Total	571,425	47U.153	440,726
National Total—All FE Enrolments —All Subjects	8,249,256	7,872,271	7,845,818

Enrolments at Tees Valley Local LSC

2002-03	Tees Valley	14,669
2003-04	Tees Valley	12,515
2004-05	Tees Valley	12,475

Note:
FE learning aim enrolments on aims classified as being in the 'Science and Mathematics' area of learning are given. Area of Learning is used rather than sector subject area as there are more historical data using this classification. Local office classification is based on the relation between providers and their lead LLSC. Data are not supplied for prior to 2002-03 as the definitions of programme areas and how to count learners changed at that point.
Source:
Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Individualised Learner Record 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05

Student Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students have contacted the Student Loans Company with queries relating to student loans due to a change in employer in the tax year for each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [75321]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not available. While the Student Loans Company does record information at individual account level, it is unable to break down the total number of contacts from borrowers to this level of detail.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to cut carbon dioxide emissions; and how regularly those steps will be reported on. [77679]

Ian Pearson: We announced on 12 June that we are taking another important step when it comes to greening Government, by committing to make by 2012 the Government office estate carbon neutral and committing to reduce Government's total emissions from buildings by 30 per cent.

This action is consistent with the new UK climate change programme, published in March 2006, which sets out the Government's commitments at international and domestic levels to meeting the challenges of climate change. It also includes a commitment to introduce a new annual report to Parliament on the level of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK and the steps the Government have been taking to reduce these. The first report is expected to be issued in spring 2007.

The UK's climate change programme 2006 is available on the Defra website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/ukccp/pdf/ukccp06-all.pdf.

Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will reply to the letter of 16 March from the hon. Member for Aylesbury to the former Minister of State for Environment and Agri-Environment about climate change on behalf of Mr. T. R. of Princes Risborough. [76342]

Ian Pearson: I apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Gentleman's letter. A response will be issued shortly.

Departmental Blog

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the start-up cost was for his departmental blog; how much he expects the blog to cost each year; and if he will make a statement. [77140]

Barry Gardiner: The initial start-up costs for the Secretary of State's blog were met by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Costs of transferring the blog to DEFRA (including design, text and administration changes) have amounted to approximately £1,250. Ongoing costs for hosting and support would amount to some £900 a year on the current basis. There will be further ongoing administrative costs, consisting of a percentage of an existing member of staff's time.

Electrical Goods

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to promote and support the use of dynamic power management devices in fridges, freezers and other electrical household white goods. [76749]

Ian Pearson: The Government are aware that a number of dynamic demand control devices have been or are being developed by manufacturers as a potential means for reducing the peak load demand on the power grid.

We are currently investigating, via a small scale test carried out by the Market Transformation Programme (MTP), what effect these devices have on the operation of cold appliances.

For further information on the MTP, please go to: http://www.mtprog.com/

Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the *(a)* 5 A Day and *(b)* school fruit and vegetable scheme. [68844]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The annual Food Standards Agency's consumer attitudes survey is used to track 5 A DAY awareness and consumption. The survey shows knowledge of the 5 A DAY message has increased from 43 per cent. in 2000 to 67 per cent. in 2005, while those claiming to have eaten at least five portions of fruit and vegetables the previous day has risen from 26 per cent. in 2000 to 30 per cent. in 2005.

The national foundation for educational research (NFER), in partnership with Leeds University, was commissioned by the Big Lottery Fund to carry out an evaluation of the school fruit and vegetable scheme. Results published in September 2005 demonstrated that children ate significantly more fruit while participating in the scheme. The results showed that increased consumption of fruit was not sustained when children's participation in the scheme came to an end. However, there was some evidence of increased knowledge of healthy eating, particularly in children from deprived areas.

We will be working to integrate the scheme more closely with other healthy eating initiatives in schools, to provide opportunities to maintain the behaviour change achieved by participation in the scheme.

Fungaflor

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when a replacement for Fungaflor will be licensed for use in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [76752]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 892W.

Home Energy Conservation

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review the guidelines to energy conservation authorities on complying with the requirements of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995, as set out in paragraph 9.24 of the 2003 Energy White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [76255]

Ian Pearson: We welcome the progress that local authorities have made in delivering their Home Energy Conservation Act reports to date. However, we recognise that more needs to be done in order to make further progress and have committed to reviewing the existing guidance and identifying how improvements can be made. The review will be launched this summer and will be concluded by the end of this year.

Hydroschemes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria the Environment Agency uses to assess the environmental consequences of hydroschemes; what conclusion it came to on the Littlecombe site, Dursley; and on what basis. [76042]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency assesses each scheme on its own merits and has produced a guidance document entitled "Hydropower—A Handbook for Agency Staff", which is available to the public on request. It contains guidance for developers on the type of information they should consider as part of their responsibility to take account of the potential environmental impacts of hydroschemes.

The Environment Agency has not reached a conclusion about hydropower at the Littlecombe site, Dursley. Although it has discussed hydropower and what the developers would need to consider, the Agency has not yet received specific details or a consultation.

Water Framework Directive

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made by the Environment Agency in establishing river basin district liaison panels; and who are expected to be appointed as panel members. [74451]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency is in the process of establishing River Basin District Liaison Panels as part of stakeholder engagement and partnership working under the Water Framework Directive. The agency is putting in place one Liaison Panel for each River Basin District in England. Each panel will comprise the key organisations who are responsible for implementation, and others who can represent the public interest and help in driving behavioural change.

Water Services

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to generate competition in water services. [76633]

Ian Pearson: The Water Act 2003 introduced competition in water supply for large users. Licensed water suppliers are now able to compete with statutory water companies to supply customers with a consumption of at least 50 million litres per year. The Act provides a mechanism to alter the customer consumption threshold. A review of the threshold will take place in 2008 to consider the impact of the regime

on drinking water quality, environmental protection, customer service and prices for eligible and other customers.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who is responsible for *(a)* setting leak reduction targets and *(b)* monitoring performance against those targets in the south east; and what assessment his Department has undertaken of the financial and technical tests used to monitor the performance of water companies. [76634]

Ian Pearson: Leakage targets are set and monitored by the Economic Regulator, Ofwat. They require water companies to compare the cost of reducing leakage and the value of the water saved, including any associated environmental and social costs and benefits.

In March 2003, the tripartite group of Defra, the Environment Agency and Ofwat published the report, "Future approaches to leakage target setting for water companies in England and Wales". This sets out the best practice principles in the economic level of leakage calculation. Ofwat assesses the water companies' economic levels of leakage analyses against these principles.

As well as analysing the companies' economic assessments, Ofwat also monitors their annual performance in managing leakage. This is done through an annual submission to Ofwat known as the June Return. Through this return the companies provide a full reconciliation of how all treated water put into supply is used, including the volume lost to leakage.

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers water companies have to take action against those people who are observed to be wasting water; and whether there are proposals for further such powers. [76743]

Ian Pearson: Water companies have powers under section 75 of the Water Industry Act 1991 and within the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 to take action if they consider water supplied by the company is being wasted or is likely to be wasted. There are no current proposals for further such powers.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether provision has been made for transporting excess water in the North to the South and South East. [75373]

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research his Department has undertaken into the costs of *(a)* a national grid for water and *(b)* moving water through river systems; [75357]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the cost of moving water between water authorities. [75358]

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the cost of establishing a national water grid. [75856]

Ian Pearson: The concept of a national water grid has been raised many times in the last 30 years and was has never been considered remotely viable. It was most recently discussed at the Secretary of State's meeting on 1 June with representatives of water companies and the water industry regulators. It was rejected by all those present on the grounds of its disproportionate and unjustifiable cost, both for the environment and for water bills, compared with the benefits such a grid could deliver. This stance was informed by a recent desk study undertaken by the Environment Agency, which will be published later this summer.

A good deal of water is already transferred within water companies' areas of operation to give individual companies greater flexibility to meet local shortages. Longer distance links have long been established between, for example, Wales and the West Midlands and South East Lancashire, the Lake District and Lancashire, and from the Fenland watercourses to Essex.

The Environment Agency, in consultation with Ofwat, is able to propose to a water company that it enters into a bulk supply agreement with another water company, where it is necessary to secure the proper use of water resources.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* maximum usable water volume and *(b)* actual usable volume for water in each water supply company region was in each financial year since 1997. [76453]

Ian Pearson: The Water Services Regulation Authority (publicly known as Ofwat) publish data annually on the amount of water supplied by water companies.

Maximum usable water volumes are best indicated by the distribution input (total volume of drinking water put into the supply system per day). Actual usable water volumes are best indicated by the water delivered (total volume of drinking water delivered per day). Figures for each water supply company region in each financial year since 1997-98, in megalitres per day, were reported as follows:

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Anglian								
Water delivered	1027	1002	1000	987	986	1000	1001	990
Distribution input	1200	1146	1140	1134	1159	1150	1174	1153

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Dwr Cymru								
Water delivered	715	695	681	682	674	676	670	667
Distribution input	987	949	930	899	894	883	876	869
United Utilities								
Water delivered	1610	1560	1548	1554	1559	1573	1599	1551
Distribution input	2083	1977	1947	1935	1933	1952	1984	1953
Northumbrian North								
Water delivered	657	654	634	634	631	618	609	599
Distribution input	789	111	758	750	754	736	732	719
Northumbrian South								
Water delivered	437	431	432	421	431	427	439	425
Distribution input	492	480	478	466	476	465	481	464
Severn Trent								
Water delivered	1632	1632	1645	1634	1637	1612	1655	1626
Distribution input	1918	1869	1878	1868	1870	1929	1967	1925
South West								
Water delivered	374	366	364	356	372	375	390	394
Distribution input	445	434	431	429	445	447	459	456
Southern								
Water delivered	531	520	518	514	528	524	527	513
Distribution input	603	588	585	578	598	595	599	586
Thames								
Water delivered	1982	1892	2049	2089	2107	2141	2179	2140
Distribution input	2665	2481	2553	2600	2765	2842	2874	2809
Wessex								
Water delivered	310	304	304	302	308	306	318	313
Distribution input	402	387	376	373	374	368	379	372
Yorkshire								
Water delivered	1042	1013	1031	1032	1070	1059	1061	1055
Distribution input	1338	1285	1283	1274	1307	1299	1297	1287
Bournemouth and W. Hampshire								
Water delivered	139	134	141	138	138	141	148	147
Distribution input	158	154	158	154	154	158	165	164
Bristol								
Water delivered	263	255	250	248	252	246	247	241
Distribution input	308	301	292	289	297	292	293	287

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Cambridge								
Water delivered	63	61	61	61	62	63	65	63
Distribution input	73	71	70	71	72	73	75	73
Dee Valley								
Water delivered	63	63	63	62	62	63	63	61
Distribution input	71	71	71	70	69	70	69	68
Folkestone and Dover								
Water delivered	46	43	43	43	45	44	44	40
Distribution input	52	49	49	49	51	50	50	46
Mid Kent								
Water delivered	140	139	142	138	139	138	145	143
Distribution input	164	159	161	156	158	157	166	163
Portsmouth								
Water delivered	153	151	158	154	158	156	165	159
Distribution input	177	174	181	176	179	177	186	180
South East								
Water delivered	310	306	316	315	320	322	343	339
Distribution input	394	382	387	378	375	376	394	391
South Staffs								
Water delivered	285	276	275	278	283	281	287	279
Distribution input	344	331	330	329	334	331	338	332
Sutton and East Surrey								
Water delivered	141	137	139	138	145	145	154	146
Distribution input	157	152	154	153	160	160	169	161
Tendring Hundred								
Water delivered	27	25	25	25	25	26	26	26
Distribution input	32	30	30	30	30	30	31	30
Three Valleys								
Water delivered	714	705	721	738	768	765	801	780
Distribution input	832	811	816	829	871	864	899	877

Wild Boar

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is regarding the hunting of wild boar; and if he will make a statement. [75912]

David Miliband: There are no specific legal restrictions on shooting wild boar. However, the person doing the shooting must be authorised to do so on the land concerned, have an appropriate firearms certificate, and comply with other relevant firearms provisions.

Wild boar are feral animals, with general protection under the Protection of Animals Act 1911. This protects captive animals (including animals in traps) against unnecessary suffering, and the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 offers further protection against specific cruel acts, such as "impaling", "stabbing" or "beating".

A public consultation on future strategies for managing wild boar in England concluded on 6 January 2006. The consultation documents are available on the Defra website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wild-boar/index.htm

Responses to the consultation will help to formulate a long term management policy to be announced later this year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Ascension Island

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much import duty has been charged on goods entering Ascension Island in each year since 1976. [75457]

Mr. Hoon: Import duty on goods entering Ascension Island has only been levied since the introduction of a system of taxation in April 2002. Since that time total duties collected in each year are as follows:

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Tobacco	0	76,751	79,114	81,007
Alcohol	335,607	246,509	174,910	230,100
Fuel	72,000	73,500	74,165	[1]74,429
Total	407,607	396,760	328,189	385,537
Grand total		1,518,093		

[1] 2005-06 subject to year end adjustments.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much export duty has been charged on goods leaving Ascension Island in each year since 1976. [75458]

Mr. Hoon: None. Ascension Island levies no export duty.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 9 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 185W, on Ascension Island, if she will place a copy of the Workmen's Protection (Ascension) Ordinance in the Library. [75463]

Mr. Hoon: A copy of the Workmen's Protection (Ascension) Ordinance has been placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many sites on Ascension Island

"no longer necessary for the purpose of the operation of the Long Range Proving Ground",

as set out in Article IV (Provision of Sites), point 1, of the Bahamas Agreement 1956, the UK Government have ceased to provide for that purpose since 1976. [75464]

Mr. Hoon: Two. The United States' use of the "National Aeronautics Space Administration" site ceased in the early 1990s. Part of that site was then re-released and renamed in 1997. It was finally relinquished in March 2001.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the acquisitions that have taken place on Ascension Island since 1976 of private property to allow rights of way to the United States Administration as permitted in Article III (Rights of Way) of the Bahamas Agreement 1956. [75466]

Mr. Hoon: There have been no acquisitions on Ascension Island since 1976 of property to allow rights of way to the United States Administration as permitted in Article III (Rights of Way) of the Bahamas Agreement 1956.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many motor vehicles belonging to the United States Administration not used for purposes connected directly with the establishment, maintenance or use of the Long Range Proving Ground have paid taxes or fees relating to registration or licensing for use on Ascension Island since 1976 under Article XIII (Motor Vehicle Taxes) of the Bahamas Agreement 1956. [75467]

Mr. Hoon: None.

Base Leases (United States)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which bases leased to the United States as listed in Treaty Series No. 2 (1941) Cmd. 6259 and Treaty Series No. 65 (1950) Cmd. 8076 are still leased to the United States. [75459]

Mr. Hoon: None. In 2002 the Government and the Government of the United States terminated the 1941 Leased Bases Agreement.

Burma

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to secure a binding resolution on Burma at the United Nations Security Council; and if she will make a statement. [78100]

Mr. McCartney: We support all action by the United Nations which will help initiate a genuine process of democratic reform in Burma. We therefore support current proposals for a substantive discussion of Burma at the United Nations Security Council which we hope will lead to a resolution.

Coalition Information Centre

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many individuals are employed in the Coalition Information Centre; and what the budget was for this unit in each year since 2001. [77726]

Dr. Howells: The Coalition Information Centre (CIC) was formed in October 2001 and later changed its title to the Government Communication and Operations Centre. The unit had nine to 10 staff for most of its existence, rising briefly to some 28 during the Iraq conflict, before being wound up in May 2003. The majority of costs were staff salaries, paid by staff members home departments. Other costs covered accommodation and infrastructure and these were absorbed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Total budgets could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on *(a)* support for victims of

rape, *(b)* prosecution of rapists and *(c)* prevention of further rapes. [76826]

Mr. McCartney: The UK frequently raises with the Congolese Government our concerns about wide scale sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In February, we and international partners formally presented President Kabila with a dossier cataloguing major abuses carried out by Congolese armed forces, including rape and sexual violence. We demanded that the perpetrators be brought to justice. A UK-drafted Resolution on DRC adopted at last year's United Nations General Assembly made clear that the Congolese Government must act decisively to reduce sexual violence.

We are supporting humanitarian agencies in providing medical assistance to victims of sexual violence, particularly in Eastern DRC. This includes funding the construction of a new wing at a hospital in South Kivu that treats rape victims. We also support the International Committee of the Red Cross's Gender Based Violence pilot programme. Through our local peace-building programme, we aim to tackle the underlying causes of sexual violence.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in her Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75119]

Mr. Hoon: Under the Department's performance improvement procedures introduced in October 2004, unacceptable performance has to be addressed as soon as it occurs rather than waiting for the appraisal cycle to complete. Central records record cases of poor performance current at the end of the appraisal year. The number of staff who did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report over the past three years was as follows:

	Number of staff	*Percentage*
2002-03	47	0.7
2003-04	37	0.6
2004-05	21	0.4

Annual report markings for 2005-06 financial year are not yet available.

Rigorous Performance Management is one of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's management priorities. New training for all senior managers in performance management was introduced in the last year.

India

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the attack on two Christian women in Nadia Village, Madhya Pradesh, India by Hindu extremists. [78140]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of media reports of this attack. We understand from our high commission in New Delhi that the Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Balram Jhakar, met the victims and has asked the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police to send him details of the incidents and a report on action taken. The case has also been registered with the police. Our high commission in New Delhi will continue to monitor the situation.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what evidence there is of continuing direct help from the Government of Sudan to the Janjaweed. [76039]

Mr. McCartney: We believe that the Government of Sudan continues to have close contacts with the leaders of the so-called Janjaweed and to tolerate their activities. The UN Secretary General's report on Darfur on 19 May this year made several references to armed tribesmen supporting the Sudan armed forces in attacks against civilians in Darfur.

Under the Darfur Peace Agreement the Government of Sudan must draw up a plan to disarm the Janjaweed and to implement it witnin six months. We call on them to do so.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to help prevent the spread of Janjaweed attacks from Darfur into Chad. [77694]

Mr. McCartney: We are aware that Chadian rebels and Darfur militia continue to mount cross-border attacks into Eastern Chad from Darfur, which has led to the displacement of 50,000 Chadians. We are also aware of reports of Darfur rebels continuing to be supported by Chad. We are pressing the Government of Sudan to neutralise and disarm the Janjaweed and expel foreign fighters from Darfur as soon as possible, as required under the Darfur Peace Agreement. We are also pressing both Governments to fulfil their obligations under the Tripoli Agreement.

Uganda

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the international community are taking towards bringing the conflict in Uganda to an end; and if she will make a statement. [76897]

Mr. McCartney: The UK, along with other members of the international community, is strongly supportive of efforts to resolve the long-running Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency and address the humanitarian problems in northern Uganda.

The UN has an important role to play. The UK was actively involved in securing the two recent UN Security Council Resolutions, 1653 and 1663, which have condemned the activities of militias and illegal armed groups such as the LRA.

The UK is encouraging the Ugandan Government to accept the appointment of a Special Envoy on the LRA. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development raised this with President Museveni on 16 May when they discussed the role a special envoy could play in achieving greater regional co-operation on the LRA issue.

We have welcomed the establishment by the Government of Uganda of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) to improve the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda. The JMC is currently developing an action plan to take this work forward and our high commissioner in Kampala and Department for International Development Uganda are both closely involved in this.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of the Movement Act in Uganda on *(a)* the February 2006 multi-party elections and *(b)* its implication for the Ugandan multi-party political system; and if she will make a statement. [77467]

Mr. McCartney: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave him on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 345W, and to the reply given by the former Minister for Trade my hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz), on 6 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1179W.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response she has received from the Uganda authorities to the written statement of 29 May 2005 regarding *(a)* establishment of the rules for multi-party competition and *(b)* separation of the organs of state from the Movement in (i) law and (ii) practice; and if she will make a statement. [77471]

Mr. McCartney: On 29 April 2005 our high commission in Kampala issued a press release which reaffirmed the elements we considered necessary to achieving a legitimate process of political and constitutional change in Uganda. These included establishment of the rules for multi-party competition and separation of the organs of state from the Movement in law and practice.

In that statement we made clear that we were concerned by several aspects of the transition, including that insufficient progress had been made towards establishing a fair basis for a multi-party system. We therefore decided then to withhold £5 million of budget support (out of a total of £40 million for the financial year).

We have not received, nor would we expect to, a formal response to our press release. We have of course maintained a high-level dialogue with the Government of Uganda on all aspects of the transition to a multi-party system in the run up to the multi-party elections in February 2006. I will arrange for a copy of the statement to be placed in the Library of the House.

Whaling

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her predecessor has had with Ministers from countries which are members of the Commonwealth on whaling; and if she will make a statement. [78036]

Mr. McCartney: Whaling is not part of the Commonwealth agenda and was not raised at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting last year.

Australia and New Zealand share the UK's view of whaling and co-operate bilaterally at official level.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average level of council tax has been in rural areas in each year from 1997 to 2005. [78207]

Mr. Woolas: The average level of band D council tax in rural areas since 1997-98 is tabled as follows. A district is classified as a rural area if it falls within category "Rural-50" or "Rural-80" of the rural definition and local authority classification published by Defra in 2005 (www.statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/rural_resd/rural_definition.asp).

	£
1997-98	715
1998-99	740
1999-2000	796
2000-01	850
2001-02	904
2002-03	994
2003-04	1,127
2004-05	1,198
2005-06	1,248
2006-07	1,288

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the additional council tax revenue raised by local authorities as a result of setting second home council tax discounts lower than 50 per cent. in 2005-06. [78283]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Stafford (Mr. Kidney) on 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1803W.

Fire Services College

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Fire Services College provides *(a)* training courses and *(b)* access to the college's library and online information and development resources to fire services in (i) the Crown dependencies, (ii) overseas territories, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) Commonwealth countries; and how much is charged by the college for those services to fire services in each category. [76270]

Angela E. Smith: The primary customer of the Fire Service College is the United Kingdom fire and rescue

service. It has provided training to representatives from the categories of countries listed as follows: Crown dependencies and overseas territories, the Republic of Ireland and Commonwealth countries.

Charges for training are a commercial matter for the Fire Service College. It will depend on the number of people to be trained, the requirements of the course and the duration of training.

On-site access to the Library and Information Resource Centre (LIRC) is available to all staff and students (including all overseas students on study courses) of the Fire Service College. The Library and Information Resource Centre has Membership options for UK and Republic of Ireland Fire and Rescue Services, corporate and individual customers, and organisational membership can cost between £260 and £600 per year, depending on the size of the organisation and the services provided. It does not currently offer memberships to other overseas customers.

Foreign Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on foreign travel by her Department and its predecessors in each of the last eight years. [76935]

Angela E. Smith: The former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the new Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) were created following the machinery of government changes on 29 May 2002 and 5 May 2006, respectively. The following table sets out the total expenditure on foreign travel for the former ODPM and DCLG (excluding the Government offices). Details of expenditure by predecessor Departments prior to the 2002-03 financial year could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

	£
2002-03	251,162
2003-04	241,014
2004-05	245,360
2005-06	377,623
2006-07 (to date)	29,129

All travel by civil servants and Ministers is conducted in accordance with requirements of the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code and Travel.

Housing Development

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to prevent excessive land banking by housing developers. [66426]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The Barker Review of Housing Supply considered the issue of land banking in assessing competition in house building, and did not find evidence of excessive land banking by house builders.

The Review did make recommendations designed to make the planning system, and its arrangements for releasing land for housing, more responsive to demand, in the interests of improving housing affordability. Draft Planning Policy Statement 3 published earlier this year is designed to achieve these objectives.

The Office of Fair Trading periodically reviews the house building sector. If there is evidence of anti-competitive behaviour which was against the consumer, including excessive land banking by house builders, OFT may consider the case for a reference to the Competition Commission.

The Department is concerned to ensure that there is proper competition in the house building sector and that land banking or the holding of options do not operate as a barrier to entry. We are continuing to keep this under review to ensure that greater land supply results in increased house building.

Local Strategic Partnerships

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the powers available to local strategic partnerships. [77107]

Yvette Cooper: LSPs, outside those areas receiving neighbourhood renewal funding, are currently entirely voluntary and therefore do not have any powers of their own.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Department for Communities and Local Government) undertook a consultation "Local Strategic Partnerships: Shaping their Future" from December 2005 to March 2006 which looked at the future of all LSPs, focusing on their role, accountability and capacity. As part of this consultation we proposed formalising the role of LSPs and ensuring the involvement of key agencies through establishing duties to co-operate with the local authority on named local delivery agencies. The results of the consultation are now being evaluated and decisions on whether this legislative option will be pursued will need to be taken in due course.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local strategic partnerships are chaired by *(a)* an hon. Member, *(b)* a councillor, *(c)* a directly-elected mayor and *(d)* a representative from the (i) public sector, (ii) voluntary sector and (iii) business sector. [77181]

Mr. Woolas: Outside areas receiving neighbourhood renewal funding, LSPs are voluntary partnerships and hence are not monitored on an individual basis by the Department. However, we do evaluate all LSPs on a national basis and therefore are able to give indicative answers to these questions. The last evaluation of LSPs was conducted in 2004 (National Evaluation of Local

Strategic Partnerships: Report on the 2004 Survey of all English LSPs ODPM 2005). This indicated the following split in LSP chairs:

	Percentage
Elected members	46
Local authority officers	7
Other public sector agency officers	16
Private sector representative	11
Voluntary and community representative	11

The question as to whether MPs or directly-elected mayors chaired LSPs was not specifically asked.

Portland PR

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings officials in her Department have had with representatives of the public relations company Portland PR; what contracts Portland PR has with her Department and agencies for which she has responsibility; and what the nature of the contract is in each case. [70042]

Angela E. Smith: There is no record of any meetings between Department for Communities and Local Government Officials and representatives of Portland PR.

Public Sector (Funding)

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from her Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years. [71788]

Angela E. Smith: The Department of Communities and Local Government was formed in May 2006. Formerly this Department was the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister which was formed in May 2002.

The following lists in alphabetical order the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest payments from the Department in financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

2003-04

Ashdown House Ltd.
Balfour Kilpatrick Ltd.
BNFL plc Instruments
Building Research Establishment
Carat Ltd.
Land Securities Properties Ltd.
Marshall Specialist Vehicles Ltd.
Professional Protection Systems
Regus (UK) Ltd.
Respirex International

2004-05

Ashdown House Ltd.
Building Research Establishment
Carat Ltd.
Land Securities Properties Ltd.
Marshall Specialist Vehicles Ltd.
Mitie Managed Services Southern
National telecommunications Ltd.
PA Consulting Group
Regus (UK) Ltd.
Scout Solutions Projects Ltd.

2005-06

Ashdown House Ltd.
Carat Ltd.
Hytrans Systems
John Dennis Coachbuilders
Land Securities Properties Ltd.
Marshall Specialist Vehicles Ltd.
Mitie Managed Services Southern
Mott Macdonald Ltd.
PA Consulting Group
Serco Government Consulting

Information for 2002-03 was recorded jointly with the Department for Transport and expenditure figures cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Right to Buy

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issues to local authorities on whether sections 185 and 187 of the Housing Act 2004 apply to right to buy purchases completed prior to January 2005. [76249]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer12 June 2006]:* The Department issued a letter to local authorities on 18 January 2005 providing guidance on the changes to the right to buy under the Housing Act 2004, including the application of sections 185 and 187. No further guidance has been issued.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Gerson Report

Peter Viggers: To ask the Solicitor-General how many civil servants were employed in the Law Officers' Departments before the Gershon Report; what net reductions are proposed in the Gershon Report; how many reductions have been made; and how many civil servants are expected to be employed in the Law Officers' Departments in the Gershon target month of April 2008. [74288]

The Solicitor-General: It is unclear whether the hon. Member includes in his request the CPS. The information requested on the numbers of civil servants employed in the Law Officers' Departments is given in the following table which includes the CPS:

Department	Numbers employed before the Gershon Report	Net reduction proposed in the Gershon Report	Reductions already made	Number expected to be employed in April 2008
Crown Prosecution Service	7,336	0	0	8,249
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office		Established 18 May 2005[1]		
Serious Fraud Office	264	0	0	[2]
Treasury Solicitor's Office (including Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate)	816	36	10	780

RCPO replaced the former Customs and Excise Prosecutions Office which was required to reduce 10 posts. It achieved this through natural wastage in 2004-05[1]

SFO staff numbers have risen to 330 employees to date in accordance with staffing plans agreed in Spending Review 2004. There was no headcount target for April 2008[2].

The increase in CPS staff reflects agreed additional resources to improve performance by delivering the new statutory charging scheme, the No Witness, No Justice initiative, by recovering more criminal assets and extending the use of CPS advocates in the Crown and magistrates courts.

TSol continues to recruit staff as business demand continues to grow but the introduction of efficiencies ensures that the growth in headcount is lower than the growth in business.

Staff Development

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General what the total cost was of *(a)* staff away-days and *(b)* staff team-building exercises in his Department in each of the last three years. [68986]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments are committed to developing their staff to their full potential and to the benefits that are achieved from holding away-days and team-building exercises. However, identifying details of such expenditure for the many offices of the Crown Prosecution Service would incur disproportionate cost. Figures for the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO), Serious Fraud Office (SFO), Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) in 2003-04 to 2005-06 are shown in the following table.

£

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
Department	Awaydays	Team-building	Awaydays	Team-building	Awayday	Team-building
RCPO[1]	—	—	—	—	5,310	995
SFO	0	0	19,269	0	0	0
TSol	12,478	0	52,763	0	11,535	0
HMCPSI	20,785	0	16,632	0	15,470	0
Attorney-General's Office	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] RCPO was established 18 April 2005.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the Access to Work budget for the last five years has been claimed by organisations in Stoke-on-Trent, North. [68315]

Mrs. McGuire: Access to Work funds individuals and not organisations. The information requested is not available. However, the Access to Work spend for all customers is in the following table.

Access to Work actual spend for all customers in the West Midlands

	Spend in £
2002-03	5,125,978
2003-04	4,859,918
2004-05	5,007,797
2005-06	4,193,397

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much his Department plans to spend on the Access to Work scheme in each year to 2010; [75168]

(2) how he plans to extend the Access to Work scheme. [75170]

Mrs. McGuire: Access to Work spend has increased from £14.6 million in 1997-98 to £59.5 million in 2004-05. DWP has allocated £62 million in 2006-07 for Access to Work, and this programme is now helping some 32,000 disabled people to move into or retain jobs they might otherwise lose because of their disability.

No decisions on funding have been made beyond 2006-07.

Last month I asked Jobcentre Plus to withdraw Access to Work funding in respect of people directly employed by Government Departments. The Departments will still be able to use Access to Work expertise in determining appropriate workplace adjustments, however, the

adjustments will be funded from their own resources. This decision will take effect from October 2006 and is in line with practice in my Department since 2003 and with the recommendations of the Prime Minister's strategy unit report 'Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People'.

The savings realised by this change will be re-invested in the programme, and, as a result of this change, support for disabled people will be more greatly focused towards those disabled people who work for small and medium sized employers.

Benefit Fraud

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were *(a)* convicted and *(b)* acquitted of benefit fraud offences in each of the last three years, broken down by type of offence; how many of those convicted of each type of offence in each year were sentenced to (i) immediate custody and (ii) other disposals, broken down by type of disposal; what the *(A)* mean average and *(B)* longest individual custodial sentence imposed in each year was for each type of offence; and if he will make a statement. [73442]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information regarding types of offence, types of sentence and the length of custodial sentences is not available. The available information is in the following table.

Number of people convicted and acquitted of benefit fraud (excluding housing benefit and council tax benefit)

	Convicted	*Acquitted*
2003-04	9,091	113
2004-05	8,573	97
2005-06	8,858	136

Source:
Fraud Information by Sector (FiBS)

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local authority benefit fraud investigators have *(a)* commenced and *(b)* completed the Professionalism in Security Accredited Counter Fraud Officer Scheme. [73443]

Mr. Plaskitt: Up until the end of March 2006, 1,875 local authority benefit fraud investigators had commenced and completed the Professionalism in Security (PinS) training scheme. In addition a further 80 have started but have not yet completed their training.

Biological Diversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Minister in his Department is responsible for monitoring his Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if he will make a statement. [73934]

Mr. Plaskitt: In his role as the Department for Work and Pensions Sustainable Development Minister, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath has responsibility for monitoring the Department's compliance with section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Department is office-based, occupying mostly urban sites. As part of the private finance initiative maintenance of landscapes has been outsourced to our estates partner—Land Securities Trillium.

Initial biodiversity assessments were carried out on all sites within the estate to identify the scope of biodiversity. Further surveys of the more significant sites are currently under way. It has been identified that there is limited potential to significantly increase biodiversity, however working in collaboration with its PFI estates partner a number of measures have been implemented. These include changes to mowing regimes, the introduction of log piles and the increase in leaf mould, on appropriate sites.

Further to this, two sites have been identified where there is more scope to improve biodiversity. Land Securities Trillium have committed £5,000 to implement a number of additional measures.

Land Securities Trillium are fully aware of any legal requirement and obligations contained within the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Carer's Allowance

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 721-22W, on carer's allowance, what the cost to public funds would be if the listed number of recipients of carer's allowance were receiving the standard rate of the allowance, in addition to their basic state pension. [65493]

Mrs. McGuire: Figures derived from new DWP national statistics published on 27 April indicate that in Wales at 30 November 2005, there were some 940 carers aged 60 and over receiving carer's allowance at a non-standard rate. A breakdown of this figure by gender and Welsh parliamentary constituency is in the table. This information was not available for the reply I gave to my hon. friend on 27 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 721-22 because the data then available for the numbers of recipients of carer's allowance at 31 August 2005 were rounded to the nearest 100, and this did not permit figures for the recipients of a non-standard rate of the allowance in each constituency to be provided where they numbered fewer than 50. The new statistical data are rounded to the nearest 10 and, as shown in the table, this does permit figures for the recipients in each constituency to be provided where they number five or more. The estimated additional annual cost to public funds of paying the standard weekly rate of carer's allowance to the carers listed in the table, rather than the non-standard rate they are receiving, would be around £1.25 million at current benefit rates.

Carer's Allowance: numbers of recipients aged 60 or over paid at a non-standard rate by gender and in total in each Welsh parliamentary constituency at 30 November 2005

Parliamentary Constituency	Number of recipients[1]		
	Total	Women	Men
Aberavon	10	10	[2]
Alyn and Deeside	30	30	[2]
Blaenau Gwent	30	30	[2]
Brecon and Radnorshire	20	10	[2]
Bridgend	30	30	[2]
Caernarfon	20	20	[2]
Caerphilly	30	30	[2]
Cardiff Central	20	20	[2]
Cardiff North	10	10	[2]
Cardiff South and Penarth	30	30	[2]
Cardiff West	20	20	[2]
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	20	20	[2]
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	20	20	[2]
Ceredigion	30	20	[2]
Clwyd South	20	20	[2]
Clwyd West	20	20	[2]
Conwy	20	20	[2]
Cynon Valley	30	30	[2]
Delyn	20	20	[2]
Gower	20	20	[2]
Islwyn	20	20	[2]
Llanelli	40	30	[2]
Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	10	10	[2]
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	20	20	[2]
Monmouth	20	20	[2]
Montgomeryshire	20	10	[2]
Neath	40	30	[2]
Newport East	20	20	[2]
Newport West	20	20	[2]
Ogmore	30	30	[2]
Pontypridd	30	30	[2]
Preseli Pembrokeshire	30	30	[2]
Rhondda	20	20	[2]
Swansea East	20	20	[2]
Swansea West	20	20	[2]
Torfaen	40	40	[2]
Vale of Clwyd	30	30	[2]
Vale of Glamorgan	20	20	[2]
Wrexham	20	20	[2]
Ynys Mon	20	10	[2]
Total[3]	910	860	40

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and show the number of people receiving an allowance at a non-standard rate and exclude those with entitlement where payment has been suspended.
[2] Nil or fewer than five
[3] Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will change his policy on ceasing carer's allowance on receipt of the state retirement pension at age 60; and if he will make a statement. [77711]

Mrs. McGuire: We have no current plans to change the policy on overlapping benefits in respect of carer's allowance and retirement pension.

It is a basic principle of the social security system that only one benefit at a time can be paid for the same purpose. Even though the circumstances which give rise to entitlement to carer's allowance and state pension are different, they are both designed to provide a degree of replacement for lost or forgone income. Carer's allowance was designed to provide a measure of replacement income where the duties of caring for a severely disabled person prevent the prospect of full-time work and the earnings it would yield. State pension was designed to provide a replacement income in retirement.

Although an entitlement to both benefits will mean that carer's allowance is not payable, or not payable in full, an underlying entitlement to carer's allowance gives access to additional financial support through the carer premium in housing benefit and council tax benefit and since 2003 the additional amount for carers in state pension credit.

Child Support

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will instruct the chief executive of the Child Support Agency to re-investigate the reasons for the reduction in child support paid to Mrs. N Darling of Dunstable; and if he will ask the chief executive of the Child Support Agency to allocate experienced forensic accountants to the case. [76047]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will instruct the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency to reinvestigate the reasons for the reduction in child support paid to Mrs N Darling of 6 Coombe Drive Dunstable; and if he will ask the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency to allocate experienced forensic accountants to the case.

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* fathers and *(b)* mothers have responsibility for (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five, (vi) six, (vii) seven and (viii) eight or more children in different households for whom there is a maintenance liability. [71471]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many (a) fathers and (b) mothers have responsibility for (i) one (ii) two (Hi) three (iv) four (v) five (vi) six (vii) seven and (viii) eight or more children in different households for whom there is a maintenance liability.

Having contacted your office for clarification, we understand that the information you required was the number of non-resident parents by gender, and the number of CSA cases for which the non-resident parent has a liability.

This information is presented in the attached table.

I hope you find this useful.

The number of non-resident parents by gender and the number of cases for which the non-resident parent is responsible; at March 2006.

	Non-resident parent	
Cases	*Female*	*Male*
1	70,000	1,009,000
2	1,000	47,000
3	—	3,000
4 (or more)	0	—

Notes:
1. The above includes cases that are open and have received a full maintenance calculation, full maintenance assessment or default maintenance decision. Cases where a nil liability has been established are included, but old scheme cases with a punitive Interim Maintenance Assessment are excluded, as are new scheme cases being processed clerically.
2. Volumes are rounded to the nearest thousand. '?' indicates a figure less than 500.

Communication Support Professionals

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what level of proficiency is expected of a sign language interpreter booked through the Access to Work scheme; and what steps his Department takes to ensure that this standard is met; [74545]

(2) what guidelines are issued to Access to Work staff on the provision of communication support professionals for deaf and hard of hearing people; and what steps are taken to monitor their implementation. [74546]

Mrs. McGuire: Each Access to Work application for help with interpreting support is dealt with on an individual basis. Guidance is issued to Access to Work advisers which asks them to take into account the customer's job role, their disability and any other help that might meet their needs at work. An expert assessment is commissioned, should there be any doubts as to what support might be necessary.

Access to Work policy guidance states that where British sign language interpretation is required, that a registered trainee interpreter (who has passed their stage 3) should be provided as a minimum.

All Access to Work business centre managers are routinely asked to ensure that the policy guidance is being adhered to within their teams.

In addition to this, Access to Work policy managers have been working in partnership with the Chief Officers' Group (a network of senior representatives of deaf organisations) to develop guidance on the likely level of qualification an interpreter might need in order to support someone to carry out various work-related tasks. This guidance is in draft format at the moment, but will be finalised and distributed to all business centres during June.

Departmental Annual Reports

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75095]

Mrs. McGuire: The Performance and Development System (PDS) appraisal policy, introduced for the 2003-04 financial year, allows the allocation of a Lower (U) box mark to denote unsatisfactory performance:

In 2004-05, 35 people were awarded a Lower (U) box mark. This represented 0.03 per cent. of the total number of employees (127,828) allocated a box mark in this period.

In 2003-04, 60 people were awarded a Lower (U) box mark. This represented 0.05 per cent. of the total number of employees (131,312) allocated a box mark in this period.

It should be noted that a new DWP disciplinary policy was introduced in October 2004 incorporating amendments to the Employment Act 2002. Previous to this, each of the businesses had their own guidance on disciplinary procedures. It is possible that this change in process may account for some of the change in the numbers allocated Lower (U) between 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Previous to the introduction of PDS, there were several box marking systems in concurrent use in different parts of the DWP. There was not a universally applicable equivalent of the PDS Lower (U) category and, hence, it is not possible to provide comparable statistics for 2002-03.

Departmental Pension Liability

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the pension liability of his Department over the next 30 years. [75237]

Mrs. McGuire: On 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-90 a technical note by HM Treasury was placed in the Library of the House following an oral statement in Parliament by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. This note is a full statement about these liabilities and provides detailed information about the size and nature of the liabilities and how they are calculated.

Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual Departments, they are estimated for individual pension schemes, as shown in the breakdown of liabilities per pension scheme given in table 1 of the technical note.

Departmental Staff

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department were *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* contractors and *(c)* other staff in each year since 1997. [27453]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of civil servants in the Department between 1998 and 2004 can be found at Table C on the Civil Service Statistics which shows permanent staff numbers (FTE basis) in each Department and agency.

Civil Service Statistics 2004 are available in the Library and on the Cabinet Office Statistics website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_of_the_civil_service/statistics/civil_service_statistics/index.asp

The data for 1997 can be obtained from Table C in Civil Service Statistics 2003.

Civil Service staffing trends by Department are now published by the Cabinet Office on a quarterly basis via its statistics website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/index.asp

The most recent figures reflecting staffing as at 31 December 2005 were published on 7 April 2006.

For ease of reference the figures since 1 April 2002, the first available since the Department's formation in June 2001, are in the following table:

	Number of staff
1 April 2002	125,910
1 April 2003	127,000
1 April 2004	129,200
31 March 2005	121,020
31 December 2005	117,680

Notes:
1. Figures are FTE rounded and include temporary staff.
2. Figures from 2002 to 2004 exclude staff on paid maternity leave.
3. Figures from 31 March 2005 are based on the Office for National Statistics definition.

No central data are held on the number of contractors or agency workers employed by the Department. The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate numbers in each of the last five years. [68001]

Mrs. McGuire: The information on the number of people disciplined and dismissed for inappropriate use of the internet for the period July 2003 to September 2005 is shown in the following table. No information is available for the period before July 2003.

Number of disciplinary and dismissal actions against DWP employees that were as a result of internet abuse

	Disciplined	*Dismissed*
July 2003 to December 2003	124	6
January 2004 to December 2004	190	18
January 2005 to December 2005	100	34

No information is held on the number of disciplinary actions or dismissals for using work telephones to access premium rate numbers.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what incentives his Department offers to encourage staff to share vehicles when travelling to work. [73104]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions' staff are encouraged to set up car sharing schemes; details of the benefits of car sharing and how to start and run schemes are on the departmental intranet. Staff are encouraged to participate in schemes run by other organisations, for example, local authorities.

The Department also offers other incentives to encourage more sustainable forms of travel; these include salary advances for the purchase of season travel tickets and bicycles. Concessionary bus passes are available in some locations and the Department also provides showers and changing facilities at a number of sites.

The Department promotes sustainable travel to work. Sustainable Transport Travel pages are available on the intranet. The travel pages promote awareness of travel options and include a copy of the Departmental Generic Travel Plan. Details of greener forms of transport are also included in the Departmental Induction Pack.

Departmental Targets

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken to improve reporting of performance against Departmental targets. [76517]

Mrs. McGuire: Performance towards achieving the Department's Public Service Agreement targets, and progress with its efficiency challenge, is reported on twice a year in the spring Departmental Report and the Autumn Performance Report.

This reporting complies with HM Treasury guidelines, and takes account of suggestions for improvement from the Parliamentary Scrutiny Unit, from the Work and Pensions Committee and the National Audit Office.

In addition, the Department reviews the quality of performance reporting on an ongoing basis, and seeks to implement improvements to the accuracy, consistency and coverage of its reporting wherever possible.

Disability Discrimination Legislation

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in making the Department compliant with the provisions of disability discrimination legislation. [75481]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is as follows:

Disability Equality Scheme

One of the main ways DWP is already working towards ensuring compliance with existing and new Disability Discrimination legislation is through publication of its Disability Equality Schemes by 4 December 2006. Businesses and corporate centre directorates will be involving disabled people in developing action plans for tackling problem areas and identifying positive actions to address these. The process to develop our Schemes was formally launched on 12 April 2006 by the Permanent Secretary. We have begun the process of involving both staff and customers in developing our Schemes and are planning a training strategy to ensure our staff are aware of the new legislation.

Equality Impact Assessment

We advise that all parts of DWP undertake to consider the potential impact of policy and services on all equality groups and we are implementing a new impact assessment tool across all diversity areas. We have already undertaken at least three impact assessments taking into account disability, with a number of additional assessments in the process of being completed.

Premises

DWP commissioned public access audits of all its premises used by the public during 2003. The results were used to develop a programme of public access improvements that was implemented in the following year and completed in March 2005, with the exception of a small number of Jobcentre Plus refurbishment programme sites, scheduled for completion in June 2006.

A total of 1,735 buildings were surveyed with access impotents works being undertaken at 1,032 sites at a cost of £4 million. The existing public access provisions are subject to annual review and any future additional requirement is built into the annual maintenance work programmes.

Disability Confident

The Department has worked in partnership with the Employers' Forum on Disability (EFD) in order to address the needs of its disabled customers. In particular, it has contributed, along with other public and private organisations, to the highly acclaimed interactive "Disability Confident" training resource pack.

Reasonable Adjustment pilots

DWP has been running two pilot exercises in the Disability and Carers' Service (DCS) on a revised process for delivering reasonable adjustments. The development of the new process was partly in response to the length of time it took to assess and put reasonable adjustments into place and partly to ensure that the recommended adjustment was the most suitable for that individual. The new process opens formal communication channels between suppliers and so far, the results have been positive. There has been a notable reduction in the time it is taking to achieve a successful outcome.

A third pilot is due to start in Jobcentre Plus shortly. We are already planning national implantation.

Diversity toolkit

We want our staff to understand and embrace diversity. An important part of achieving this has been our Diversity Toolkit.

The Toolkit makes all our diversity and equality information in one place. It sits on our internal website, where staff can work through its training modules at their own pace.

The Toolkit has been commended by the Institute of Welfare and is now being used, not only by them but also by around 70 other organisations, including the Metropolitan Police.

Disability Living Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of extending entitlement to the higher rate for Disability Living Allowance for mobility to all people of a qualifying age who are registered blind. [75336]

Mrs. McGuire: The estimated cost of extending automatic entitlement to the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance in this way would be about £61 million a year at current benefit rates[1].

[1] The estimate is based on the latest (31 March 2003) figures for the numbers of registered blind people in England, Scotland and Wales and on 100 per cent. data for the numbers of disability living allowance recipients as at November 2005 from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Forced Sterilisation

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure the inclusion of an article prohibiting forced sterilisation of children with disabilities in the forthcoming UN Convention on People with Disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [74987]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government consider that this matter is already addressed in general terms in the article in the present draft text of the convention concerning respect for home and the family, but would be prepared to consider any more specific proposals put forward during the next negotiating session on the draft convention in August 2006.

Gaming Machines

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the change in the number of gaming machines manufactured in the UK over the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [77152]

Mr. Caborn: I have been asked to reply.

My officials and I have regular discussions with the key trade bodies representing, and companies from, the gaming machine manufacturing sector.

These discussions provide the opportunity for the Department to gain a good understanding of the gaming machine industry and the issues it is facing. I will shortly be undertaking a fresh round of meetings with the industry.

Gershon Report

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many civil servants were employed in his Department before the Gershon report; what net reductions are proposed in the Gershon report; how many reductions have been made; and how many civil servants are expected to be employed in his Department in the Gershon target month of April 2008. [74286]

Mrs. McGuire: As set out in the Gershon Review the Department is planning to reduce staff numbers by a net 30,000 full-time equivalents by the agreed date of 31 March 2008 from a baseline of 132,550 as at 1 March 2004. As at 31 December 2005 the reduction achieved was 14,860.

Planned staffing in the Department at 31 March 2008 is 102,550 full-time equivalents.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by his Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature of the charges brought against them was. [73956]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not routinely obtained. In common with all Government Departments, DWP has in place standard pre-appointment checks which are carried out during the recruitment process and which are intended to ensure that the employment status of all applicants is confirmed prior to them being offered a post. These controls also have the effect of deterring prospective applicants who are not entitled to work in the UK. Decisions on the legality of an individual's status would be determined by the immigration authorities. Any information that comes to light during the recruitment process which raises a question about the immigration status of any individual applicant would be dealt with at the time. Where appropriate, authorities would be consulted on individual cases.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1350W to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), on incapacity benefit, when he expects his Department to conclude its review of the incapacity benefits caseload forecasts; and whether he plans to publish the forecasts. [73262]

Mrs. McGuire: The latest forecast estimates of the number of incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance claimants, consistent with the best available data, are shown up to 2019-20 in the following table. These forecasts do not take into account any of the proposed policy changes in the recent papers, "A new deal for welfare: Empowering people to work", or "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system".

Estimated numbers of working-age claimants of incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance, 2005-06 to 2019-20

	Thousand Number
2005-06	2,710
2006-07	2,650
2007-08	2,570
2008-09	2,490
2009-10	2,430
2010-11	2,400
2011-12	2,390
2012-13	2,370
2013-14	2,360
2014-15	2,350
2015-16	2,360
2016-17	2,380
2017-18	2,410
2018-19	2,440
2019-20	2,470

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.
2. Figures are forecasts, therefore subject to future revisions.
3. Figures include the impact of the one-third rollout of Pathways to Work and estimates of the impact of equalisation of state pension age on the IB caseload.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days have been lost to sickness absence in each of the last three years in Jobcentre Plus. [64500]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 April 2006:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many days have been lost to sickness absence in each of the last three years in Jobcentre Plus. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information is in the table.

Number of days lost to sickness absence in Jobcentre Plus

	Working days lost	Working days available	Average working days lost per staff full time equivalent (days)
2003-04	1,055,680	20,721,054	12.7
2004-05	978,869	19,573,156	12.5
2005-06	811,168	19,099,391	10.6

Jobcentre Plus has placed a great deal of emphasis on reducing sickness over several years and we continue to press for further improvement.

I hope this is helpful.

Large Print Materials

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of materials produced by his Department is available in large print. [75480]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department will, on request, supply any of its materials in large print.

Learning Disabilities (Work Opportunities)

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will publish the report of the joint Department for Work and Pensions/ Department of Health working group on learning disabilities, "Improving Work Opportunities for People with a Learning Disability". [75081]

Mrs. McGuire: The report "Improving Work Opportunities for People with a Learning Disability" is a report of a working group on learning disabilities and employment. The working group's report is to Ministers and to the Learning Disability Task Force and I expect it to be published shortly.

Poverty

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the Government *(a)* defines and *(b)* measures severe poverty; and if he will make a statement. [60606]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Specific information regarding low income for Wales, Scotland and the English regions is available in the latest publication of "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2004-05". The threshold of below 60 per cent. contemporary median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

Our current approach in "Opportunity for all" is to present a range of low-income thresholds (50, 60 and 70 per cent.). This gives an idea of the depth of poverty and it is simple to interpret. Indeed, the incorporation of two different relative low-income thresholds into our new child poverty measure (60 and 70 per cent. of median), together with the absolute tier, further ensures that different depths of poverty will be looked at separately.

We know that there are some anomalies at the very bottom end of the income distribution, due to people misreporting income, to self-employment, and to people on temporary zero income but with high living standards (e.g. students, people taking a career break). These become proportionally more important the smaller the group we focus on. That is part of the reason that, from next year, we will be collating material deprivation data as well, excluding people with low measured income but high living standards.

Sickness/Unauthorised Absence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level of *(a)* sickness and *(b)* unauthorised absence was in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies in each year since 1996-97; what progress has been made in meeting targets for a reduction in sickness and unauthorised absence; and if he will make a statement. [41328]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is as follows.

Days lost to sickness

The information available is contained in the following tables. The figures represent average working days lost per staff year, and have been drawn from the Cabinet Office's annual reports on sickness absence in the civil service. The information for 2005 is not yet available.

The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in 2001. The overall figures prior to this date relate to absence levels in the Department of Social Security and the Employment Service. A comprehensive breakdown of the DSS agencies' figures prior to 2001 is not available.

Table 1: Sickness absence information for the former DSS and ES

Department	1998	1999	2000
Employment Service	—	11.5	11.8
Department of Social Security	10.8	10.9	11.0

Table 2: Sickness absence information for DWP

Business	2001	2002	2003	2004
Appeals Service	—	—	—	—
Child Support Agency	11.0	11.6	13.8	11.6
Disability and Carers Service	—	—	—	—
Employment Service	12.8	13.5	—	—
Jobcentre Plus (Benefits Agency pre-2002)	10.6	10.8	12.0	9.8
The Pension Service	—	—	10.5	9.5
DWP overall	11.1	10.8	11.6	9.6

Since the end of 2004, the Department's internal figures indicate a further reduction of over 12 per cent. This improvement has been achieved by, among other things, increasing staff awareness of the issue and management's commitment to reducing absence levels; greater compliance with revised procedures, which were commended by the National Audit Office; improved management information about the level and type of absences through the introduction of a new computer system.

Days lost to unauthorised absence

The available information is in the following table. Information about unauthorised absences in DWP prior to 2003 is not fully available. The vast majority of these days lost are through industrial action. Days lost for reasons other than industrial action are negligible. If they occur, they are dealt with under the Department's disciplinary procedures.

Table 3: Average working days lost due to all unauthorised absences

DWP business	2003	2004	2005 (end October)
Appeals Service	—	—	—
Child Support Agency	0.01	2.21	0.03
Disability and Carers Service	0.01	1.94	0.03
Jobcentre Plus	0.02	2.08	0.03
The Pension Service	0.01	2.14	0.03
DWP overall	0.01	2.08	0.03

Table 4: Average working days lost per person due to unauthorised absence, excluding industrial action

DWP business	2003	2004	2005 (end October)
Appeals Service	—	—	—
Child Support Agency	0.01	0.04	0.03
Disability and Carers Service	0.01	0.02	0.03
Jobcentre Plus	0.01	0.04	0.03
The Pension Service	0.01	0.07	0.03
DWP overall	0.01	0.04	0.03

Special Advisers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid in *(a)* salary, *(b)* travelling expenses, *(c)* subsistence allowance and *(d)* removal expenses to special advisers in his private office in each of the last five years. [68992]

Mrs. McGuire: Because the specification requires data to be broken down into salary, travelling, subsistence and relocation, from three separate sources we are unable to supply information as this would involve disproportionate cost.

Telephone Helplines

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many telephone helplines his Department sponsors; and how many calls each helpline received in each of the last six years. [42540]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is in the following table:

		Calls received[1]					
Helplines	Number of current sites	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
CSA[2]							
CSA National Helpline	7	n/a	n/a	3,636,000	5,409,000	5,402,000	3,822,000
DCS							
Benefit Enquiry Line	1	1,307,042	1,270,624	1,431,594	1,589,145	1,452,359	919,387
Disability Living Allowance/Attendance Allowance	1	4,886,331	4,676,687	4,642,762	4,858,412	5,404,965	3,892,032
The Pension Service[3]							
Pension Centres	18	n/a	n/a	n/a	7,666,005	13,738,107	5,340,039
Pension Credit Application Line (Outsourced to Venture)	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,196,153	2,111,864	824,391
Retirement Pension Teleclaims	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	548,353	623,342	320,977
Retirement Pension Forecasting Team	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,541,421	812,039
Winter Fuel Helpline	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	470,152	535,973	334,603
Pension Guide Orderline	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	34,404	37,197	25,241
Pension Information orderline	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	51,828	96,366	77,589
Pensions Direct	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,022,090	1,221,628	673,978
International Pension Centre	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	113,452	245,088	265,902
Deficiency Notices	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	[4]	163,660	182,609
Inherited SERPS	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	26,428	24,035	[4]
Jobcentre Plus[5]							
Employer Direct[6]	9	n/a	n/a	1,825,674	1,897,435	1,811,692	1,189,690
Jobcentre Plus Direct—Jobseeker Direct[7]	23	n/a	n/a	7,136,858	8,197,452	9,245,148	7,290,219
Jobcentre Plus Direct—First Contact[8]	25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,728,115	4,536,843

Helplines	Number of current sites	Calls received[1] 2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
National Benefit Fraud Hotline[9]	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	278,513	200,336
Debt Management[10]							
Debt Centres service	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	50,678	257,771	433,638

n/a = not available
[1] Calls received is defined as calls offered to helpline sites during business hours. It includes calls that are answered and where the customer abandons the call.
[2] CSA does not hold sufficiently robust information for calls in 2000-02. Figures for 2005-06 are up to the end of December 2005 only.
[3] The Pension Service was launched in April 2002, when the majority of the contact centres/help-lines became fully operational. Appropriate data collection processes were put in place by August 2003; robust data are not available prior to August 2003. The Pension Credit Application Line came into operation in April 2003, data from that date are given in the response.
[4] Not in operation.
[5] There are 37 Jobcentre Plus Contact Centres of which: 27 provide First Contact and Jobseeker Direct services (22 CM5 sites), nine are Employer Direct and one is the National Benefit Fraud Hotline.
[6] Employer Direct was in its development and set up phase during 2001-02
[7] Jobseeker Direct—We do not hold any data for 2000-01 and 2001-02 as during that period the Jobseeker Direct function was being carried out in Districts. 23 sites deliver the Jobseeker Direct function (of these five are Employer Direct sites and two are Residual Jobseeker Direct sites).
[8] First Contact—The First Contact function did not commence until June 2004 therefore there is no data for previous periods. 25 sites deliver the First Contact function.
[9] Prior to 2004-05, National Benefit Fraud Hotline only measured calls answered.
[10] Debt recovery service is not specifically a helpline. Data for 2003-04 is from October 2003 onwards.

UN Draft Disability Treaty

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has sent officials to participate in negotiations on the UN draft Disability treaty. [75341]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department has led the UK delegation since the start of negotiations in 2002, and officials from my Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have participated in all the negotiating meetings on the draft UN Disability convention.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Government plans to bring forward changes to UK legislation to be compatible with the UN draft Disability treaty. [75296]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government actively support the Draft UN Disability Convention and are playing an active role in its negotiation. When the text is adopted by the UN General Assembly the Treaty will be open for signature and ratification by States. Depending on the final text of the Convention, it is possible that changes to national legislation may be required or that appropriate reservations are in place.

Vaccine Damage Payment Act

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims under the Vaccine Damage Payment Act 1979 were made in each year since 2000; and how many were successful. [76172]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of claims received and successful payments made under the Vaccine Damage Payments Act 1979, in each financial year since April 2000 is as follows:

1 April to 31 March	Number of claims received	Number of claims successful
2000-01	205	0
2001-02	146	2
2002-03	417	5
2003-04	165	4
2004-05	111	4
2005-06	106	4
2006-07 (to 7 June 2006)	14	2
Total	1,164	21

Source:
Vaccine Damage Payments Unit Database

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Air Industry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans the Government have for maintaining the UK air industry sector. [76613]

Margaret Hodge: The Government are working in partnership with the aerospace industry to strengthen the UK capabilities in this sector and are implementing the agenda set by the industry-led Aerospace Innovation and Growth Team report in 2003. This set out a vision for the future success of the industry that by 2022,

"The UK will offer a global Aerospace Industry the worlds most innovative and productive location, leading to sustainable growth for all its stakeholders".

The key areas of focus work are on technology, process excellence, skills, and environmental issues.

This implementation work is overseen by the Aerospace Innovation and Growth Leadership Council, which I chair jointly with Mike Turner, CEO of BAE Systems.

More information is set out in the DTI evidence to the Trade and Industry Committee inquiry in March 2005.

In regard to the defence air sector, the recently published Defence Industrial Strategy provided clarity to industry on our military capability requirements, and set out a requirement to work with BAE Systems and key areas of the supply chain to ensure a sustainable long-term industrial base.

Arms Exports

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what checks are made by his Department to ensure that ex-military aircraft transferred to countries subject to a UN arms embargo are not used for military purposes; and if he will make a statement. [77080]

Malcolm Wicks: Ex-military aircraft are rated ML10b under the UK's "Military List". As such, they would only receive a licence for export to an embargoed destination, where permitted by an exception in the embargo for example where they were to be used by UN representatives or peace keeping forces or for humanitarian work. In such cases a risk assessment is made before a licence is granted to verify the stated end-use.

Bonuses

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of his staff in each of the last three years; and at what total cost. [73029]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Department of Trade and Industry awards non-pensionable bonuses in two formats:

1. Special bonuses, for exceptional performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations. Staff in receipt of a special bonus may also receive an annual performance award.

2. Annual performance awards, paid to highly successful performers as part of the annual pay award.

The number of staff receiving awards, their financial value and their value as a proportion of the total paybill can be seen in the following table.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Special bonuses			
Number of staff awarded special bonuses	1,458	1,261	1,237
Value (£)	521,149	498,592	572,902
Performance awards			
Number of staff awarded performance awards	1,251	1,263	1,200
Value (£)	1,473,180	1,543,180	1,808,130
Total value (£)	1,994,329	2,041,772	2,381,032
Percentage of paybill	1.16	1.17	1.39

Business Closures (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many firms in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* the Peterborough city council area have ceased trading in each year since 1997. [76622]

Margaret Hodge: Value added tax (VAT) registrations and de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business start-ups and closures. DTI data on the number of VAT registrations and de-registrations in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* Peterborough city council area from 1997 to 2004 are shown in the following table. The table shows the number of new VAT registrations, the number of de-registrations and the ratio of de-registrations to registrations in each year are also shown.

VAT de-registrations and registrations 1997-2004

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Peterborough Constituency								
New registrations	285	250	260	250	250	280	290	245
De-registrations	210	240	190	210	185	245	265	220
ratio	0.74	0.96	0.73	0.84	0.74	0.88	0.91	0.90
Peterborough city council								
New registrations	480	440	435	405	430	485	525	440
De-registrations	325	355	300	365	330	385	435	405
ratio	0.68	0.81	0.69	0.90	0.77	0.79	0.83	0.92

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2004, Small Business Service, available at http://www.sbs.gov.uk/vats

In both Peterborough constituency and Peterborough city council area the stock of VAT registered businesses has increased each year since 1997, as registrations have exceeded de-registrations throughout this period.

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register will not necessarily have closed. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million businesses (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

Citizens Advice

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to his statement of 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 560, on Citizens Advice, if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that citizens advice bureaux operate in each major town in England. [73503]

Mr. McCartney: There are approximately 450 CAB bureaux in England and Wales and there is at least one in most major towns.

Decisions on whether a town has a CAB is a matter largely for the local authority and the Government have no powers to ensure this.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the Minister for Industry and the Regions will reply to the letter of 3 April from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on the Government's Enlightened Shareholder Value. [78038]

Margaret Hodge: I responded to the hon. Member on 9 June.

Departmental Press Office

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his Department's press office. [74352]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department collects data, on a voluntary basis, on the ethnic origin of its staff. Such data, relating to small individual business units, are not available for publication for reasons of confidentiality.

Note:

Civil Service Statistics contains information on the numbers of staff who have declared their ethnic background. The latest available information at April 2004 is available in the Library and on the civil service website at the following address:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/index.asp

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into his Department in each of the last three years. [77264]

Jim Fitzpatrick: People over 55 recruited as direct entrants into the Department of Trade and Industry are as follows:

	Age			
	56 - 58	*59 - 61*	*62 - 64*	*Total*
2003	2	1	1	4
2004	3	0	0	3
2005	3	0	0	3
2006	1	0	0	1

Energy Bills

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will initiate discussions with domestic energy utilities on ensuring that *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions from fuel consumption and *(b)* where appropriate, the fuel mix, is shown on the face of domestic energy bills. [75075]

Malcolm Wicks: Under fuel mix disclosure provisions inserted into electricity supply licences by regulations made under the European Communities Act, suppliers are already required to calculate, and make available to customers, information about the amount of carbon dioxide produced for each kWh of electricity generated. That information may be provided on or with bills. No equivalent provision exists for mains gas. The Energy Review is considering the arguments for requiring more informative bills for domestic gas and electricity customers.

Energy Consumers

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to assist vulnerable domestic energy customers. [78026]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has taken a number of actions to help vulnerable domestic gas and electricity customers. We have liaised closely with energy suppliers on the development of the Home Heat Helpline, a one-stop service providing vulnerable customers and their representatives with the range of help and information available from suppliers and Government. We have worked with Energywatch and Ofgem to encourage customers to use the competitive market to get the best deal. We have successfully promoted the introduction of social tariffs and price freezes for fuel-poor and low-income customers.

DTI's Design and Demonstration Unit, a team of private sector secondees that works in support of Energy White Paper objectives, has designed and delivered projects to provide gas connections to deprived communities, and is now developing community projects utilising renewable technologies.

DTI and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) share PSA targets in respect of fuel poverty. As part of the Energy Review, DTI is seeking to determine what further measures are needed to tackle fuel poverty.

Estate Agents

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress has been made with his plans for further regulation of estate agents. [77791]

Mr. McCartney: The Government are putting in place arrangements that will secure redress for consumers when they have legitimate complaints against estate agents. My officials are in discussion with the ombudsman for estate agents about approving a redress scheme under the Housing Act 2004 for complaints in respect of home information packs. The Government intend to extend the right of redress to cover all relevant complaints against estate agents throughout the UK at the first legislative opportunity. The Government also intend to introduce other measures to improve the regulation of estate agents that were recommended by the Office of Fair Trading.

Farming

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of farmers who went bankrupt in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2005. [76180]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Official insolvency statistics are available by broad industry sector.

Bankruptcies in the agriculture and horticulture sector in England and Wales are as follows:

	Number
2003	151
2004	204
2005	195

Company liquidations in agriculture and horticulture in England and Wales are as follows:

	Number
2003	52
2004	35
2005	35

Gas and Electricity

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to encourage greater liquidity in the wholesale gas market. [78023]

Malcolm Wicks: Since last summer, the Department and OFGEM have been working closely with the Futures and Options Association (FOA) to identify the reasons for the lack of liquidity in the gas and power markets and to see if there are any barriers the Government could help overcome.

The FOA organised a roundtable on 1 November 2005 and have been taking forward work on a number of priority actions with a particular focus on power:

To establish a Steering Group to assess the viability, and, as appropriate, take forward the establishment of an auction market for the trading of UK power—this is expected to make a recommendation to the industry in the summer with a view to implementing changes before the winter.

To respond to the Government announcement for reviewing energy policy, particularly in the context of appropriate market mechanisms, and to brief MPs on energy issues—the FOA organised a briefing session under the auspices of the Associate Parliamentary Group on Wholesale Financial Markets and Services on 6 March.

The FOA held a further roundtable for investment banks and brokerage houses on 6 June to ascertain their views on the state of the energy market, and what could be done to improve liquidity.

In addition to the work with the FOA, DTI officials have been holding separate meetings with representatives of traders and exchanges to investigate why there are not more players and whether there is anything that could be done to improve the structure of the market.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent assessment he has made of the impact of gas and electricity prices on public sector expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [78024]

Malcolm Wicks: Preliminary figures from the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) indicate that public expenditure on gas and electricity was between £1.5 and £2 billion in 2003-04. This figure is indicative as it is based on information from a sample of public sector administrations. This information is not regularly updated.

The latest DTI statistics, March 2006 (http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file26972.pdf) indicate that retail prices paid by small industrial consumers—a proxy for the public sector—for gas and electricity increased by 80 per cent. and 53 per cent. respectively, between January 2004 and January 2006.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent assessment he has made of the impact of gas and electricity prices on UK competitiveness; and if he will make a statement. [78025]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government take the recent increases in energy prices very seriously, and particularly their impact on the competitiveness of UK industry. We have been engaged in continual dialogue with industry to find solutions and mitigate the impacts of high gas and electricity prices. Our discussions with the Energy Intensive Users Group and others have helped us focus our efforts on maximising gas and electricity supplies, improving the operation of the market, encouraging demand side response and pursuing fair access to markets across Europe.

Over the summer we will be pursuing a detailed work plan with Ofgem, national grid, industry and others to ensure we are in the best possible position ahead of next winter. And at a higher level, the new Business Energy Forum will discuss security of supply from a strategic viewpoint.

The impact on UK businesses of increases in gas and electricity prices will depend on a variety of factors, including how much gas or electricity a particular company uses, the degree of their exposure to spot and forward prices and the duration of high prices. It will

also be affected by the energy prices paid by their competitors. A further sector-specific issue is whether they are in a competitive market where international trade sets the price or in a sector where prices are determined more locally and rising energy costs could be passed on.

It should be noted that between 1990 and 2004, the relative costs of gas and electricity to UK industry were approximately £8 billion and £9 billion less respectively than their German counterparts. I do however recognise that the UK has seen sharp price rises since then.

Hydroelectricity

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what evaluation his Department has carried out of the potential energy generation from the River Severn from *(a)* incorporating hydroelectric generating equipment at the five existing weirs between Stourport and Gloucester and *(b)* building five variable height weirs with hydroelectric generating equipment between Bridgnorth and Stourport. [75493]

Malcolm Wicks: In 1987 the then Department of Energy commissioned the University of Salford to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the economic potential for small-scale hydroelectric generation throughout the UK.

The scope of the study extended to sites with installed capacities in the range 25 kW to 5 MW. Further limiting conditions were to disregard sites with hydraulic heads of less than two metres, with existing civil works, or less than three metres with no existing civil works.

The comprehensive results of the study were published in the report "Small Scale Hydroelectricity Generation Potential in the UK" ETSU-SSH-4063 (parts 1-3) a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent on information technology (IT) sourced from outside his Department in each of the last five years; who is responsible for such projects in his Department; and what IT *(a)* expertise and *(b)* qualifications they possess. [71807]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has a long term PFI Agreement with its IS/IT partner Fujitsu to supply its desktop services to the Department.

The spend for the last five years with Fujitsu, covering desktop services and application development and support is as follows:

	£ million Amount
2001-02	36
2002-03	35
2003-04	37
2004-05	32
2005-06	30

Responsibility for ICT projects rests with Information and Workplace Services Directorate within the Department. As it is a PFI contract the IT expertise, and associated qualifications, rests with Fujitsu.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was in each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed with outside suppliers over the last five years. [71808]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has a main Information Technology contract which is a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Agreement with Fujitsu Services and has been in place for more than five years. The Department has also recently awarded a Competed Services Framework Arrangement to six other suppliers and this will enable an element of competition for future IT projects. To date no significant contracts have been awarded to these suppliers.

For the Department's PFI Agreement with Fujitsu, covering desktop services and application development and support, spend in the last five years has been:

	£ million Amount
2001-02	36
2002-03	35
2003-04	37
2004-05	32
2005-06	30

Mesothelioma

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the House of Lords judgment in the case of Barker v. Corus UK Ltd. on future spending plans of his Department in respect of expenditure on compensation payments for those suffering from mesothelioma. [75765]

Malcolm Wicks: The ruling should enable the Department, in respect of claims against British shipbuilders, to pay our part of any compensation more quickly as we would not have to wait until all insurers had been found and agreed to their share of liability. The wider implications of this judgment are currently under review.

Miners' Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on how many occasions his Department has agreed to make compensation payments as an employer through negotiation with a claims handler. [75867]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The Department has Claims Handling Agreements (CHAs) with the Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM)/

Vendside for processing vibration white finger and respiratory disease claims. The Department has a further agreement with the UDM for handling hearing loss claims.

We have also received a few claims from other claims handlers which have been handled under the terms of the CHA for claims submitted by solicitors.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the process is by which claimants for coal-related health compensation represented by UDM/Vendside and not by a solicitor can *(a)* apply for and *(b)* receive a copy of their claimant file. [75868]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The Department would advise claimants to apply to their representatives for copies of any papers they wish to receive.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which departmental Ministers have met with Vendside Ltd. in each year since 1998. [75869]

Malcolm Wicks: We have clear records of the following Ministers having met Vendside Ltd.: Peter Hain and Brian Wilson on separate occasions in 2001 and Nigel Griffiths in 2004. We cannot be certain that other Ministers did not also meet Vendside Ltd.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether his Department has established a procedure for claimants of coal-related health compensation to complain about poor services provided by claims handlers. [76442]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* No such procedure has been established. The majority of claims handled by claims handlers are processed in accordance with a Claims Handling Agreement agreed between the Department and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers/Vendside Ltd. We have also received a few other claims from claims handlers which are processed under the terms of the Claims Handling Agreement agreed with solicitors.

Claimants who are unhappy with their representation are free to transfer their claim to an alternative representative. The Compensation Bill currently progressing through Parliament will introduce a regulatory framework for claims handlers.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discounts are available in relation to hotel accommodation used by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department. [69003]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DTI civil servants and special advisors benefit from discounted hotel accommodation provided through a Cross-Government Hotel Booking Agent Contract.

The Department keeps no record of discounts available in relation to hotel accommodation for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers. To provide this information would entail disproportionate cost.

Nuclear Energy

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many representations he has received from members of the public since 1 January *(a)* supporting and *(b)* opposing the extension of nuclear energy generation. [76736]

Malcolm Wicks: Since 1 January, 2006 I have received many representations, in the context of the Energy Review and more widely, on the role of nuclear power.

In relation to the Energy Review consultation, releasing figures for only some of the responses, out of context and without accompanying analysis, has the potential to mislead the public by focusing on the views and comments of only one section of the respondents.

We will publish a summary of the responses to the Energy Review consultation in the coming weeks. The responses are currently being posted in full on the DTI website: www.dti.gov.uk/energy/review.

Petroleum Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the operation of *(a)* the Petroleum Act 1998 and *(b)* the Fossil Fuel Levy Act 1998; and what recent representations he has received about the operation of each Act. [77802]

Malcolm Wicks: The Petroleum Act 1998 consolidated previous enactments about petroleum, offshore installations and submarine pipelines. In brief, part I of the Petroleum Act 1998 empowers the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to grant to such persons as he thinks fit licences to explore for, drill for and extract petroleum; Part II applies criminal law to offshore activities; Part III empowers the Secretary of State to control the construction and use of offshore pipelines; and Part IV deals with the abandonment of offshore installations.

The Petroleum Act 1998 is a key part of the regulatory regime that allows the Government to manage the UK's oil and gas resources, with the overall aim of maximising economic recovery. The Government continue to work closely with industry in PILOT, the oil and gas taskforce that I chair, to ensure that we have the licensing, environmental and business frameworks that will attract the investment needed to deliver the North sea's full potential. The operation of the Petroleum Act 1998 naturally forms part of that wider picture, alongside a range of positive initiatives.

The Fossil Fuel Levy Act 1998 (which amended section 33 of the Electricity Act in its original form) was repealed by the Utilities Act 2000, which introduced the renewables obligation. However, provisions dealing with the Fossil Fuel Levy continue in a modified form by virtue of the Electricity from Non-Fossil Fuel Sources Savings Arrangements Orders made in 2000 and 2001. The fossil fuel levy is currently set at zero. The contractual arrangements made under the non-fossil fuel obligation also remain in place by virtue of the NFFO Savings Order. I have received no recent representations about the fossil fuel levy.

Post Offices

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices have closed in *(a)* Devon, *(b)* Cornwall, *(c)* Somerset and *(d)* Dorset in each of the last five years. [76250]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The question the hon. Member has asked relates to operational matters for which Post Office Ltd. is directly responsible. However, Post Office Ltd. have provided the following figures relating to the numbers of post office branches in Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset.

Number of Post Office branches open

	Devon	Cornwall	Somerset	Dorset
2001-02	436	291	218	230
2002-03	425	275	215	224
2003-04	394	264	205	197
2004-05	364	262	195	195
2005-06	358	264	194	187

Information relating to post office branches for each parliamentary constituency is placed in the Libraries of the House on an annual basis.

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in Hove constituency since 1997. [76684]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The question the hon. Member has asked relates to operational matters for which Post Office Ltd. is directly responsible. However, Post Office Ltd. have provided the following figures relating to the number of post office branches in Hove constituency.

Post Office branches open in Hove

	Number
2001-02	22
2002-03	20
2003-04	14
2004-05	14
2005-06	14

Note: Data on post offices closed in Hove constituency since 1997 is not available prior 2000.

Information relating to post office branches for each parliamentary constituency is placed in the Libraries of the House on an annual basis.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices have been closed in villages and towns with a population smaller than 10,000 inhabitants in each year since 1997. [78206]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The question the hon. Member has asked relates to operational matters for which Post Office Ltd. (POL) is directly responsible. However, POL have provided the following figures relating to the net reduction in rural Post Office branches by year.

	Net reduction in rural branches
2000-01	441
2001-02	194
2002-03	115
2003-04	149
2004-05	144
2005-06	149

Post Office branches are classified as being in either urban or rural areas, with rural areas being defined as settlements with less than 10,000 inhabitants, this definition follows that of the Countryside Agency and was adopted at the end of 1999-2000 in preparation for the PIU report.

Data on the net reduction in the number of branches in settlements with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants (rural branches) is not available prior 2000.

Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what incentives are available to encourage members of his staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75116]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI offers interest free loans to its staff for the purchase of season tickets.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of the UK's energy came from renewable energy sources in 2005-06; and what steps his Department is taking to increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources. [77675]

Malcolm Wicks: Full details of generation from renewable energy in 2005 will be published in the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics on 27 July 2006, a copy of which will be available from the Libraries of the House.

It is currently estimated that 4.2 per cent. of the UK's electricity was generated from all sources of renewable energy in 2005.

The Government's main mechanism for delivering new renewable generating capacity is the renewables obligation (RO). The RO requires electricity suppliers to source an increasing proportion of their electricity sales from eligible sources of renewable energy.

As support to the RO, the Government are also investing around £500 million, between 2002 and 2008, in capital grants and research and development on renewable energy. Money that has already been allocated includes £50 million for the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund and £117 million for offshore wind. The Chancellor also announced in the Budget a further £50 million, on top of the £30 million that I had previously announced, for the Low Carbon Building Programme, which supports microgeneration and energy efficiency measures.

Social Enterprises

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many social enterprises have been taken over by private companies in each of the last five years. [77641]

Margaret Hodge: This is not information that the DTI collects, nor are we aware of any source which records this kind of data.

Telephone/Internet Services

Ms Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on progress in extending choice and competition in telephone and internet services to the residents and businesses of Kingston upon Hull. [72538]

Margaret Hodge: The matter raised is the responsibility of the regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom) which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to my hon. Friend. Copies of the chief executive's letter have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Thompson's Solicitors

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many chronic obstructive pulmonary disease cases have been settled by Thompson's Solicitors in *(a)* North Durham and *(b)* County Durham. [77804]

Malcolm Wicks: Thompsons solicitors have settled 7,428 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims for claimants in County Durham[1] of which 994 were in North Durham.

[1] County Durham is made up of North Durham, North West Durham, City of Durham, Easington, Sedgefield and Bishop Auckland constituencies.

Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department takes on receipt of an HR1 form under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. [77909]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Officials check that the employer has complied with the statutory advance notification requirements of 90 days notice of 100 or more proposed redundancies in a 90-day period, or 30 days notice of between 20 and 99 proposed redundancies in a 90-day period. The information is then passed to the relevant local government offices and agencies so that they can take any appropriate measures to assist or retrain the employees in question. Job centre plus offers access to a range of support schemes designed to help those facing redundancy. It provides information on job searching; compiling CVs; further education and training for individuals who need to develop new skills; as well as benefits information. It liaises with the employer and other partners (The Regional Development Agency, the Local Learning and Skills Council (LLSC), the local authority, Chamber of Commerce), to assess the scale of any redundancy situation. If local partners agree it is 'large scale' Job centre plus calls on its Rapid Response Unit, which is a flexible service, tailored to the needs of the particular area, sector and company. The help required is agreed in discussion with the employer, and in liaison with the local government office and the LLSCs.

Venture Capital

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to increase access to venture capital for manufacturing firms in the North East. [77186]

Margaret Hodge: Manufacturing is still, and will continue to be, a very important part of the UK economy. The importance of manufacturing to the North East of England, and to the whole UK economy, is recognised in the Department of Trade and Industry's Manufacturing Strategy. Launched in 2002 and reviewed in 2004, the strategy sets out the actions needed to create a high value, high skill manufacturing sector capable of introducing new products and processes into our economy, creating new markets, and delivering a huge boost to our growth and prosperity.

Government will continue to work with regional agencies, the business community, trade unions and others to ensure that the region (and the UK) makes the most of the opportunities to shift from low-cost/low added-value manufacturing to a sustainable, high added value, high skill, knowledge-led economy. We will continue to develop policies to achieve the right climate for business growth.

The UK is widely acknowledged as possessing a dynamic and efficient financial market, meeting the financing needs of the majority of businesses. Nevertheless, a small but important minority of innovative, growth-oriented small businesses continue to face difficulties in attracting the funding (particularly risk capital and equity in the £500,000 to £2 million region) that they need to realise their ambitions, providing a case for targeted Government intervention to assist markets where these difficulties create a significant barrier to enterprise and innovation, and hence to productivity growth. Over recent years, the Government have played an important role in ensuring that markets work effectively and that any gaps or weaknesses are addressed. The provision of publicly supported finance schemes (loan, mezzanine and equity) for small businesses has increased significantly over the last few years, increasing access to funding for manufacturing firms and others in order to invest in new technologies and improve productivity.

The Regional Venture Capital Fund (RVCF), an England-wide programme to provide risk capital in amounts up to £500,000, was created to support small growing companies, with £80 million of Government investment attracting a further £155 million from private sector investors. Capital North East (the North East RVCF) was launched in 2002, and the fund totalled £15 million.

The consultation paper "Bridging the finance gap—a consultation on improving access to growth capital for small businesses" published jointly by HM Treasury and SBS/DTI in April 2003 set out what more could be done to ensure that entrepreneurs have access to the finance they need to turn their ideas into thriving businesses. This led to the creation of Enterprise Capital Funds (ECFs), which will invest a combination of private and public money in small high-growth businesses seeking between £250,000 and £2 million of equity finance. Four funds have been approved to date, with the possibility of further funds being announced, and although not

targeted specifically at the North East, they will be available to SMEs in the region. North East enterprise agency Entrust is a partner in the Seraphim Capital Fund, one of the successful funds announced last month, and will act to promote and co-ordinate applications from regional companies seeking growth funding.

Among schemes to support social enterprise and growth in disadvantaged areas, the Bridges Community Development Venture Fund is a £40 million, 50:50 partnership between Government and the Venture Capital industry. The fund is targeted at the most deprived 25 per cent. of areas of England and includes a number of North East wards. The Coalfields Enterprise Fund, launched by the Deputy Prime Minister in early 2004, is a venture capital fund specifically set up to finance growth-oriented companies and to encourage entrepreneurship in England's former coalfield areas. Investments are on a 50:50 co-investment basis between £40,000 and £500,000.

The North East Equity Matching Fund (NEEMF) is an innovative and unique venture capital co-investment fund which aims to generate and increase Business Angel activity in the North East of England. NEEMF can match, on a pari passu basis, investments made by private investors or business angels who may not have sufficient resources to wholly fund the business or who wish to spread the risk. The investment range is from £25,000 to £100,000 in the first round with the capacity to aggregate up to £200,000 in a second round after nine months has elapsed. The total equity raised in the initial round must not exceed £250,000. Investments will usually be in the form of ordinary and/or preference shares and will be made at the same time as the private investment. The legal process is aimed at keeping time scales and costs to a minimum.

European funding in the form of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is also used to support Venture Capital and Loan Funds (VCLFs) in the region. The North East Co-Investment Fund (CoIF) and the North East Proof of Concept (PoC) Fund are both managed by NorthStar Equity Investors. The Proof of Concept Fund is a convertible loan fund, investing in technology and science based SMEs and in activities leading to SME formation spun-out from the research and business base in the North East of England. The Co-Investment Fund (COIF) is a £23 million venture capital fund that invests alongside private investors in high-growth technology-focused SMEs.

Equity is of course only a part of the overall funding picture and the North East region has also benefited from other publicly supported funds including the North East Investment Fund 3. Launched in 2003, this £18 million fund provides unsecured convertible loans for SMEs.

Women Entrepreneurs

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps the Government have taken to promote venture capital funds for women entrepreneurs. [77640]

Margaret Hodge: The 'UK Survey of SME Finances 2004' identified that gender was not an issue for female entrepreneurs accessing external finance. Among established businesses, women-led businesses seek the same levels of external finance and are just as likely as male-owned business to obtain the finance they sought.

While there is no universal gender issue regarding access to finance, depending upon their personal circumstances, some women do experience problems. In light of this, the SBS Women's Stakeholder Group and RDAs supported a series of regional 'Access to Finance' roadshow events for female entrepreneurs between January and June 2006.

Youth Training

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what regular liaison takes place between his Department and *(a)* other Government Departments and *(b)* non-governmental organisations on the training of young people. [77831]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has regular contact with a number of Government Departments on the training of young people such as Department for Education and Skills, Department for Work and Pensions, HM Treasury, Department for Communities and Local Government, HM Revenue and Customs, Home Office, Department of Health, Ministry of Defence, Department for Environment and Rural Affairs, Cabinet Office and the devolved Administrations.

The Department is also represented on several bodies which cover this area:

Skills Alliance (includes Department for Education and Skills, Department for Work and Pensions and Treasury) which oversees the effective implementation of the Government's Skills Strategy.

Skills Alliance Delivery Group (includes the Learning and Skills Council, Sector Skills Development Agency and Northwest Regional Development Agency) which supports the Skills Alliance in ensuring the effective delivery of the Government's Skills Strategy.

Skills Alliance Social and Economic Partners (includes TUC, CBI and the Small Business Council) which stimulates wider engagement, agrees broad direction, and takes stock of progress on the skills agenda from a strategic perspective. Cross Government Forum for Enterprise whose remit includes finding ways to encourage enterprise learning among young people.

School Science Programme Board.

The Department also has regular contact with a number of other organisations including a wide range of business organisations and science, technology, engineering and mathematics educational organisations, the Learning and Skills Council, Regional Development Agencies, Regional Skills Partnerships, Investors in People, Job Centre Plus, Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, Head Teachers and Industry, Enterprise Insight, National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship, Sector Skills Councils and Sector Skills Development Agency.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many therapeutic abortions were performed on women in Northern Ireland in each

year since 1976, broken down by *(a)* age of the woman, *(b)* progress of the pregnancy and *(c)* health board area. [77495]

Paul Goggins: The Abortion Act 1967 does not extend to Northern Ireland. Consequently the termination of a pregnancy is not permitted except where necessary to save the life of the mother or where continuation of the pregnancy would involve risk of serious injury to her physical or mental health.

Due to the small numbers involved, information on medical abortions cannot be provided broken down by (a) age or by *(c)* health board of residence as requested without risking the possible identification of individuals.

Information on *(b)* the progress of the pregnancy is not available centrally.

The following table provides figures for the number of medical abortions recorded in Northern Ireland hospitals for each calendar year from 1995 (the earliest year for which robust data is available) to 2004 (the latest year for which information is available).

	Medical abortions
1995	72
1996	64
1997	80
1998	71
1999	76
2000	82
2001	75
2002	76
2003	73
2004	59
Total	592

Source:
Hospital Inpatients System

Bilingual Translation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much it cost to provide bilingual translation services in the Department of *(a)* Education and *(b)* Health Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [76415]

Maria Eagle: The information is as follows.

The costs incurred by the Department of Education for translations of documents in the last five are as follows:

	£
2001-02	20,345
2002-03	16,262
2003-04	10,817
2004-05	13,655
2005-06	[1]8,026

[1] Figure for 2005-06 is not final due to outstanding invoices.

The costs incurred by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for translations of documents in the last five years are as follows:

	£
2001-02	45,039
2002-03	95,620
2003-04	31,467
2004-05	9,746
2005-06	26,520

Bonfire Safety

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of people who have suffered major burns in the run-up to the bonfire season in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [77343]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the number of admissions to hospital with a primary or secondary diagnosis of burns for each month during 2004-05 (the latest year for which data is available). For the purpose of this answer, any burn that required hospital admission has been deemed a major burn.

It should be noted that any individual could have been admitted to hospital more than once over the course of a year and would therefore be counted more than once in the figures.

Month of admission	*Admissions[1] due to burns*
April 2004	24
May 2004	37
June 2004	20
July 2004	27
August 2004	26
September 2004	25
October 2004	27
November 2004	31
December 2004	28
January 2005	31
February 2005	29
March 2005	27
Total	332

[1] Deaths and Discharges are used as an approximation to admissions.
Source:
Hospital Inpatients System DHSS&PS.

The NI Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) is a member of an inter-agency Working Group on Bonfires. This group, which includes representatives from a wide range of statutory bodies, aims to educate people on the dangers of bonfires and to give advice on how to act safely around them. The NIFRS also works closely with Community Safety Partnerships on issues such as this.

Brain Gym

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to public funds was of implementing the 'brain gym' programme in Northern Ireland's schools in 2005-06. [74693]

Maria Eagle: The Regional Training Unit (RTU) which provides training to the education sector in

Northern Ireland offers 'brain gym' training through its summer school programme. In 2005-06 the cost of RTU training from public funds was £5,920.00. None of the education and library boards directly funded the 'brain gym' programme in Northern Ireland's schools in 2005-06. Individual schools may purchase training from their delegated budgets, but to obtain details of any such expenditure on 'brain gym' expenditure could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

Care Leavers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the new regulations and guidance announced by his Department in Northern Ireland on 25 May 2005 to improve services for young people leaving care. [77310]

Paul Goggins: The Children (Leaving Care) Act (NI) 2002 and supporting regulations and guidance came into operation on 1 September 2005.

The Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) appointed a Regional Implementation Project Officer in September 2005 to contribute to the successful implementation of the Children (Leaving Care) Act, by ensuring that a framework is established to support the development of consistent standards and practices across Northern Ireland, so that young people leaving care are afforded optimal life chances as they make the transition to independent living. A number of working groups are currently working on the implementation of various aspects of the legislation taking account of both the guidance and regulations. A complete baseline analysis of the leaving care population was undertaken at the end of September 2005. This analysis will be repeated at the end of September 2006.

On 8 June 2006, the Department hosted a 'stock take' conference. This provided an opportunity for Health and Social Service Trust leaving and after care teams to share their experience of the new legislation and the implementation process to date. The Department will also host an assessment seminar on the implementation of the legislation in November/December 2006, i.e. roughly one year after the introduction of the legislation. The views of young people affected by the legislation and other stakeholders will be sought on all aspects of the legislation including the operation of the regulations and guidance.

Corporation Tax

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has discussed the impact on business growth in Northern Ireland of different rates of corporation tax between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. [77091]

Maria Eagle: The Secretary of State has discussed with business leaders a range of policy initiatives to stimulate the Northern Ireland economy, including the issue of a reduction in the rate of corporation tax. However, taxation is an excepted matter, which is the responsibility of HM Treasury.

Departmental Estate

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* land and *(b)* property his Department (i) owns and (ii) rents in each constituency; and if he will make a statement. [33251]

Mr. Hain: The NIO holds 70 properties of which 37 are leased and 33 owned.

The constituency background is as follows:

	Leased	*Owned*
North Down	6	19
West Belfast	1	0
South Belfast	13	0
East Belfast	10	4
Londonderry	1	0
Lagan Valley	0	2
Mid Ulster	2	0
West Tyrone	2	0
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	1	0
Strangford	1	8
Total	37	33

The NIO does not hold any land other than the land on which the property is based.

Education and Library Board Expenses

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on *(a)* travel and *(b)* attendance for each independent member of the South Eastern Education and Library Board in each of the last five years. [77224]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer on 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 365W. Details of the emoluments paid annually by the South Eastern Education and Library Board to its members are published in the Board's annual reports and annual accounts, copies of which are placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These include details of the highest payment for any Board member, the aggregate amount of emoluments, and the number of members who received emoluments falling within a five-band range.

Energy Efficiency

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent in Northern Ireland on raising public awareness of energy efficiency in each of the last five years. [75589]

Maria Eagle: Northern Ireland Government Departments incurred the following expenditure for the promotion of energy efficiency in Northern Ireland over the last five years.

	£
2001-02	1,269,600
2002-03	1,470,000
2003-04	2,331,000
2004-05	2,516,600
2005-06	4,172,200

Gas

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions has he has met representatives of Phoenix Gas to discuss gas prices in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [77222]

Maria Eagle: Angela Smith, the Minister formerly responsible for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, met with representatives of Phoenix Natural Gas (PNG) on three occasions in the last 12 months.

Illegal Food Imports

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much illegal food product was seized at each airport in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and how many people have been prosecuted. [77425]

David Cairns: The information is as follows:

Belfast International Airport

	Number of seizures	*Animal and plant product total (Kg)*
2001	11	18.5
2002	72	500.5
2003	28	289
2004	11	83
2005	15	240.1

Belfast City Airport

	Number of seizures	*Animal and plant product total (Kg)*
2001	42	278.72
2002	287	1568.362
2003	208	1477
2004	332	2556.6
2005	279	1452.5

Litter/Dumping

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many fixed penalty notices for *(a)* litter and *(b)* illegal dumping in Northern Ireland (i) were issued, (ii) were paid, (iii) were rescinded and (iv) remained outstanding six months later in each of the last three years. [76646]

David Cairns: The Department of the Environment does not hold information on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for littering. There are currently no legislative powers to issue fixed penalty notices for illegal dumping. However, The Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 permitted councils to retain receipts from fixed penalty notices issued for littering and dog fouling from 1 December 2005. It also gave the Department of the Environment the power to obtain information on the use of its fixed penalty receipts. Information on the use of the receipts, together with other relevant information, will be requested after the scheme has been operating for one year.

Mental Health

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were diagnosed with *(a)* schizophrenia and *(b)* catatonia in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [77363]

Paul Goggins: The number of people diagnosed with *(a)* schizophrenia and *(b)* catatonia in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years is not available as some people with such problems are not in contact with healthcare providers in a hospital setting. However, information is available on the number of in-patients in mental health hospitals in Northern Ireland as at 31 March 2003 and 2004, The following table provides figures on the number of such in-patients who had been diagnosed with *(a)* schizophrenia and *(b)* catatonia.

	Diagnosis	
As at 31 March	*(a) schizophrenia*	*(b) catatonia*
2003	111	7
2004	105	6

Source:
Northern Ireland Psychiatric Census of long-stay and detained patients.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females have suffered from (i) severe depressive illness, (ii) catatonia and (iii) a prolonged or severe manic episode in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which information is available, broken down by age group. [77364]

Paul Goggins: Information on the total number of people suffering from (i) severe depressive illness, (ii) catatonia and (iii) a prolonged or severe manic episode is not available as some people with such problems are not in contact with healthcare providers in a hospital setting. However, information is available on the number of in-patients in mental health hospitals in Northern Ireland as at 31 March 2003 and 2004. The following table provide figures on the number of such in-patients who had been diagnosed with (i) severe depressive illness, (ii) catatonia and (iii) a prolonged or severe manic episode. The small numbers involved make it unsafe to disclose the age-group and gender of these diagnostic groups without risking patient confidentiality.

Diagnosis	As at 31st March 2003	2004
(i) Severe Depressive Illness	9	8
(ii) Catatonia	7	6
(iii) Prolonged or Severe Manic Episode	<5	5

Source:
Northern Ireland Psychiatric Census of long-stay and detained patients.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in each Northern Ireland Department, including the Northern Ireland Office, staying overnight in the (i) UK, (ii) the Republic of Ireland and (iii) other countries in each of the last three years. [69229]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The cost of overnight accommodation for civil servants employed by Northern Ireland Departments, excluding the Northern Ireland Office, for the period 1 November 2004 to 31 March 2006 is set out as follows:

	UK	ROI	£000 Others
2004-05	139	1.5	1.5
(with effect from 1 October 2004 onwards)			
2005-06	276	7.4	8.4

These figures relate only to accommodation booked through the NICS contracted booking agent and do not include any accommodation booked through other channels as to obtain this information would be at disproportionate cost. Costs of accommodation booked through the booking agent prior to 1 November 2004 are not available. Costs by Department are also not available.

The cost of overnight accommodation and subsistence for civil servants employed by the Northern Ireland Office for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2006 is as follows:

	£000 Amount
2003-04	456.9
2004-05	375.5
2005-06	472.3

It is not possible to separate the cost of overnight subsistence and hotel accommodation for NIO civil servants or to split the spend over UK, ROI and others except at disproportionate cost.

(b) The cost of overnight accommodation for special advisers for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2006 is as follows:

	UK	ROI	£ Others
2003-04	77	209	1,044
2004-05	324	0	263
2005-06	1,416	172	0

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discounts are available in relation to hotel accommodation used by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in each Northern Ireland Department including the Northern Ireland Office. [69231]

Mr. Hanson: Northern Ireland Departments including the Northern Ireland Office use Hotel Booking Agents to book hotel accommodation and on average obtain a 40 per cent. discount.

National Stadium

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on consultants' fees for the project for a new national stadium in Northern Ireland. [74716]

Mr. Hanson: The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, together with the Strategic Investment Board (SIB), has spent a total of £205,394.34 (excluding VAT) on consultants' fees for the project for a new multi-sports stadium for Northern Ireland.

Nuclear Emergency Drills

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what nuclear emergency drills involving local authorities and emergency services are planned over the next 12 months. [77348]

David Cairns: Government Departments in Northern Ireland are not planning any nuclear emergency drills involving local authorities and emergency services over the next 12 months.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what role the Government expect nuclear power to play in meeting the future energy needs of Northern Ireland. [76531]

Maria Eagle: The Government's policy in relation to energy in Northern Ireland is contained in the Strategic Energy Framework. The framework does not anticipate nuclear new build in Northern Ireland.

Population Statistics

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons of working age there were in Northern Ireland in each March to May period since 1997; what proportion of those people were *(a)* in employment, *(b)* in full-time education or training, *(c)* unemployed and *(d)* economically

inactive but not in full-time education or training; and if he will make a statement. [76499]

Maria Eagle: The requested breakdown of the working age population in Northern Ireland can be found in the following table. It shows that during the period March-May 1997 to March-May 2005, the working population in NI increased by 59,000, with the proportion of those in employment increasing and the proportion unemployed falling. The proportion in full-time education also showed a slight increase, whereas there was a marginal fall in the proportion who were economically inactive but not in full-time education.

Breakdown of the NI working age population[1], 1997 to 2005

Percentage

Reference period[2]	Working age population	In Employment	Full-time education[3]	Unemployed	Economically inactive (not in full-time education)
1997	989,000	66.4	8.4	5.5	21.5
1998	997,000	66.9	8.3	5.3	21.6
1999	1,002,000	66.5	9.1	5.3	21.2
2000	1,009,000	64.8	9.3	5.0	22.8
2001	1,018,000	66.9	8.9	4.5	21.8
2002	1,026,000	67.2	9.9	3.9	21.4
2003	1,034,000	69.3	9.2	3.9	20.3
2004	1,041,000	66.6	10.1	3.4	22.2
2005	1,048,000	68.0	9.7	3.4	21.2

[1] The working age population refers to ages 16-59 for females and 16-64 for males.
[2] Figures relate to the period March to May of each year.
[3] It is possible for persons to be counted under the full-time education category and also under the 'In employment' or 'Unemployed' categories e.g. if a full-time student also has a part-time job. The categories are therefore not mutually exclusive and will total to a figure in excess of 100 per cent.
Source:
NI Labour Force Survey.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of the Northern Ireland population is aged *(a)* 65 years and over and *(b)* 18 to 64 years; and what the forecasts are for (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2015. [77381]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the population estimates and proportion of the total population for the year 2004, and projections for the years 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2015, for the Northern Ireland population aged 18 to 64 years, and 65 years and over.

	Aged 18 to 64 years	Aged 65 years and over	Proportion aged 18 to 64 years (Percentage)	Proportion aged 65 years and over (Percentage)
2004[1]	1,039,400	233,400	61	14
2007[2]	1,072,800	243,900	62	14
2009[2]	1,083,500	255,600	62	15
2010[2]	1,088,700	261,300	63	15
2015[2]	1,103,400	293,700	62	16

[1] Estimate
[2] Projection

Preventive Health Care

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been allocated to preventive health care for men, with particular reference to early detection of prostate cancer, in each trust area in Northern Ireland over the last three years. [77344]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to identify the money allocated to preventive healthcare for men in each trust area. Health promotion initiatives such as tobacco and diet control are targeted at men and women.

No specific funding has been allocated by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for the early detection of prostate cancer to each trust.

The National Screening Committee has reviewed the current research evidence and does not recommend screening for prostate cancer. The main reason is that the current tests have limited accuracy and so follow-up procedures could cause harm to healthy men. Men with prostate cancer symptoms are encouraged to seek early advice from their GP. They may ask for a Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test. However, to enable them to make an informed decision about the PSA test, they need to know about its limitations and the potential side effects which may occur following surgery, which include incontinence and impotence.

Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what administrative costs have been

incurred by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in connection with the programme for building sustainable prosperity. [78048]

David Cairns: The Department's administrative costs associated with the judicial reviews by Hillsborough golf club are estimated to be £14,100.

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what legal costs have been incurred by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the judicial reviews by Hillsborough golf club in respect of its application for funding under the programme for building sustainable prosperity. [78049]

David Cairns: The Department's fees associated with these legal procedures are estimated to be £52,000.00 excluding VAT.

Prostate Cancer

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 455W, on prostate cancer, what percentage of males over the age of 85 years in Northern Ireland are estimated to have prostate cancer. [78119]

Paul Goggins: The following table details information on the prevalence[1] of prostate cancer (ICD-10 C61) by age band in Northern Ireland since 1993.

Prevalence of prostate cancer by age in Northern Ireland 2003

Age	Prevalence of prostate cancer[1]	Male population[2]	Percentage of population living with prostate cancer
59 and under	345	699,777	0.05
60 to 64	400	39,360	1.02
65 to 69	639	32,407	1.97
70 to 74	676	26,067	2.59
75 to 79	484	19,552	2.48
80 to 84	291	12,465	2.33
85 and over	124	6,863	1.81
All ages	2,959	836,491	0.35

[1] Prevalence has been estimated by counting the number of patients diagnosed between 1 January 1993 and 31 December 2003 with prostate cancer, who were still alive on 31 December 2003. This may represent an undercount of the actual number of people living with prostate cancer as those diagnosed prior to 1993 and still alive at the end of 2003 are not included.
[2] 2004 mid-year population estimate, NISRA.

This information has been provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry and is the most up to date currently available.

Road Safety

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on educating children in the safe use of bicycles on roads in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years, broken down by Westminster constituency. [77326]

David Cairns: Education in the safe use of bicycles is included in school-based activities promoted and supported by the Department of the Environment's road safety education officers. Cycling proficiency training is the main focused safe cycling activity. The Department also provides funds to the Road Safety Council for cycling championships.

Information on expenditure is not held by Westminster constituency nor is grant broken down by area. The following table contains the expenditure on cycling proficiency from 2001-02 to 2005-06 by education and library board area and funding to the Road Safety Council for cycling championships from 2003-04 to 2005-06. It does not include costs for road safety education officers' time and travel.

	North Eastern Education and Library Board	Southern Education and Library Board	Western Education and Library Board	South Eastern Education and Library Board	Belfast Education and Library Board	RSC Cycling Grant	NI Total
2001-02	17,086	21,698	11,868	10,594	3,967	—	65,213
2002-03	18,606	35,272	12,344	14,203	714	—	82,139
2003-04	35,055	35,755	25,825	27,880	15,927	4,422	144,864
2004-05	17,408	28,604	13,107	11,020	3,616	2,493	76,248
2005-06	22,482	29,045	16,405	14,217	7,553	4,090	93,792
Total	110,637	150,374	79,549	77,914	32,777	11,005	462,256

Road Tax

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1647W, on road tax, if he will break down the figures for detections by the number of detections in each of the areas of detection. [77347]

David Cairns: Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland (DVLNI) treats Northern Ireland as one area for the detection of unlicensed vehicles and no geographical breakdown is recorded.

School Governors

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what requirement there is for members of the boards of governors of schools to undergo child protection training. [76624]

Maria Eagle: School governors are not required by law to take up child protection training.

However, it is a duty of the board of governors of a grant-aided school to safeguard and promote the welfare of its registered pupils and to determine measures to be taken at the school with a view to protecting pupils from abuse.

The education and library boards have a duty to provide training for school governors in their responsibilities and this includes child protection. In the interests of child protection the Department has decided that, from 1 September 2006, at least one governor on every school staff recruitment and selection interview panel should be trained in recruitment and selection including child protection issues. It is a matter for each board of governors to invite its members to self nominate for such training.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people from the business sector have applied to become school governors since May 2005. [77096]

Maria Eagle: Complete records of the occupations of those who applied for school governors posts since May 2005 are not readily available. However, the Department has actively encouraged people with management skills e.g. business, financial and personnel management expertise, including those from within the business sector, to come forward to volunteer as school governors.

School Performance

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will update the information in table 5.2 of the Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics 2005 to show the figures for school performance in different parts of the United Kingdom in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [76746]

Maria Eagle: Figures for 2005-06 are not yet available. The requested information for 2004-05 is as follows:

Qualification level	*Percentage*
Percentage achieving 2+ A-levels A-E	
Northern Ireland	97
England	95
Wales	94
Percentage achieving 5+ GCSEs A-C*	
Northern Ireland	61
England	57
Wales	52
Percentage achieving 5+ GCSEs A-G*	
Northern Ireland	89
England	90
Wales	85
Percentage achieving no GCSEs	
Northern Ireland	3
England	4
Wales	7

Notes:
1. The Northern Ireland figures exclude special and independent schools and pupils with statements of special educational needs.
2. A-level figures are expressed as a percentage of pupils in the final year of an A-level course in Northern Ireland; as a percentage of all 16 to 18-year-olds in schools entered for at least one A-level in summer of the academic year in England; and a percentage of all candidates entered for two or more A-levels in Wales.

Sources:
DE, DfES, National Assembly for Wales.

School Suspensions/Expulsions

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* expelled from a school in Northern Ireland in the past school term, broken down by education board. [77345]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education does not hold information on suspensions and expulsions for the past school term. The Department gathers statistics on suspensions and expulsions on an annual basis from each of the education and library boards.

The following table details the number of pupils suspended in each education and library board in the 2004-05 school year:

Education and library board	*Number of pupils suspended*
Belfast	1,100
Western	975
North Eastern	1,333
South Eastern	960
Southern	1,046
Total	5,414

The following table details the number of pupils expelled in each education and library board in the 2004-05 school year.

Education and library board	*Number of pupils expelled*
Belfast	7
Western	11
North Eastern	26
South Eastern	9
Southern	10
Total	63

Shadow Councils

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the level of remuneration will be announced for those persons returned to the shadow councils in Northern Ireland in 2008. [76368]

David Cairns: Decisions on remuneration for councillors elected in the 2008 local government elections will be made when there is a clearer picture of the responsibilities of the shadow councils and the governance arrangements under which they will operate.

However, I expect shortly to receive the report from the Councillors' Remuneration Working Group which was established last year and this will inform decisions on the scheme of remuneration for councillors in the current and future systems of local government. It is too early to say when these decisions will be announced.

Smoking

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimated percentage is of *(a)* under 16-year-olds, *(b)* 16 to 25-year-olds and *(c)* over 25-year-olds in Northern Ireland who are smokers, broken down by sex. [78173]

Paul Goggins: The information is not routinely available for the precise age bands requested. Information relating to the percentages of smokers by age and sex, in Northern Ireland, is presented in the table for the following age groups: under 16-years-old, 16 to 24-years-old and 25+.

Age group	*Percentage smokers*
All	
Under 16	13
16-24	29
25+	26
All persons 16+	26
Male	
Under 16	11
16-24	27
25+	27
All persons 16+	27
Female	
Under 16	15
16-24	29
25+	25
All persons 16+	25

Sources:
Young Persons Behaviour and attitude Survey 2003 (NISRA)—for those aged under 16.
Continuous Household Survey 2004-05 (NISRA). CHS—for those aged 16+.

Sports Council for Northern Ireland

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Sports Council for Northern Ireland has received from *(a)* the Exchequer and *(b)* the Lottery in each of the last five years. [77354]

Maria Eagle: The Sports Council for Northern Ireland has received Exchequer and Lottery funding for the last five years as shown in the following table.

Exchequer and lottery funding received by Sports Council for Northern Ireland

£

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Exchequer	3,356,324	5,276,074	7,096,278	5,940,896	[illegible]
Lottery	8,254,768	7,300,142	6,616,575	7,016,652	[illegible]

Staff Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1605W, on staff surveys, why the total number of staff surveys carried out by the Department of the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister increased from three in 2003-04, to *(a)* 18 in 2004-05 and *(b)* 14 in 2005-06. [77103]

Mr. Hanson: Business units in the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister have made increasing use of staff surveys as an efficient means of assessing the business needs of the internal users of their services. The majority of the surveys have been conducted electronically and were aimed at obtaining feedback and suggestions on how services could be improved.

Terrorist Prisoners

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in which wing in Maghaberry prison the person convicted in 2005 of the manslaughter of James McGinley is serving his sentence; what his likely release date is; and which terrorist organisation has most members in the same wing. [75503]

Paul Goggins: Bartholomew Fisher, the person convicted in 2005 of the manslaughter of James McGinley is located in separated accommodation in Roe House. His earliest date of release is 19 August 2006. Those held in this accommodation in Roe House are perceived to be affiliated to a range of republican organisations.

Tourism

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans the Northern Ireland Tourist Board has to target potential tourists from the Republic of Ireland during summer 2006. [76365]

Maria Eagle: The Northern Ireland Tourist Board office in Dublin includes a Tourist Information Centre (TIC) and also a Marketing Team. The purpose of the Dublin office is to promote tourism in Northern Ireland to Republic of Ireland (RoI) residents, International tourists holidaying in Ireland, Travel Trade, Business Tourism and RoI Media.

Currently the NITB advertising budget for the Republic of Ireland for 2006-07 is £469,000.

Promotion to potential tourists from RoI during 2006 is already well under way through a series of marketing activities which include:

(a) Tourist Information Centre services—Reservations, Information and Short-Break Brochure promotion;

(b) Travel Trade Assistance, Support and Familiarisation Trips to Northern Ireland;

(c) Consumer Show promotion at various shows throughout Republic of Ireland;

(d) PR which results in press coverage in RoI print media, radio and TV.

The prime vehicle for promotion to RoI visitors during 2006 is via campaigns surrounding the Short Breaks Euro Brochure. This year's Short Breaks brochure is being complemented by a number of tactical marketing campaigns which include promotions via the national RoI press, radio advertising, web promotions, and direct mail etc.

Unemployment

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were unemployed in each of the last three years in Northern Ireland. [77349]

Maria Eagle: Estimates of unemployment are produced from the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey and the latest figures relate to the period February-April 2006. Figures for this period and for the same period in the previous two years can be found in the following table.

Number of people unemployed in Northern Ireland, 2004-06

Reference period	*Number unemployed*
February-April 2004	39,000
February-April 2005	38,000
February-April 2006	39,000

Source:
NI Labour Force Survey

Unpaid Penalties

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total was of unpaid court *(a)* costs, *(b)* compensation orders and *(c)* fines imposed by (i) magistrates courts and (ii) the Crown court in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and what percentage in each category have subsequently been quashed. [76406]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Detailed accounting records are retained by the NI Court Service for three years only. Information for the last three financial years is set out as follows. Penal sums imposed in one year may be paid in the next following year. Consequently the amount outstanding for each year will include sums which may be paid and sums which may be quashed in subsequent years. Sums cleared otherwise than by payment include those remitted or reduced on appeal, where the defendant served a period of imprisonment in default of payment, or where the police return a warrant to the court unexecuted.

Summary of magistrates court fines, costs and other party payments 2003-04 to 2005-06 inclusive

	Fines	*Costs*	*Other parties*
Imposed (£000)			
2003-04	6,788	55	956
2004-05	7,725	52	1,015
2005-06	7,877	57	1,174
Outstanding (£000)			
2003-04	4,517	37	824
2004-05	5,638	34	875
2005-06	5,854	30	1,007
Received (£000)			
2003-04	4,363	60	623
2004-05	4,866	48	714
2005-06	5,547	56	750
Percentage cleared otherwise than by payment as percentage of imposed			
2003-04	23	0	24
2004-05	24	0	24
2005-06	28	0	22

Summary of Crown court fines, costs and other party payments 2003-04 to 2005-06 inclusive

	Fines	*Costs*	*Other parties*
Imposed (£000)			
2003-04	757	0	357
2004-05	993	0	2,460
2005-06	527	0	739
Outstanding (£000)			
2003-04	92	0	183
2004-05	91	0	1,442
2005-06	66	0	788
Received (£000)			
2003-04	328	0	258
2004-05	332	0	445
2005-06	535	0	1,299
Percentage cleared otherwise than by payment as percentage of imposed			
2003-04	22	0	5
2004-05	21	0	30
2005-06	45	0	12

Note:
Sums rounded to the nearest £000.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Pensions

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for how many pensions the Department is responsible in relation to people *(a)* above and *(b)* below retirement age; and how many of

these people previously accrued pension rights at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [74843]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is responsible for pension costs for staff leaving on early departure grounds (excluding ill health retirement). DFID is responsible for meeting the full costs of compensation, including the early payment of pensions until age 60.

When staff retire on age grounds their pension costs are met centrally from the outset. We are not therefore responsible for the pensions of any former staff above the retirement age.

We are currently responsible for the pension costs of 67 former members of staff below the pension age, of these three were inherited from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Disability Access

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any building in his Department falls short of disability access regulations. [73001]

Mr. Thomas: Detailed access audits were carried out in 2004; this included suitable and sufficient assessments of the facilities in place and those which needed to be considered to allow all persons to enter, circulate and work safely at DFID premises. This audit was carried out with a wide range of potential users in mind, including persons with mobility and sensory impairments.

The audit addressed the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995, and identified a number of reasonable adjustments to our buildings which have since been implemented. These adjustments have included:

improved disabled wheelchair access,

provision of tactile and visual warning signage, and

availability of portable induction loops.

Where reasonable adjustments are not possible for structural reasons, a disability management plan has been introduced to address the audit recommendations.

Indonesia

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on delivering aid to Indonesia following the earthquake. [77333]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has been in close contact with EU counterparts since the earthquake in Yogyakarta and Central Java on May 27. DFID officials have participated in frequent co-ordination meetings in Jakarta and Yogyakarta on emergency relief, and are now in regular contact with the European Commission and other member states about longer- term reconstruction needs and the case for financial contributions. The preliminary damage and loss assessment, a joint report by the Government of Indonesia and international partners, was presented to donors on June 14. It provides a basis for longer-term reconstruction and recovery assistance, and ways to deliver this are now being considered. No firm decisions have yet been taken by EU member states on financial contributions to the recovery effort, except by the Netherlands which has announced a contribution of €10 million.

Senegal

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much bilateral aid the United Kingdom is providing to the Republic of Senegal in 2006-07; and how much he expects to be channelled via the European Union. [78069]

Hilary Benn: The UK Government have no bilateral assistance programme with Senegal nor plans to establish one. The UK provided £4.9 million in 2004-05, mainly comprising debt relief and purchases of private equity investments.

DFID assistance is mainly channelled through the EC and other multilateral agencies. The EC allocated €227 million to Senegal from EDF9 funds for the period 2002-07. Given the attribution of assistance channelled through the EC, it is not possible to predict accurately what the UK share will be in 2006-07.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in the Republic of Senegal. [78397]

Hilary Benn: Localised food insecurity is reported in several parts of Senegal, particularly the poorest Casamance region which is badly affected. Here it has been made worse by fighting in Guinea-Bissau between Senegalese separatist rebels and the Guinea- Bissau army. The World Food Programme estimates that approximately 2,100 people fled the fighting into Casamance, living with family and friends in the city of Ziguinchor. Given the region's limited resources and potentially high flows of additional refugees and displaced people, humanitarian vulnerability and food insecurity could increase if the fighting does not end soon.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 16 June 2006

DEFENCE

Air Manufacturing Sector

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his strategy is for minimising any adverse impact on the UK air manufacturing sector arising from the proposals within the Defence Industrial Strategy. [76614]

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to minimise the impact of the Defence Industry Strategy in reducing air sector jobs; and if he will make a statement. [76955]

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps the Government are taking to minimise any adverse impact on air sector jobs that may result as a consequence of the proposed re-structuring and rationalisation proposed in the Defence Industrial Strategy; [77537]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to maintain UK capability within the air sector. [77538]

Mr. Ingram: The Defence Industrial Strategy identified that once Typhoon and the Joint Combat Aircraft have been introduced into service, there is no requirement for a new-design manned aircraft beyond our extant plans although future procurements of uninhabited and/or manned platforms are envisaged. The consequent long term decline in new programme work is expected to lead to a significant rationalisation of the UK defence aerospace business. That is why MOD is negotiating with BAE Systems on the terms of the business rationalisation and transformation agreement required to facilitate the effective sustainment of the industrial skills, capability and technologies—wherever they may be in the supply chain—that will be important to our ability to operate, support and upgrade our fast jet combat aircraft through life. We aim to work with the company during 2006 to agree the way ahead—and to implement it from 2007.

The MOD is also planning to invest in UAV Technology Demonstrator Programmes (TDP) to better understand technologies that are likely to play an important role in this future military capability. The investment should also help sustain aerospace engineering and design capabilities in the UK, providing further assurance of our ability to operate and support our future fixed wing aircraft. We expect to be in a position to announce the commencement of the TDP later this year.

Army Personnel (Working Hours)

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours were worked per week on average at each regular trained junior rank in the Army in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [77130]

Mr. Watson: The Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) carry out a continuous sample survey of working patterns which provides an estimate of the average working hours per person, per week, for each service, but the sample is insufficient to report on average working hours at the level of detail requested.

The results of the 2004-05 survey gave an estimate of an average of 46.7 "hours worked" per week for all regular trained junior ranks in the Army. Data for 2005-06 are not yet available.

"Hours worked" includes time spent carrying out normal work, secondary duties, compulsory fitness training, organised sports and representational activities, but excludes meal and tea breaks and time spent on call. The figures are not therefore comparable to calculations of "hours worked" in civilian professions.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the projected capital costs are for the refurbishment of the A-90 and A-45 buildings at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston; [76766]

(2) how much is allocated to each new building project *(a)* under way and *(b)* planned in the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston site development strategy. [76772]

Des Browne: Mature costings are not available for these facilities and disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected capital costs are for replacement buildings to house the Core Punch Facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston. [76770]

Des Browne: A number of options are under consideration. Mature costings are not available and disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice commercial interests.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the replacement hydrodynamic testing facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston will be complete. [76771]

Des Browne: A number of options are under consideration regarding the replacement hydrodynamics testing facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment. Completion dates are dependent on the option selected.

Burghfield Facility

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the progress of plans to build a new assembly/disassembly facility at Burghfield. [76765]

Des Browne: A number of options are still under consideration for the maintenance of assembly/disassembly facilities at AWE. No decisions have yet been taken.

Defence Export Contracts

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance his Department is giving to British defence companies in helping them to secure export contracts; and if he will make a statement. [76954]

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what practical assistance the Government are offering to BAE Systems to help secure export contracts. [77536]

Mr. Ingram: The Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) co-ordinates Government support for the export of the products and services of the UK defence industry. DESO brings overseas customers and UK suppliers together and provides an integrated approach to markets. In addition DESO provides professional military support, including demonstrations of equipment being considered by customers and organises visits to the UK by senior government and military personnel from overseas.

Defence Medical Services

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to improve the Defence Medical Services since 1997. [76640]

Mr. Watson: In 1997 the Government announced a foreign policy-led strategic defence review (SDR) to reassess Britain's security interests and defence needs and consider how the roles, missions and capabilities of our armed forces should be adjusted to meet the new strategic realities.

The resulting report, in July 1998, placed a great emphasis on the deployability of our forces, including the requirement to ensure that our armed forces are properly supported in the field—a key aspect of which is the provision of timely, modern and effective medical support.

A medical quinquennial review (MQR) which reported to Parliament in April 2002 developed detailed proposals for the effective delivery of deployable operational medical capability and appropriate, timely health care to maximise the availability of service personnel for deployment.

The MQR identified a need for a much stronger focus on delivery of key outputs, with responsibilities for both central and single service authorities. It recommended new managerial tools (including an annual DMS service delivery plan and a DMS management board) to achieve this.

The MQR also advocated a further strengthening of the partnership between the DMS and the NHS. This was achieved through the MOD and Department of Health signing a formal concordat (in September 2002) at ministerial level and, at official level, the establishment of a MOD/NHS partnership board to oversee effective co-operation.

The MQR also rationalised the existing medical agencies as follows:

An expanded Defence Medical Training Organisation (DMTO), renamed the Defence Medical Education and Training Agency (DMETA), became responsible for all the training and training-related activities of the Defence Secondary Care Agency (DSCA);

Responsibility for the provision of secondary health care to service personnel in the UK, previously handled by DSCA, would now be handled within DMSD;

The Medical Supplies Agency was transferred out of the DMS to become part of the Defence Logistics Organisation.

In terms of improvements to DMS treatment facilities, the DMS no longer run separate military hospitals. The decision was taken to close them because they no longer had sufficient patient volume and case mix to develop and maintain the skills of our medical personnel to the appropriate operational and NHS standards. We created Ministry of Defence hospital units located within NHS hospitals at Birmingham, Derriford, Frimley Park, Northallerton/Middlesbrough, Peterborough and Portsmouth. They provide the most effective way of giving the UK armed forces patients access to the latest advances in medical treatment and the major recent investments in NHS facilities. The integration of service personnel throughout the NHS trust also enables DMS staff to take advantage of NHS expertise and to maintain their own clinical skills in an active, up-to-date environment.

We have also introduced regional rehabilitation units (RRUs). A total of 12 RRUs have been established within the UK, with similar facilities in Germany and Cyprus, to provide assessment and treatment of musculo-skeletal disorders. They were introduced to alleviate pressure on the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court and to provide more accessible regionally-based facilities. Patients are referred from unit medical facilities, where the simpler injuries would be diagnosed and treated. The benefit is that patients are assessed and treated in a timely fashion and receive the optimal high quality treatment and rehabilitation to maximise functional outcome and return to operational fitness when this is clinically possible. Specifically, the RRU system leads to reduced overall patient waiting times, earlier access to diagnosis and therefore quicker treatment and patient monitoring throughout the rehabilitation programme on an individual basis by physiotherapists and remedial instructors at the RRU. For example, most patients who undergo a simple knee arthroscopic procedure are currently being returned fit for task within four months, and patients who undergo an anterior cruciate ligament repair procedure are being returned fit for task in about seven months.

Additionally, to improve our patient care, in 2005 the MOD set up a Defence Medical Rehabilitation Evaluation Co-ordination Cell to support personnel injured on operations. This improves the co-ordination of care from the point of entry into UK until the individual is returned to full fitness or is medically discharged from the service. It also improves the provision of a clinical assessment and decisions on the most appropriate care from a consultant-led multi-disciplinary team.

With regard to mental health care, an independent review of mental health care provision to the armed forces, undertaken by a leading consultancy in the field,

recommended that out-patient care be provided in regional departments of community mental health (DCMH) and in-patient care be contracted out to a suitable independent or NHS provider. We have 15 DCMHs across the UK plus satellite centres in Cyprus, Germany and Gibraltar. The Priory Group won the competition to provide in-patient care. Patients can now be admitted much closer to their home or base.

The MOD recently announced a new mental health care initiative for recently demobilised reservists, which will include the opportunity for a dedicated mental health assessment by appropriately qualified members of the DMS. Details of the programme will be confirmed later this year, including the location(s) at which the assessments will be provided, and the date on which the service will commence.

In terms of operational improvements, DMS support to the deployed force has benefited from investment in modern equipment designed to meet the specific needs of deployed medical capability; this uplift in capability has included the development and deployment of a telemedicine capability, digital imaging, CCAST (critical care aeromedical evacuation support team) and haemostatic products. These improvements have been backed by improved operational training, doctrine and through the lessons learnt process.

There are also three current projects which will contribute significantly to improvements in the DMS:

First, the Managed Military Health System for Force Generation project (MMHS) was conceived to improve the pan-DMS management and delivery of health care (medical and dental) to the armed forces and other entitled personnel. MMHS has the threefold aim of maximising the number of armed forces personnel 'fit for task', contributing to deployed medical operational capability and improving morale in the DMS. The scope of the MMHS project is to cover the UK non-deployed medical capability only, but many of the changes expected from it will beneficially impact on health and health care provision across the MOD including the overseas Commands.

Second, the director general medical operational capability project (DG Med Op Cap) has been set up to determine how to optimise the delivery of medical capability to support operations and ensure the process will deliver continual quality assurance and improvement in clinical output. The intended outcome of this project is the delivery of properly trained personnel with the right equipment and sustainability, to meet the requirements of the front line commanders-in-chief in the most effective and efficient manner.

Third, the defence medical information capability programme (DMICP) is a major business change programme enabled by IT which will provide an integrated health care information system across the DMS, and will also link to the NHS's major new national programme for IT. DMICP will provide many benefits with the overarching benefit being more service personnel fit for task. It will provide DMS doctors and dentists with immediate access worldwide to complete, up-to-date electronic medical and dental records, supported by the latest clinical decision support software and online reference material, giving greater support to service clinicians, analysts and administrators in all aspects of their work. In April 2006 my predecessor announced the award of an £80 million contract which aims to have the first stages of DMICP phased in from the beginning of next year, initially to medical and dental units in barracks, air stations, naval bases, and then, after 2008, on military deployments.

EU Defence

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the European Defence Agency's plans to create an EU defence research budget; and what contribution the UK will make to such a fund. [73162]

Des Browne: There are no plans for the European Defence Agency (EDA) to create an EU defence research budget. The priority for the Government in relation to the EDA is to increase the amount spent on research and technology within Europe not to centralise these resources. The United Kingdom continues to work with the Agency and partner nations to achieve this aim and to ensure that, through mutually beneficial cooperation, we may leverage the maximum value from the money spent in this important area.

EU INSPIRE Directive

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the European Union's INSPIRE directive on the security of Royal Navy vessels *(a)* in port and *(b)* on deployment. [77794]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1384-85W, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth).

Fylingdales Radar Complex

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his Department has held with the US Administration on updating the radar complex at Fylingdales; and if he will make a statement. [77465]

Mr. Ingram: Since the Government agreed in 2003 to the US request to upgrade the early warning radar at RAF Fylingdales, officials have had regular and frequent discussions with their US counterparts about the progress of the upgrade; this continues to be the case.

Hutton Report

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what time of day, and on what day, the press statement from his predecessor, the right hon. Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), on the appointment of Lord Hutton to conduct an inquiry into the death of Dr. David Kelly was *(a)* cleared for release and *(b)* released under embargo to the media. [65234]

Des Browne: My right hon. Friend, the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) did not issue a press statement on the appointment of Lord Hutton while he was serving as the Secretary of State for Defence. A press notice was issued by the Department for Constitutional Affairs on 21 July 2003.

Iraq

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many casualties were treated on Royal Fleet Auxiliary Argus during the period 18 March 2003 to 18 May 2003; and how many of those were classed as injured in combat; [67171]

(2) how many casualties were treated by 202 Field Hospital during the period 18 March to 18 May 2003; and how many were classed as injured in combat. [68478]

Des Browne *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* Records from these two facilities are currently being cross-checked and verified against our existing records from the Shaibah Facility, Aeromed returns and Notification of casualty reporting. I will write to the hon. Member once this process is complete.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many casualties were treated by 33 Field Hospital in the period 18 March 2003 to 18 May 2003; and how many of those were classed as injured in combat. [69450]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* From the 17 March until the 8 April 2003, 33 Field Hospital was deployed in Iraq as the theatre reserve. It then returned to the United Kingdom. We are currently verifying its records for the period it was deployed to Iraq. I will write to the hon. Gentleman once this process is complete.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many injured personnel were treated *(a)* aboard (i) RFA Argus, (ii) Royal Navy ships and (iii) Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships and *(b)* in British field hospitals during Operation Telic; and what type of injury each had sustained; [74971]

(2) how many UK personnel injured in Iraq since 2003 were treated by US medical personnel in US facilities; [74972]

(3) how many personnel who served in Iraq have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured since 2003; [74973]

(4) how many of each type of injury has been sustained by UK forces in Iraq since 2003; [74974]

(5) what steps the Department is taking to collate centrally comprehensive injury figures for personnel involved in Operation Telic; [74975]

(6) what the record of casualties is from Operation Telic. [74976]

Des Browne: As at 28 May 2006, we very much regret that a total of 113 UK military and civilian defence personnel have died, or are missing presumed dead, while serving on Operation Telic since the start of the campaign in March 2003.

Of these, 84 are classed as killed in action, including as a result of hostile action, 29 are known to have died either as a result of illness, non-combat injuries or accidents, or have not yet been officially assigned a cause of death pending the outcome of an investigation. These figures may change as inquests are concluded.

During the period March 2003 to the end of April 2006, the best centrally available, verified, figures show that: around 240 UK military and civilian personnel have been treated at the UK's main Field Hospital in Shaibah for wounds received as a result of hostile action and; up to 4,000 UK personnel were medically evacuated from Iraq from all causes, the majority due to accident, illness, or for routine outpatient activities.

Separate records for the same period from Notification of Casualty reporting (NOTICAS), show that around 40 UK military and civilian personnel have been categorised as Very Seriously Ill/Injured/Wounded (VSI) from all causes, and that around 75 personnel have been categorised as Seriously Ill/Injured/Wounded (SI) from all causes. These figures include some personnel treated for wounds received as a result of hostile action. The figures are only comprehensive, including personnel treated at non-UK facilities, from April 11 2005 onwards. During the early phases of Operation Telic the tempo of operations meant that the paperwork associated with the NOTICAS process was not always completed properly and we cannot be certain our records are complete.

We are working to improve our casualty reporting for Operation Telic. We are currently verifying records from the other Field Hospitals which deployed on Operation Telic including RFA Argus, and are engaging with the US to find out a comprehensive figure on how many personnel were treated at their facilities. As far as we know no UK personnel serving in Iraq were treated on Royal Navy or Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships other than RFA Argus. We are also in the process of transferring the paper records sent back from medical facilities deployed on Telic to the Central Health Records Library.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at which locations British troops are being treated for injuries sustained in Iraq. [76990]

Des Browne: Role 1 Medical Treatment Facilities (providing Primary Healthcare, specialised first aid, triage, resuscitation and stabilisation) in Iraq are at the following locations:

Al Udeid (Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Officer and Primary Healthcare Nurse)

Baghdad (Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Officer and Primary Healthcare Nurse)

Basra air station

Seeb (Medical Admin Primary Healthcare and Aeromedical Coordinator)

Tallil (UK Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Officer deployed to US 2 Medical Brigade)

A Role 2 Medical Treatment Facilities (reception and triage of casualties, resuscitation and treatment of shock to a higher level than a Role 1 facility) is located at Al Muthanna/Al Amarah.

A Role 3 Medical Treatment Facilities (Field Hospital) is located at Shaibah Logistical Base.

Additional medical provision is also available in theatre from coalition forces.

When patients are aeromedically evacuated to the UK, care can also be provided in Cyprus at The Princess Mary Hospital, RAF Akrotiri, if required.

Since 2001, the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, has been the main receiving unit for patients aeromedically evacuated from an operational theatre. Following clinical needs assessment at Selly Oak, if a long hospital stay is expected, patients can be transferred to a hospital closer to their home for less acute treatment, enabling them to be nearer to their family. The decision to do this is based on comparative waiting times and on convenience for the individual patient and their family.

Patients with multiple injuries including amputees and those with brain injury are transferred to Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court.

Patients with moderate or minor musculoskeletal injuries, who have been assessed and given a working diagnosis and a planned care pathway are referred to the appropriate Regional Rehabilitation Unit at: Aldershot, Bulford/Tidworth, Catterick, Colchester, Cranwell, Edinburgh, Halton, Honnington, Lichfield, Headley Court (near London), Plymouth, Portsmouth, Gütersloh (Germany) and Hohne (Germany).

Patients requiring treatment for a mental health condition are referred to one of the MOD's regional Departments of Community Mental Health at Kinloss, Leuchars, Faslane, Aldershot, Brize Norton, Catterick, Colchester, Cranwell, Marham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Tidworth, Donnington, Woolwich and Lisburn, or satellite centres overseas.

Patients aeromedically evacuated from Iraq by US forces may be treated at US facilities in Ramstein, Germany, before continuing to Selly Oak for treatment in the normal way.

Personnel who are normally based in Germany and who are injured in Iraq will usually be aeromedically evacuated to the UK in the normal way. If, on subsequent return to Germany, they require follow-up treatment, they are treated at the medical facilities used by the garrisons at Mönchengladbach, Paderborn, Osnabrück, Gütersloh or Hohne.

Nuclear Weapons

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on research into nuclear weapon science in each of the last 20 years. [74426]

Des Browne: A very wide and diverse range of individual research topics might conceivably be interpreted as falling within the scope of the overarching description "nuclear weapons science". Costs are neither collected nor reported in such a way as to enable the compilation of complete, definitive or reliable totals to meet this description. Such figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost, if at all. Overall Ministry of Defence research statisticsare however published annually by the Defence Analytical Services Agency and can be found at www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/ukds/2005/ukds.htm².

Nyala Armoured Vehicle

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the suitability of the Nyala RG-31 armoured vehicles for use in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [76502]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence considered the RG-31, alongside a number of alternatives, to supplement our current fleet of vehicles, but concluded that its size and profile did not meet our needs.

Orion Laser

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected capital costs are for the production of the Orion laser at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston. [76763]

Des Browne: Project Orion has a maximum contract value of £183 million against the current contract deliverables.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are to co-ordinate Orion laser production with the National Ignition Facility. [76764]

Des Browne: None. Orion is a UK facility.

Parliamentary Questions

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply substantively to Question 74482 on the classification of al-Qaeda and Taliban forces as insurgents or as terrorists, tabled for named day answer on 8 June. [77793]

Des Browne: I replied to the hon. Member on 15 June.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to answer question 57160, on defensive aids in Hercules aircraft, tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South on 6 March 2006. [78398]

Mr. Ingram: I hope to be in a position to answer the hon. Member shortly.

QinetiQ

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what stake *(a)* the Government and *(b)* Carlyle retains in QinetiQ following the initial public offering in January. [76987]

Mr. Ingram: The successful Initial Public Offering (IPO) of QinetiQ took place on 10 February 2006. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) continues to own 19.3 per cent. of the ordinary shares of the company and the Carlyle Group 10.5 per cent. The MOD has also retained a special share in QinetiQ to protect the defence or security interests of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage interest his Department retains in the profits on future disposal or revaluation of property assets of QinetiQ. [76988]

Mr. Ingram: As part of the Vesting Agreement between the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and QinetiQ in 2001 a Property Clawback Agreement was signed, through which the MOD retained an interest in future profits on disposal of QinetiQ property assets, to ensure that the MOD and therefore the taxpayer, gains from past investment. A summary of this agreement, which extends until 2013, was set out in the QinetiQ Global Offer Prospectus, a copy of which was placed in the Library of the House on 26 January 2006 (see p154). Management of the QinetiQ estate is the responsibility of the company.

Royal Ordnance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will visit the former Royal Ordnance sites at Bridgwater and Chorley to discuss future contracts. [77600]

Mr. Ingram: The Secretary of State for Defence has no plans to visit the BAES Land Systems sites at Bridgwater and Chorley.

Terrorism

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the UK has taken to combat terrorism in *(a)* Djibouti, *(b)* Eritrea, *(c)* Ethiopia, *(d)* Kenya, *(e)* Somalia, *(f)* Sudan and *(g)* Yemen as part of the war on terror. [77695]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence has not provided bespoke counter-terrorism assistance to Djibouti, Eritrea or Ethiopia.

The EU arms embargo in Sudan and the UN arms embargo in Somalia prohibit the provision of military assistance and training to those countries.

Some counter-terrorism assistance has been provided to Kenya and Yemen as part of HMG's extensive wider engagement with the region. However, I am withholding details of support provided by the Ministry of Defence because its disclosure would be to the detriment of the safety of individuals and to international relations.

HEALTH

Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been provided by her Department for addiction treatment and rehabilitation in each of the last 10 years. [77287]

Caroline Flint: In 2001, the Government introduced the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB) to spend money directly on delivering suitable drug treatment, as well as improving access to treatment for example for offenders via drug intervention programmes, and supporting drug misusers after they come out of treatment, for example aftercare and supporting people.

This funding has increased yearly since the creation in 2001, along with the Government's estimated yearly local mainstream spend. Details are shown in table one as follows.

Table 1

£ million

	PTB	Local funding[1]	Total
2001-02	142	145	287
2002-03	191	131	322
2003-04	236	200	436
2004-05	253	[2]204	457
2005-06	300	[2]208	508

[1] Local authorities, primary care trusts, police and probation.
[2] Estimated.

There is no central funding provided for alcohol treatment. It is the responsibility of the local primary care trusts and their partners to fund the treatment needed for their community. We do not routinely collect data on the amount of funding they have provided for alcohol treatment, so we are unable to provide year on year details. However, the alcohol needs assessment research project, published November 2005 conducted a more in-depth survey for 2005 and reached a conclusion that about £217 million is being spent on alcohol treatment.

Age Adjustment Percentage

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the maximum age adjustment percentage is for areas with a high proportion of people aged over 75 years. [72790]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1117-18.

Audiology

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to introduce a target to reduce waiting times for digital hearing aids. [75895]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have no plans to introduce a target to reduce waiting times for digital hearing aids.

Information on the 18-week targets, including guidance on the principles and definitions and FAQs: 'Adult hearing services and 18 weeks' is available at:

www.18weeks.nhs.uk.

Biological Diversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to her comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74401]

Caroline Flint: Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, all public bodies have a duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in the exercising of their functions. There is no statutory obligation on Departments to monitor the extent to which public bodies comply with this duty. However, we understand the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is working with a wide range of partners to develop guidance for public bodies to support the

implementation of this duty and will involve all relevant Departments on the development of guidance.

Care Homes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action her Department is taking to promote positive public attitudes towards care homes. [70130]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government believes that care homes are one of a range of options that should be available for supporting people with long-term care needs. Most people want to live in their own home for as long as possible. To this end, there has been substantial investment in other care settings, such as domiciliary care and extra care housing. We believe that no one should be admitted into a care home until all other options have been explored and discussed with the service user, their carers and relatives.

However, we recognise that there will always be people who need or want the type of care that only care homes can provide. For them, care in a care home will be best suited to their needs and wishes and care homes offer them a positive choice.

The Government have introduced national minimum standards (NMS) for care homes, domiciliary care and adult placements. The NMS are intended to ensure vulnerable and older people can live in a safe environment, where their rights and dignity are respected and staff are properly trained. All care homes in England are regulated, registered and inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). CSCI regulates care homes in accordance with statutory regulations and the NMS. CSCI has strong enforcement powers and will take action to protect the welfare of residents, with the aim of raising the quality of care and level of protection for vulnerable people and ensuring that service users and their families can be confident that their welfare and interests are safeguarded.

Care Proposals

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the criteria in the letter sent to strategic health authority chief executives of 16 February entitled 'Moving care closer to home' apply to mental health and learning disability trusts. [77830]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* The White Paper, "Our health, our care, our say", set out a new vision for the future of community health and social care services. Paragraph 6.43 made the following commitment:

> "PCTs taking current decisions about the future of community hospitals will be required to demonstrate to their SHA that they have consulted locally and have considered options such as developing new pathways, new partnerships and new ownership possibilities. SHAs will then test PCT community hospital proposals against the principles of this White Paper."

The Department wrote to strategic health authorities on 16 February reminding them of this commitment and setting out practical arrangements. This letter specifically related to community hospital consultations, rather than those relating to mental health and learning disability trusts.

Cattle

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is her policy that the removal of specified risk material from cattle is a public health protection measure the costs of which should be met by the Government as defined in recommendation 26 of the Meat Industry Red Tape Working Group Report of December 1999. [77721]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for policy on the financing of official controls on the removal of specified risk material from cattle. The FSA has proposed recently that charges should be phased in to gradually recover from the meat industry an increasing amount of the cost of the controls. The FSA is currently in the process of liaising with stakeholders about this matter following which there will be full public consultation.

Childhood Cocaine Addiction

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children have been treated for *(a)* cocaine addiction and *(b)* cocaine-related illnesses in each of the last five years. [75071]

Caroline Flint: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

A major national survey conducted with over 9,000 secondary school children aged 11 to 15 showed that in 2005, 2 per cent. of pupils had taken cocaine in the previous year, a figure which has not changed since 2001[1].

[1] "Drug Use, smoking and drinking among young people in England in 2005", National Centre for Social Research/National Foundation for Educational Research.

Childhood Eating Patterns

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research she has commissioned to study influences on childhood eating patterns. [74151]

Caroline Flint: A key component of the "Choosing Health" white paper is the commitment to develop a healthy living social marketing campaign. We have therefore undertaken an intensive desk research project, reviewing published data, alongside research findings from a range of stakeholders including Government, academia, non-governmental organisations and the commercial sector. The next phase in the development of the social marketing campaign involves commissioning quantitative and qualitative research. The plan is for this research to be completed later this year.

Childhood Immunisation

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how primary care trusts are providing childhood immunisation services for families in areas where GPs have opted out of providing them; and if she will make a statement. [72769]

Caroline Flint: If a general practitioner (GP) opts out, then 1 per cent. is removed from the GPs global sum payment. This allows the primary care trust (PCT) to re-provide with another contractor or self-provide.

If a PCT were to re-provide, it would need to specify the performance management of those services. The PCT would be held to account for their performance, through their commissioning arrangements with service providers, by the strategic health authority.

In addition, PCTs could commission a separate local enhanced service, defining the population to be served and routes to achieve uptake.

Supporting local innovation in designing their services, or strengthening existing successes, is a priority for the Department.

Childhood Obesity

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the relationship between childhood obesity and *(a)* household income, *(b)* parental education level, *(c)* hours of television watched per week and *(d)* hours of sport provided at school per week. [74155]

Caroline Flint: The data draw on statistics from the Health Survey for England (HSE) from 1995 to 2004 and comparative work done by the Joint Health Surveys Unit on behalf of the Department.

Table 1, which represents household income, indicates that there is some social class gradient in childhood obesity but no clear trend. There is more obesity in the two lowest quintiles than the highest.

Household income, aged two to 10 with valid body mass index (BMI) 2001-02

BMI status equivalised annual household income quintile

Percentage

	Highest	*Second*	*Third*	*Fourth*	*Lowest*
Obese	13.30	12.50	14.20	16.30	15.80
Bases					
Weighted					
Aged two to 10	955	1,133	1,361	1,351	1,431
Unweighted					
Aged two to 10	861	1,028	1,208	1,118	1,144

Source:
Joint Health Surveys Unit, National Centre for Social Research (2005).

No data are available comparing obesity prevalence and parents' education levels. However, we can use the national statistics social-economic classification (NS-SEC) which provides a social classification system that classifies groups on the basis of employment relations, based on characteristics such as career prospects, autonomy, mode of payment and period of notice.

Table 2 shows that the children of parents in managerial and professional professions are less likely to be obese than those in semi-routine and routine professions, but there is no clear relationship between obese children and their parent's professions in other categories.

NS-SEC of household, BMI status NS-SEC of household reference person

Percentage

Managerial and professional occupations	12.40
Intermediate	16.40
Small employers and own account workers	14.40
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	16.30
Semi-routine and routine	17.10

Source:
Joint Health Surveys Unit, National Centre for Social Research (2005).

Table 3 illustrates that the upward long-term trends in obesity prevalence coincide with the upward long-term trends in time spent playing digital games, including television watching time. These trends cannot be considered in isolation as other activities, for example the number of children driven to school, which may contribute to obesity will also have changed during this time period.

The Department is aware of the research from North America, which demonstrates calorie consumption increasing with number of hours of television watched.

Digital games

Number

	Boys	*Girls*	*Percentage obese children*
1986	36	12	—
1990	42	16	—
1994-95	50	20	9.90
1996	52	20	10.60
1998	64	24	11.60
2001	73	35	13.10
2004	74	47	14.30

Source:
Health Survey for England 1995-2004; Health Education Unit Time Series.

The HSE measures physical activity levels that are categorised as active (active for 60 minutes per day for seven days in the last week—the Government's recommended levels of physical activity) or insufficiently active (active at a lower level). This classification includes activities such as physical education and school sport, structured and unstructured play in and out of school time and active travel to and from school.

Table 4 shows that there is a weak correlation between obesity and physical activity levels, with small differences in the percentage of obese children classified as active or inactive.

Activity

Percentage

	Active	*Inactive*
Boys	13	16
Girls	14	15

Source:
Joint Health Surveys Unit, National Centre for Social Research (2005).

Children's Hospices

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the written statement of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 10WS, on children's hospices, whether additional funding will be provided for non-hospice-based children's palliative care services; [77451]

(2) when she anticipates funding for children's hospices to start; how much of the funding announced will be distributed in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; whether this funding will be sourced from the Department of Health's central budget; which hospices will receive funding; and what the mechanism will be through which the funding will be allocated. [77452]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Children's hospices play a valuable role in the provision of palliative care for disabled children and young people or those with complex health needs and their families and I am pleased that we have been able to provide additional funding to them. But they are only one aspect of children's palliative care. We want to see children and their families have a real choice as to where they receive their care so that they can live as normal a life as possible for as long as possible. Our White Paper, "Our health, Our care, Our say", expects primary care trusts to ensure that the right model of service is developed by undertaking a review to audit capacity and delivery of integrated pathways against national service framework standards and then to agree service models, funding and commissioning arrangements with their strategic health authorities. The White Paper also restates the Government manifesto commitment to increase funding for end of life care which includes palliative care for children and young people. We will make an announcement about funding this manifesto commitment as soon as we can.

We announced that £9 million per year would be available to voluntary children's hospices for the next three years starting from this financial year and it will be centrally funded. This will enable services funded by the Big Lottery Fund to continue, pending the outcome of a review of children's hospice services and their funding arrangements. We will publish funding criteria and arrangements for allocation as soon as possible.

Chlamydia

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of Chlamydia there have been in each primary care trust in each of the last five years. [77149]

Caroline Flint: Data on the number of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection are published in Mapping the Issues: HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections in the United Kingdom: 2005. The report is available at: www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/publications/hiv_sti_2005/pdf/MtI_FC_report.pdf

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Clinical Negligence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answers of 4 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 195W, on clinical negligence, and 25 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1080W, on the NHS Litigation Authority, what the reason is for the difference in the answers in relation to whether information on the funding arrangements of claimants is collected by the Litigation Authority. [76306]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* My previous reply sought to clarify the position set out in my reply on 4 April 2006 to question 62399 concerning whether information on the funding arrangements of claimants is collected by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA).

The NHSLA record the legal funding arrangements of claimants when legal proceedings are issued. As a defendant organisation, they will not necessarily know about the funding status of claims that are pre-litigation. Claimants are not required to declare funding arrangements until the litigation process is entered. Information held by the NHSLA on the funding arrangements of claimants is therefore necessarily incomplete.

Community Hospitals

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for further guidance identified in the letter sent to strategic health authorities of 16 February entitled "Moving care closer to home"; what impact this will have upon current proposals to reduce provision of community hospitals in Gloucestershire; and how the Secretary of State will ensure that proposals have been fully consulted upon with the people affected by service changes. [76034]

Caroline Flint: The further guidance identified in the letter sent to strategic health authorities (SHAs) on 16 February entitled "Moving care closer to home" will be published in the coming weeks. It will outline the next steps to be taken in relation to the commitments on community hospitals made in the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services".

The guidance includes information on patient and public involvement, specifically when making changes to community services. However, the principle that making decisions on local healthcare provision, including the closure of community or cottage hospitals, is a matter for primary care trusts and SHAs will remain.

Complementary Medicine

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what complementary medicine is provided by the NHS; and if she will make a statement; [76802]

(2) if she will estimate how much the NHS has spent on providing complementary medicine to patients in each year since 1997; [76803]

(3) what guidelines are issued to general practitioners concerning referrals to complementary medicine practitioners; and whether there are requirements for the effectiveness of complementary therapies to be scientifically substantiated. [76805]

Caroline Flint: The Government consider that decision making on individual clinical interventions, using either complementary or more orthodox treatments, is a matter for local national health service providers and practitioners. There are therefore no centrally held records on what complementary medicines are provided by the NHS or how much is spent on their provision.

When making any clinical decision, general practitioners are expected to consider safety and effectiveness. In 2000, the Department produced an information pack for both primary care groups and primary care clinicians to provide a basic source of reference on complementary medicine and to support individual clinical judgment.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been funded by the NHS on how cost-effective complementary medicine is; and what the conclusions were. [76804]

Andy Burnham: Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual projects, including a number concerned with complementary medicine, are available on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research The register contains no record of NHS-funded research on how cost-effective complementary medicine is.

Computer Sciences Corporation

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the implications of the announcement by the Computer Sciences Corporation of a reduction of 1,200 jobs across the UK on its contract with the NHS in the north west and the north Midlands. [71624]

Caroline Flint: The Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency has sought and received assurances from the Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) that plans to restructure its workforce in the United Kingdom will have no impact on the company's ability to comply with its contractual obligations as local service provider for the national programme for information technology's north west and west Midlands cluster area.

The company has provided the agency with the following statement:

"CSCs current programme of staff reductions will not have any detrimental impact on CSC's work to support the national programme. CSC is fully committed to the national programme, shares the vision, and is determined to continue building on the successes achieved to date. CSC has further strengthened and enhanced the management team this year and fully expects to see the programme at the forefront of its priorities throughout the lifetime of the contract. CSC believes that this intent is demonstrated by the substantial number of projects already deployed, and the current user base of some 30,000 NHS staff. The head of CSCs NHS programme would be quite willing to meet with the MP for Blackpool South to provide further background and confidence."

Major rollout of new services and systems is well under way in the cluster area, and the pace and scale of deployments continues to accelerate.

Connecting for Health

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* outturn was for Connecting for Health in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06; and what the proposed outturn is for 2006-07. [75128]

Caroline Flint: The Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency came into being on 1 April 2005. The agency's primary responsibilities are for delivering the national programme for information technology, and maintaining the critical business systems previously provided to the national health service by the former NHS Information Authority. Outturn running cost expenditure for 2005-06 was £144 million against a budget of £178 million. The equivalent budget for 2006-07 is £168 million.

The pace and scale of deployment of new national programme systems and services is accelerating on a weekly basis, and the budget increase over 2005-06 mainly reflects targets for continuing expansion through the year in support of the Department's plans for developing, procuring and implementing integrated information technology infrastructure and systems in all NHS organisations in England by 2010. In the course of the coming year we anticipate, for example, that choose and book will be effectively deployed, full deployment of release one of the electronic prescription service, further upgrading of NHS care records service software providing ever richer functionality, and complete roll-out of the new broadband connections across the NHS by the end of the financial year.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will publish the progress statistics alongside targets on the Connecting for Health website. [75130]

Caroline Flint: National programme for information technology cluster deployment statistics are already routinely published on the NHS Connecting for Health website, and updated in a form which provides a comprehensive, at-a-glance snapshot of progress to date. They can be found at:

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/delivery/servicemanagement/statistics/service

A summary of NHS Connecting for Health programme and management activity targets is contained in the agency's annual business plan. The 2005-06 business plan is published on the agency website at:

http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/publications/busplans

A copy of the 2006-07 business plan will be published shortly.

If suggestions are received for publication of further national programme performance statistics, and how these compare with those of other information technology service delivery organisations, they will be considered.

Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to the letter of 4 May 2006 from the hon. Member for Walsall, North concerning constituents. [78029]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A reply was sent on Wednesday 14 June 2006.

Cystic Fibrosis

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of services for people with cystic fibrosis. [77234]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made no assessment of the effectiveness of services for those living with cystic fibrosis.

Dentistry

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has received representations from dentists who have not been paid by their primary care trust for work undertaken under a new general dental services contract or a new personal dental services agreement. [76968]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary care trust (PCT) payment functions for dentistry are exercised on PCTs' behalf by the NHS Business Services Authority (Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG) Dental Practice Division (BSA DPD). The BSA DPD reports that the vast majority of payments due to dentists since 1 April 2006 have been paid correctly and on the due date. Where dentists have made representations about incorrect or missing payments the BSA DPD has contacted the relevant PCT, checked that the dentist is entitled to payment, and corrected the position.

Detailed Care Record

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will have access to an individual's detailed care record; and across which NHS boundaries. [75133]

Caroline Flint: Local national health service organisations have the responsibility for determining which of their staff may access the detailed care records available within the particular deployment of new information technology systems to that organisation. Sophisticated tools are being developed and provided by NHS Connecting for Health to enable local organisations to restrict access to records to those staff involved in an individual's care in accordance with the guidance provided in the Department's publication "Confidentiality: NHS Code of Practice".

NHS Connecting for Health is implementing e-Government interoperability framework (eGif) level three standards for the registration and authentication of staff. This provides a high level of assurance that only bona fide personnel have access to the care record service. eGif level three requires a face-to-face meeting, and the provision of official documentation and authentication to systems, using a two-factor approach. NHS Connecting for Health use a smartcard and a passcode.

When fully deployed, NHS Connecting for Health-delivered systems will utilise a number of separate mechanisms, including consent/dissent, legitimate relationships, role-based access and sealed envelopes. Consent/dissent provides for patients to formally opt-out of sharing their clinical data. Legitimate relationships restrict access to only those clinicians involved in the patients care. Role-based access identifies the staff role and only allows access to the relevant part of the record, for example, restricting the access a receptionist has to clinical details. Sealed envelopes allow a patient to restrict access further to particularly sensitive parts of their record.

These controls have been designed to put the patient at the heart of care rather than having restrictions based on NHS organisational boundaries.

Initially, as systems begin to be rolled out, access to an individual's detailed care record will still be restricted to the originating organisation. This will gradually be extended to local health communities and eventually across larger areas as the scope of the access controls are extended and the systems capable of utilising them are deployed.

In addition the NHS care record service specifies strict audit requirements that log which individuals have accessed which records. This will provide an unprecedented level of traceability and assurance, and is in very marked contrast to the significant risk of casual and unauthorised inspection associated with current paper-based and electronic systems.

More information can be obtained from www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/technical/security.

Drug Addiction

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of how many children aged *(a)* 0 to 11, *(b)* 12 to 16 and *(c)* 17 to 18 years are dependent on (i) cannabis, (ii) nicotine, (iii) heroin and (iv) crack cocaine in (A) England, (B) each English region and (C) the Tees Valley. [73652]

Caroline Flint: The data requested is not collected centrally.

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have undergone treatment for drug addiction in programmes designed to get them off drugs entirely and immediately, as opposed to harm reduction and other similar programmes, in each year since the Government's drug strategy was introduced; and how many came off drugs, including substitute prescribed drugs, completely in each year. [71997]

Caroline Flint: Information about drug services is not collected in a way that allows us centrally to identify treatment programmes in England designed to get drug

mis-users off drugs immediately as opposed to an approach of harm reduction and stabilisation. The majority of programmes which are designed to get drug users off drugs entirely and immediately are provided within inpatient treatment, but successful completion of an in-patient programme does not necessary mean immediate abstinence from all drugs.

As part of comprehensive local drug treatment provision we would expect there to be a mix of services to meet the individual needs of all drug mis-users. The Government's overall objective has not changed and remains for as many problem drug mis-users as possible to become drug free over time.

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have undergone treatment for drug addiction in each year since the Government's drug strategy was introduced; and how many came off drugs, including substitute prescribed drugs, completely in each year. [71998]

Caroline Flint: The number of individuals recorded as in contact with structured drug treatment services for the past two years is shown in table one:

Table 1

	Number
2003-04	125,545
2004-05	160,450

The 1998-99 baseline against which these figures are calculated is 85,000. The Department's public service agreement (PSA) is to double the numbers in treatment between 1998 and 2008.

The National Treatment Agency (NTA) introduced a revised and more accurate methodology for counting the numbers in treatment in October 2004. Figures are not available on the new methodology for the years 1999-00, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03. Figures will be available for these years later in autumn 2006.

We are unable to estimate how many people have stopped mis-using drugs including substitute prescribed drugs completely, however figures showing those who have successfully completed treatment, having been discharged from inpatient drug treatment services are given in table two. Numbers for years prior to 2003 are not available. Successful completion of inpatient drug treatment programmes may be the first step to achieving long term abstinence, but will not always mean they are off all drugs immediately.

Table 2: Numbers successfully completed treatment of those discharged

	Number
2003-04	13,000
2004-05	15,800

Drug Tariff

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reintroduce the Price Increase Mechanism for Part 9 of the Drug Tariff. [77654]

Andy Burnham: We are considering when it will be appropriate to open discussions on the Price Increase Agreement in the light of the continuing overall review of Part IX of the Drug Tariff.

Eileen Trust

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the time plan is for the proposed business plan for the Eileen Trust. [74298]

Caroline Flint: The Eileen and Macfarlane Trusts have requested an increase in their funding. This proposal is still being considered and the Minister of State for Public Health hopes to meet the Chairman shortly.

Electronic Health Records

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what beacon electronic health record sites were established under her Department's Information for Health: an information strategy for the modern NHS 1998 to 2005, published in September 1998; and if she will make a statement. [74064]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 940-1W, to the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb). Beacon sites were those piloted under the electronic records demonstrator and implementation programme.

Emergency Contraception

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) under what powers primary care trusts can make prescription of the morning after pill to children under 16 years without parental knowledge or authority a condition of obtaining a pharmacy licence; and if she will make a statement; [75525]

(2) what advice her Department has issued to pharmacy companies whose policy it is not to prescribe emergency contraception over the counter without prescription to under 16-year-olds; and if she will make a statement; [75526]

(3) which primary care trusts have made the prescription of the morning after pill to children under 16 years without parental authority a condition of granting a pharmacy licence; how many pharmacies have been refused a licence because of their refusal to comply with this condition; and how many *(a)* appealed against the decision and *(b)* were successful in such an appeal in the last year for which figures are available. [75527]

Andy Burnham: A primary care trust (PCT) decides applications to provide national health service pharmaceutical services under the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/641 as amended). Under Regulation 12, a PCT only grants an application if it is satisfied it is necessary or desirable to do so in order to secure the adequate provision of pharmaceutical services in a local neighbourhood. This is known as the control of entry test.

However, under the reforms we introduced in April 2005, certain types of application are exempt from that test (regulation 13), namely:

premises in an approved retail area which is over 15,000 square metres gross floor space and sited away from town centres;

premises which the applicant will keep open for at least 100 hours a week; or

premises within a new one-stop primary care centre.

It is only in respect of Regulation 13 applications that a PCT can directly specify that a pharmacy provides additional pharmaceutical services, from a list of services set out in the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) Directions 2005 (as amended). The PCT must have specified what additional services are required in advance of the application. One such service a PCT may specify is the provision of emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) to females of child-bearing age. This is an enhanced service by virtue of Direction 4(1) (k) and possibly (m) if a patient group direction.

It is for the applicant to decide whether or not to make an application under one of these exemptions. If an applicant does not wish to provide the additional services specified by a PCT for an exempt application, it may instead apply to provide services under the conventional route in Regulation 12. This does not allow a PCT to specify additional services that applicants are to provide.

The Department does not collect data on the number of PCTs which have specified the provision of EHC as a required additional service for an application made under Regulation 13, nor the number of refusals of applications by PCTs on these grounds or subsequent appeals. However, The Information Centre for health and social care publishes general data on applications to provide pharmaceutical services and appeals annually. The next bulletin for the year 2005-06 will be published later this year.

The family health services appeal unit of the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) deals with appeals relating to these regulations. The NHSLA produces an annual report every autumn. The website of the appeal unit at www.nhsla.nhs.uk reports details of appeal decisions, of which only one up until May 2006 related to EHC. This appeal was dismissed.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many morning-after pills were distributed by each primary care trust in Gloucestershire in each of the last five years. [77826]

Caroline Flint: The information available is shown in the tables. Information on emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) supplied under a patient group direction (PGD) is not held centrally.

Family planning clinic services for Gloucestershire are provided by Cotswold and Vale primary care trust (PCT). The total number of occasions on which clinics run by this PCT prescribed post-coital contraceptives is published annually but the published figures include some instances where an intrauterine device was fitted. Cotswold and Vale PCT was created on 1 April 2002 and data for 2000-01 and 2001-02 relate to its predecessor organisations providing family planning clinic services, East Gloucestershire National Health Service Trust and Severn NHS Trust.

Occasions on which hormonal post-coital contraceptives dispensed at family planning clinics provided by Cotswold and Vale PCT, 2000-01 to 2004-05[1]

	Number
2000-01	2,125
2001-02	1,652
2002-03	1,652
2003-04	1,462
2004-05	1,096

[1] Data is collected by financial year

Source:
Information Centre for health and social care return KT31

Total number of items (prescriptions)[1] *for hormonal post-coital contraception prescribed in Gloucestershire for the last four calendar years*[2]

Prescriber name	2002	2003	2004	2005
Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT	1,089	1,042	911	890
Cotswold and Vale PCT	1,472	1,501	1,354	1,155
West Gloucestershire PCT	1,404	1,475	1,345	1,265

[1] The data show the number of times a prescription written by a prescriber for whom the PCT was responsible was dispensed either by a community pharmacy or by a dispensing doctor.
[2] A full year's data for 2001 is not available

Source:
ePACT

Food Poisoning

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of cases of food poisoning there have been in each of the last five years. [77282]

Caroline Flint: The number of notified cases of food poisoning in England and Wales reported to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) each year since 2001 is shown in the following table.

Notified cases of food poisoning in England and Wales[1]

	Number
2001	85,468
2002	72,649
2003	70,895
2004	70,311
2005	70,727

[1] http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/noids/food_poisoning.htm

Note:
Data for 2005 is still provisional and may be subject to change.

Notified cases of food poisoning do not represent the total burden (or numbers of cases) of food poisoning, but they do provide an indication of changes in trends with time. Notifications of food poisoning are based on clinical findings and/or epidemiological links and there is no obligation to identify the causative organism or the vehicle of infection.

Based on laboratory reports and multiplication factors derived from a large study of infectious intestinal disease the HPA estimated that, in 2003, there may have been as many as 843,049 cases of food borne illness acquired in England and Wales, of which around 253,000 consulted a doctor[1,2]. In that year, only 70,895 cases of food poisoning were notified. The HPA has not carried out a similar estimate for subsequent years.

[1] A Report on the Study of Infectious Intestinal Disease in England, 2000, The Stationery Office, ISBN 0-11-322308-0.

[2] This figure is based on (1) an evidence-based estimate provided by the HPA derived from a large study of infectious intestinal disease (IID) carried out in 2000 and (2) the number of laboratory reports of IID in 2003.

Food Supplements Directive

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health defines the distinction between the inclusion in principle of ingredients on the list of ingredients permitted for use under the provisions of the Food Supplements Directive and the subsequent setting of the levels at which such nutrients may be present under the provisions of article 5 of the directive. [76383]

Caroline Flint: The Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health defines the distinction between the inclusion in principle of ingredients on the list of ingredients permitted for use under the provisions of the food supplements directive and the subsequent setting of the levels at which such nutrients may be present under the provisions of article 5 of the directive. The Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health defines the distinction between the inclusion in principle of ingredients on the list of ingredients permitted for use under the provisions of the food supplements directive and the subsequent setting of the levels at which such nutrients may be present under the provisions of article 5 of the directive.

The European Commission reminded the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health on the 2 December 2005 of the distinction between the inclusion in principle of ingredients on the list of ingredients permitted for use under the provisions of the food supplements directive and the subsequent setting of the levels at which such nutrients may be present under the provisions of article 5 of the directive. This distinction is defined within the Food Supplements Directive 2002/46/EC.

Foster Review

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has received the report of the Foster review of health professions; whether she plans to create a new umbrella regulator for the health professions covered by the Foster review; and what legislative changes would be required to create such a regulator. [77044]

Andy Burnham: I received a draft of the report of the review of non-medical professional regulation on 30 December 2005 and a further draft on 6 March 2006. A statement will be made in due course when the Department's decision on the report is published.

Free Fruit

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the policy of free fruit in primary schools on children's dietary patterns and nutritional intake outside school. [74150]

Caroline Flint: The big lottery fund, who funded the piloting and roll-out of the school fruit and vegetable scheme (SFVS) into six of the nine English regions, commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), in partnership with Leeds University to carry out an evaluation of the SFVS. Results published in September 2005 demonstrated that children ate significantly more fruit while participating in the scheme. Analysis also showed that among those participating in the scheme fruit and vegetable consumption declined at home and increased in school, suggesting that the scheme did not encourage additional consumption outside of the direct influence of the SFVS.

A NOP World survey carried out in October 2003 found that over a quarter of children and their families reported that they were eating more fruit at home after joining the scheme, rising to nearly a third in social class C2DE.

The Department plans to carry out a further evaluation of the SFVS later this year. Monitoring the impact of the scheme on the eating habits of children outside school will be an important component of the evaluation.

GMC's Complaints Mechanism

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what correspondence her Department has had with *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* the General Medical Council (GMC) regarding the lack of a right of appeal by patients against decisions made by GMC case examiners following complaints against doctors. [54095]

Andy Burnham: In the nine months to 22 May 2006, 13 items of correspondence relating to this issue were received from members of the public.

The Chief Medical Officer has undertaken a review of matters relating to medical regulation which will address this issue. A statement will be made shortly.

Haemophiliacs

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many haemophiliacs have been infected by *(a)* hepatitis C, *(b)* AIDS and (c) both hepatitis C and AIDS as a result of NHS treatment for their illness. [69581]

Caroline Flint: Most patients with haemophilia who were treated with blood products before the introduction of virus-inactivation procedures were infected with the hepatitis C virus.

The number of haemophilia patients infected with HIV/AIDS is 1,243. Most patients infected with HIV were co-infected with hepatitis C.

Health Care (Stroud)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in Stroud were treated at *(a)* Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, *(b)* Cheltenham General Hospital, *(c)* Frenchay Hospital, *(d)* Southmead Hospital, *(e)* John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, *(f)* Stroud Hospital and *(g)* Berkeley Hospital in each of the last five years, broken down by treatment received. [77828]

Caroline Flint: Information on the number of patients resident in Stroud is not available in the requested format. However, information on the count of patients residing in West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust area, by site of treatment, has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were born at Stroud Maternity Hospital in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency of residence of the mother. [77829]

Caroline Flint: The number of registered deliveries at Stroud Maternity Hospital is shown in the table. However, information on the number of babies born at Stroud Maternity Hospital broken down by constituency is not collected.

	Number of registered maternity hospital deliveries at Stroud
2004-05	283
2003-04	268
2000-03	246

Health Professions Council

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the current budget of the Health Professions Council (HPC) is; what plans she has to increase this budget; how many people the HPC employs; whether all professions within the HPC have equal status; and whether professions incorporated into the HPC in the future will have equal status. [76208]

Andy Burnham: The Health Professions Council is a statutory independent body, which is self-funded through registrants' fees. All queries pertaining to its budget, employees and the discharge of its statutory functions should be made direct to the Chief Executive, Marc Seale, at the Health Professions Council, Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road, London, SE11 4BU, 020 7582 0866.

Health Trusts (Hampshire)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial position *(a)* is in 2006-07 and *(b)* was in 2005-06 of each (i) primary care trust and health trust in Hampshire and (ii) each other health trust used by Hampshire residents. [76609]

Caroline Flint: There are no figures yet available for the financial year 2006-07. The table shows provisional outturn positions for the financial year 2005-06 of each trust and primary care trust (PCT) in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority (SHA) region. It is not possible to identify other health trusts used by residents in Hampshire, as any patient can access any acute hospital in an emergency and the introduction of choose and book means that patients also have access to a wide range of health trusts within England.

Trusts and PCTs in Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA region

		Provisional outturn 2005-06		
SHA name	*Organisation name*	*Turnover (£000)*	*Under/(over) spend (£000)*	*Under/(over) spend as a percentage of turnover*
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT	177,876	(8,252)	(4.6)
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	East Hampshire PCT	220,216	459	0.2
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT	153,692	739	0.5
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Fareham and Gosport PCT	206,639	104	0.1
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight PCT	177,772	(6,555)	(3.7)
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Mid-Hampshire PCT	188,843	1,423	0.8
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	New Forest PCT	217,241	358	0.2
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	North Hampshire PCT	195,696	(4,375)	(2.2)
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	231,596	634	0.3
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Southampton City PCT	289,057	781	0.3
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Hampshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	35,823	127	0.4
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust	133,855	9	0.0
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Trust	113,876	9	0.0
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	117,925	26	0.0
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	357,591	1,096	0.3
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	368,932	(12,927)	(3.5)
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	120,955	(3,045)	(2.5)

Healthy Living Centres

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what arrangements her Department has made to fund the continuing operation of healthy living centres; [76233]

(2) how many healthy living centres were set up with lottery funding; and when the lottery funding will cease in each case. [76234]

Caroline Flint: The continuing funding arrangements for healthy living centres (HLCs) in England are a matter for their local partners, including primary care trusts and local authorities, many of whom do provide resources in cash, or kind, to support them.

In England, 257 grant awards were made by the New Opportunities fund (now the Big Lottery fund) to HLCs. All payments of lottery funding to HLCs will be completed in 2009. I have asked the chief executive of the Big Lottery fund to write to the hon. Member setting out the actual forecast final payment for each HLC.

Hepatitis C

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* financial support and *(b)* compensation is available to those who have had a hepatitis C infection as a result of a blood transfusion within the NHS but who no longer have the infection. [76550]

Caroline Flint: The Skipton Fund was established in 2004, to administer the ex-gratia payment scheme for people infected with hepatitis C following national health service treatment with blood or blood products. The scheme became operational on 5 July 2004.

People who have cleared the virus as a result of treatment, or who have cleared it spontaneously after a period of chronic infection, are eligible to apply for payment under the hepatitis C ex-gratia payment scheme. People who have cleared the virus spontaneously in the acute phase of the disease are not eligible for payment.

High Voltage Transmission Lines

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies she has commissioned into the health effects of living in very close proximity to high voltage transmission lines; and if she will make a statement. [77040]

Caroline Flint: The Department's radiation protection research programme supports a number of studies investigating the possible health effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF). These range from laboratory work on possible cellular effects to large population studies. A study by Dr. Draper and colleagues of childhood leukaemia incidence and distance from power lines, funded under this programme and published in the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ) last year, has added to a large existing body of work in this area (BMJ Vol 330, 4 June 2005). In addition to its own research programme, the Department, along with the Health and Safety Executive, has supported the World Health Organisation's International EMF Project since it started in 1997.

The Health Protection Agency's radiation protection division (HPA-RPD) keeps the worldwide research findings on EMF and health under review. In 2004, on the basis of a comprehensive review of the existing body of research to date, the HPA-RPD (previously the national radiological protection board) recommended the adoption of new EMF exposure guidelines in this country. In addition, in view of the scientific uncertainties in relation to power frequency electromagnetic fields, the HPA recommended the Government

"consider the need for further precautionary measures".

They have also noted that the majority of elevated magnetic fields are due to variations in the electricity supply and distribution system, the presence of substations and equipment in the home rather than proximity to high voltage overhead cables.

Practical precautionary measures are now being considered in detail by a stakeholder advisory group (SAGE) that includes the Government Departments, agencies, electricity industry, specialists and public concern groups. Details of the process can be found on the website at: www.rkpartnership.co.uk/sage.

Home Computing Initiative

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* NHS staff and *(b)* nurses had received equipment under the Home Computing Initiative since the scheme was introduced. [63840]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Hospital Building Projects (London)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the major hospital building projects in London which *(a)* are under way and *(b)* have received building permission; and if she will make a statement. [77488]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* The major hospital building projects (capital value greater than £25 million) which are under way in London are:

National health service trust	*Current status*	*Value (£ million)*
Private finance initiative schemes		
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	Under construction	238
Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust	Under construction	72
Barts and The London NHS Trust	Under construction	1,000
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	Under construction	55
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	Under construction	32
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	Under construction	33
North Middlesex University Hospital[1]	At preferred bidder stage proceeding to full business case approval	108
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital[1]	[2]Pre-OJEU	121
Hillingdon Hospital[1]	[2]Pre-OJEU	338

National health service trust	Current status	Value (£ million)
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals[1]	[2]Pre-OJEU	80
North West London Hospitals—Northwick Park[1]	[2]Pre-OJEU	305
Whipps Cross University Hospital	[2]Pre-OJEU	328
Public capital schemes		
Oxleas NHS Trust	Under construction	27
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children	Pre-tender	75
West London Mental Health—Broadmoor	Pre-tender	243

[1] Final capital values are subject to completion of the PR revalidation exercise for each scheme
[2] Advertising in the *Official Journal* of the European Union

All schemes are required to have secured outline and full planning permission as a condition of approval to proceed to construction.

Indoor Pollution

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of indoor pollution on the population; and if he will make a statement. [75567]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not undertaken a formal assessment of the effects on indoor air pollution on the population. However, the committee on the medical effects of air pollutants (COMEAP) frequently looks at evidence gathered from studies of the effects of indoor air pollution on health. COMEAP has recently published, on its website, a substantial document entitled "Guidance on Indoor Air Quality" which is available at: www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/PDFs/guidanceindoorairqualitydec04.pdf.

This document reviews the major indoor air pollutants and provides important advice on how to maintain good indoor air quality.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on information technology (IT) sourced from outside her Department in each of the last five years; who is responsible for such projects in her Department; and what IT *(a)* expertise and *(b)* qualifications they possess. [71759]

Caroline Flint: The information that follows pertains to the central Department and does not cover Executive agencies, other arm's length bodies or NHS Connecting for Health. A de minimis of £100,000 per annum has been applied.

Since June 2002 the Department has spent a total of £88.42 million with Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), its information technology (IT) service provider through the information management services agreement. This has included the annual support charges and the cost of the transformation programme. It has also included expenditure, which CSC administer on behalf of the Department, for example BT costs for the wide area network and business ports, and audio conferencing and mobile telephone costs. The remainder of the costs over the five years have been apportioned to project work in support of the integrity and resilience of the infrastructure. These two areas are listed as follows as project and pass through charges. Details of other IT spend, corporate software, telecommunications, the finance system and the web content management system and external hosting are shown in the table.

	£ million
2002-03	
CSC annual support charge	7.65
CSC project and pass through charges	12.88
Corporate software (including maintenance)	0.795
Telecommunications	2.76
BT external hosting	0.306
2003-04	
CSC annual support charge	8.85
CSC transformation charge	12.6
CSC project and pass through charges	18.32
Corporate software (including maintenance)	0.52
Telecommunications	4.35
BT external hosting	0.5
2004-05	
CSC annual support charge	8.77
CSC project and pass through charges	20.06
Finance systems project	5.6
Corporate software (including maintenance)	1.073
Telecommunications	4.13
BT external hosting	0.374
2005-06	
CSC annual support charge	7.47
CSC project and pass through charges	21.82
Corporate software (including maintenance)	1.075
Telecommunications	3.67
BT external hosting	0.3
2006-07 (Projected costs)	
CSC annual support charge	7.6
CSC project and pass through charges	[1]21
Corporate software (including maintenance)	1.07
Web content management service	[2]5.11
Telecommunications	3.67
BT external hosting	0.3

[1] £2.72 million invoiced so far.
[2] This contract has just been let and the estimated costs cover the next five years.

The sponsor of major IT projects would always be a member of the senior civil service with several years of experience in dealing with such projects and with IT suppliers. As project sponsor his or her responsibility

would be to draw together project boards and project teams of civil servants and/or consultants with both project management and procurement qualifications, for example PRINCE2 practitioners and members of the Institute of Purchasing and Supply. Procurements and implementation of projects are undertaken in line with Office of Government Commerce best practice and European Union procedures as required.

Insulins

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is available to the Department on the use of insulins. [76553]

Andy Burnham: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published a technology appraisal 'Guidance on the use of long-acting insulin analogues for the treatment of diabetes—insulin glargine' in December 2002.

However, the choice of insulin prescribed to a patient is a clinical decision made as a result of a joint decision-making process between the patient and their clinician taking into account all available evidence and the individuals specific clinical needs.

From January 2006, the NICE guidance on patient education has required all primary care trusts to implement NICE recommendations by providing all people with diabetes with high quality, structured education which should include information on insulin use.

Liverpool City Council

Jane Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources are being deployed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection to ensure that Liverpool city council social services department complies with national standards of service delivery in *(a)* care of the elderly and *(b)* vulnerable adults. [72462]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it does not hold a numerical quantification of the resources involved.

Liverpool social services is currently judged to be a one star council, serving some adults well, with uncertain prospects for improvement.

CSCI undertook a joint inspection with the Healthcare Commission of older people's services in May 2005. It identified key areas of improvement around strategy and needs analysis and commissioning and performance management.

Liverpool council has produced improvement plans, which are being monitored by CSCI through the regular business meeting process with the director of adult social services, senior managers, front line managers and elected members of Liverpool city council.

The joint 'Supporting People' inspection of Liverpool council in June 2004 identified the key areas of development to focus on the improvement of management capacity, commissioning and performance management and partnership and engagement. CSCI is working with partners, including the Audit Commission, to ensure Liverpool council is engaging staff and users in order to positively promote and enhance performance progress.

CSCI, through its regulatory activity, has noted that the council's own regulated services are demonstrating an improvement and that when regulatory requirements are made they are met within the timescales.

Local Improvement Finance Trust Schemes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the local improvement finance trust schemes undertaken in *(a)* Forest of Dean constituency and *(b)* Gloucestershire in each year since the initiative was introduced. [73794]

Caroline Flint: There are no local improvement finance trusts (LIFT) schemes in the Forest of Dean constituency and Gloucestershire. It is for local primary care trusts to decide to seek approval from the Department to establish LIFTs in their areas, and they do this in the light of the health and social care needs of their population. The local primary care trusts have decided not to seek approval to establish LIFTs in their areas.

Management Consultancy

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* Kennett and North Wiltshire primary care trust and (b) West Wiltshire primary care trust spent on management consultancy in each of the last five years. [75863]

Caroline Flint: Detailed information about contracts for management consultants engaged by national health service bodies is not held centrally.

Maternity Units

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times the midwife-led birth unit at Gloucestershire Royal hospital has been closed in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [76077]

Caroline Flint: This is a matter for the Chair of Gloucestershire National Health Service Foundation Trust. I have written to Dame Janet Trotter informing her of your enquiry. A copy of her reply will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what grounds it has been decided to propose Stroud Maternity Unit for closure; and what account she has taken of the new payments by results system in making that decision. [76083]

Caroline Flint: Within the framework of the NHS Plan and other national policy documents, it is for local health economies to plan, develop and deliver local services. Decisions on the range of services to be made available or closed in local areas are prioritised and led by local trusts.

Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority has advised officials that a full consultation on health services in Gloucestershire will run from June 12 to 4 September.

Medical Treatment (Under-16s)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will bring forward legislation to require health professionals *(a)* to attempt to persuade a person under 16 years of age to involve a parent or guardian in any medical treatment and *(b)* to require a person under 16 years of age who declines to involve a parent or guardian in their medical treatment to sign a waiver form confirming that they have rejected involvement of a parent or guardian; and if she will make a statement. [75528]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The courts have found that children aged under 16 who have sufficient understanding and maturity to enable them to understand fully what is involved in a proposed medical intervention will also have the capacity to consent to that intervention. Departmental guidance states that health professionals should encourage young people to involve their family in decision-making.

Mental Health

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* job losses and *(b)* ward closures there have been in each mental health trust in England in each of the last five years. [75604]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not routinely collect and hold centrally operational management information on proposals to close wards or change staffing levels. Such decisions are for trusts to determine in partnership with local stakeholders. This Government have given local authority overview and scrutiny committees (OSCs) the power to review and scrutinise health services from the perspective of their local populations. National health service bodies are under a duty to consult OSCs on any plans to make substantial variation to NHS services. Those committees have the powers to refer any proposal to the Secretary of State if they believe the plans are not in the interests of the health service.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated to each *(a)* mental health trust and *(b)* primary care trust in England in each of the last five years. [75605]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department makes revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs), but not to national health service mental health trusts. Allocations were first made to PCTs in 2003-04, but prior to this funding was allocated to health authorities.

Details of revenue allocations to PCTs for 2003-04 to 2005-06 and 2006-07 to 2007-08 have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health patients from *(a)* Manchester Withington and *(b)* the city of Manchester have not been immediately admitted on referral to a mental health bed in a Manchester hospital in each year since 1997. [76454]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on current waiting times for mental health outpatient treatment in Barnet. [75998]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not routinely assess waiting times for mental health services in any locality, including Barnet, because waiting time targets only apply to consultant-led services. This includes consultant-led mental health services. However, in mental health, referrals are usually made to the care of a multi-disciplinary team such as the local community mental health team rather than individual consultants. Therefore, the current waiting time targets are not robust indicators of access to mental health services, many of which take place outside the hospital setting.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people with multiple sclerosis are waiting to commence beta interferon and glatiramer treatment; [77293]

(2) how much funding has been provided for beta interferon and glatiramer treatment for multiple sclerosis in each of the last three years. [77294]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Patients with multiple sclerosis, who meet the eligibility criteria set out in Health Circular 2002-04, are able to access treatment with beta interferon and glatiramer acetate through the risk sharing scheme. Information on the number of patients awaiting such treatment is not collected.

The cost of all prescriptions dispensed in the community for England for beta interferon and glatiramer acetate is detailed as follows:

	Glatiramer acetate	*Beta interferon*
2003	631,321	14,244,221
2004	1,418,911	16,411,143
2005	2,043,707	17,499,572

Information taken from the prescription cost analysis system, supplied by the Prescriptions Pricing Division, which is part of the NHS Business Services Authority, based on an analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. This does not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, or private prescriptions.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of multiple sclerosis sufferers in England are receiving disease modifying therapies; [77700]

(2) how many people with multiple sclerosis in *(a)* England and *(b)* Eastbourne eligible for disease modifying therapies under the Association of British Neurologists' guidelines are not receiving them. [77702]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The percentage of people with multiple sclerosis (MS) currently receiving disease modifying therapies is not collected.

The number of people with MS eligible for disease modifying therapies, but not receiving them, is not collected.

National Blood Service

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints her Department received from men who have had sex with men that they were treated disrespectfully by blood donation staff in 2005. [76898]

Caroline Flint: Departmental officials are not aware of any complaints about the National Blood Service in relation to how their staff deal with men who have sex with men, who are excluded from donating blood.

National Centre for Media and Health

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the work of the National Centre for Media and Health. [67387]

Caroline Flint: The National Centre for Media and Health was a "Choosing Health" commitment which is being developed as part of the health social marketing strategy. An independent report commissioned by the Department, which investigates its future role, responsibilities and development will be launched in June 2006.

National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason section 28 of the National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002 has not been implemented. [75904]

Andy Burnham: The purpose of section 28 of the National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002 is to provide redress for the way the professional regulatory bodies have carried out any of their functions. Section 28 remains unimplemented to allow regulatory bodies a chance to consider, and amend if necessary, how any function is exercised.

Once the reviews of medical and non-medical professional regulation are published, we will consider the implementation of section 28.

National Programme for Information Technology

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the development of an electronic single assessment process through the national programme for information technology. [74056]

Caroline Flint: The national service framework (NSF) for older people published in March 2001 recommended implementation of a single assessment process by the health and social care professionals involved in the care of each individual. The national programme for information technology included IT support as an additional service for a single assessment process within the contracts let to local service providers. A variety of information systems and tools are available to support this process. Successful local deployments of such systems by national programme suppliers, notably in the programme's north east and eastern clusters, have demonstrated the value of the technology and its potential to support the rapid development of integrated multi-agency working across all client groups.

In addition, the £25 million capital expenditure grant recently paid to local authorities (LAs) by the Department for improving information management made specific reference to the single assessment process. The circular issued to LAs contained the following reference:

> "The integration of social care information is a key requirement in the final phase of NCRS implementation. This will include:
>
> Electronic implementation of the Single Assessment Process...
>
> It follows, therefore, that significant benefits will be gained by using the grant to facilitate that integration, in particular preparation for the NCRS implementation ... each local authority would be asked to summarise its spending proposals for 2006-07 and 2007-08, as covered by the extension of the grant. The Department is therefore asking each local authority to submit these proposals..."

A study has also been commissioned into options for national implementation of the electronic single assessment process (e-SAP), including linkage between health and social care systems. Consultation has been undertaken with health, social care and supplier representatives, and a report is due later in 2006.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what compensation has been paid to the NHS for loss suffered due to non-delivery of components of the national programme for information technology. [74059]

Caroline Flint: Many of the components of the national programme for information technology have been delivered to time. There have been some delays to local systems but local plans for deployment of systems and services are subject to regular update and revision by the national health service as well as suppliers depending, for example, on the readiness of NHS bodies to receive them. In general, payment is not made to suppliers until systems have been satisfactorily delivered and have been demonstrated to be safe to use and fit for purpose, and, where appropriate, been the subject of consultation with representatives of end-user groups. In some areas of the programme this process is determining the pace at which development and deployment takes place.

In some instances savings have been achieved by NHS organisations where national programme systems

and services have been delivered ahead of time, or additional to those originally planned. Examples include email and new national network connections in many areas, and the benefits of national software licensing arrangements with Microsoft and Novell. There has been no clawback of the savings in these instances. The question of compensation for non-delivery, either to or from the NHS, therefore does not arise in either case.

There was a situation in the early days of the new national network (N3) contract when early milestones were missed and compensation of £4.5 million was agreed with BT. The N3 performance has since recovered and is now ahead of schedule.

Delivery of systems and services to the NHS is generally ahead of schedule in some areas, and, in the context of a 10-year programme, broadly on track in others. Such delays that have occurred have been more than made up for by delivery of projects additional to the original contracted components such as the quality management and analysis system (QMAS), the secure NHSmail email service and payment by results, which are in addition to the original scope of the programme.

Two years since contracts were first awarded, over 50,000 instances of new deployments of all types are currently live in NHS locations in England. 8,800 general practices (28,000 general practitioners (GPs)) are daily using QMAS that pays GPs £600 million a year based on quality outcomes. There are almost 230,000 users registered for access to the NHS care record spine with over 45,000 users accessing every day and around one and a quarter million prescriptions have been transmitted using the electronic transmission of prescriptions system. Over 14,500 secure broadband connections have been delivered, including to almost 10,000 general practice locations, and there are over 175,000 registered NHSmail users, over 79,000 of whom use the system daily.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the speed is of the broadband connection delivered through the national programme for information technology; and what assessment she has made of the optimal access speed. [74062]

Caroline Flint: The new national network (N3) provides connections of 0.5 up to 2 megabits per second (Mbps) of dedicated bandwidth for general practitioner (GP) sites, and of 2Mbps up to 100Mbps for national health service trusts. This can be topped up by local organisations to accommodate local business requirements.

Bandwidth deployed in any particular site depends on the size of the site, and the type of application usage predicted. More than 85 per cent. of GP sites have or are planned to have 1Mbps bandwidth or higher. Around 60 per cent. of NHS trusts have or are planned to have 100Mbps bandwidth.

Research on bandwidth requirements was undertaken with the NHS user community and prospective local service providers as part of the N3 procurement exercise. Results of the research were used as the basis for developing N3 products and services.

N3 deployment is one of the national programme's major success stories. In the two years since it began, over 14,500 installations have been completed at a rate significantly in advance of the original deployment plan. Before N3, only main GP practice sites were connected, the majority at 64kbps and some at 256kbps. None of these had any backup service provided and no branch practices were funded centrally. Trusts were provisioned at one 2mbps connection per trust. Under N3 all GP practice sites are eligible for centrally funded connections, and trusts are provided with a connection per site and receive bandwidth commensurate with their size. In order to provide a standard level of service, the provision of broadband services in some rural communities was accelerated under N3 in order that GPs could benefit from consistent services, regardless of location. The NHS was the first public service organisation to achieve this ambition for equitability of services in rural areas.

All N3 services receive significant backup connectivity, and average service availability across both primary and secondary care sites routinely exceeds 99.9 per cent. It is estimated that the total cost of N3 connections will be at least £800 million less than the provision of the same amount of N3 bandwidth under the old NHSnet contract.

NHS Care Records Service

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to link *(a)* opticians and *(b)* dentists to the NHS Care Records Service. [74057]

Caroline Flint: The NHS Care Records Service is the core component of the national programme for information technology. National programme applications are designed to support all the clinical services in and around the national health service, including dentists and opticians. The national programme is on target to achieve full integration of health and social care systems in England by 2010.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to link the Care Records Service to equivalent systems in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Wales. [74058]

Caroline Flint: The opportunity was provided for the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales to join the procurement exercise for England but, at the time, they chose not to do so, which is their right under devolved government arrangements. However, through the United Kingdom information management and technology forum, and the national health service information standards board, national programme officials work closely with officials in the Scottish Executive, the National Assembly for Wales, and the Northern Ireland Office to ensure common standards and interoperability of clinical information systems. Details of the output based specification, standards and message specification, used in England have been made available to other jurisdictions. The NHS care records service is being designed and developed in accordance with international and European Union-wide standards which have been adopted by the UK e-Government interoperability framework (e-GIF).

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health professionals are registered to access the NHS Care Records Service; and how many staff she expects to have access when the system is fully operational. [75439]

Caroline Flint: Local national health service organisations have the responsibility for determining which of their staff may access the care records available within the particular deployment of new information technology systems to their organisation. Only those people involved in the care of the patient will have access to patient information, and the level of detail to which they have access will be appropriate to their role. The NHS care records service registration authority is responsible for registering and verifying the identity of NHS staff who need to use the NHS Care Records Service (NHS CRS) and related systems and services. The number having access when the service is fully deployed across the NHS will be determined by the operational and professional needs of NHS organisations and their staff. Access to these systems and services, and the patient information they contain and use, is controlled by smartcards with identification and passcode, superior to a chip and pin credit card. Registration authorities locally issue smartcards to authorised staff with an approved level of access to patient information. As at 31 May 2006, there were over 230,000 users registered to access the NHS CRS.

NHS Direct

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether NHS Direct is funded out of the connecting for health budget; [66726]

(2) how NHS Direct generates revenue. [66727]

Caroline Flint: NHS Direct is funded by the Department for its core national services and for specific national projects such as the development of its NHS Direct interactive television services.

The nationally provided choose and book appointments line, which is currently solely provided by NHS Direct, is funded out of Departmental central budgets. To 2005-06, this has been funded from Connecting for Health monies. In 2006-07, the appointments line will be funded out of Departmental central budgets.

NHS Direct is able to generate local income by competing to provide services for primary care trusts and others. These may be either nationally enhanced services where it is national policy to involve NHS Direct such as call handling and clinical assessment for out-of-hours care or locally enhanced services to meet specific local needs such as pre-hospital screening.

NHS Finance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the restrictions are on primary care trusts releasing money ring-fenced for premises development; and if she will make a statement. [72735]

Caroline Flint: Primary care trusts have the responsibility to plan, develop and improve services to meet the needs of local people and to decide how available funding should best be spent. Investment in premises improvement will be considered alongside other priorities.

Funding that has been ring-fenced as grants to third parties, including primary care premises, must be spent for the purpose for which they were ring-fenced.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mechanism is by which *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* NHS trusts report deficits to their strategic health authorities; how these deficits are monitored; and what the trigger is for bringing in a turnaround team. [76035]

Andy Burnham: In order to monitor the implementation of turnaround plans for organisations within the turnaround cohort, the turnaround national programme office at the Department has developed a fortnightly reporting process which will capture, for example, the following information: risks/issues during implementation; progress against milestones; overall financial performance against plan: for example cost savings achieved; monthly run rate information[1]; year to date/outturn performance; and forecast full year deficit.

Following an independent baseline assessment of organisations with some of the largest deficits, 98[2] organisations were identified as those with significant deficits. These organisations, also known as the turnaround cohort were categorised in terms of their support requirements as follows:

Category 1: Immediate priority. Urgent intervention required to drive turnaround.

Category 2: Additional expertise/resource needed to support turnaround.

Category 3: Drive/focus. Maintain high priority of actions.

Category 4: Encourage to share what works and deliver easy wins.

Category 1 and 2 organisations were expected to secure additional turnaround support in order to assist them in the development of robust credible turnaround plans. Strategic health authorities (SHAs) and chief executives of organisations retain the responsibility for financial recovery. Over and above the central expectation for additional turnaround support for categories 1 and 2, triggers to fund external turnaround support are determined locally.

All national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) are required to submit financial forecasts to the Department on a monthly basis. SHAs may have additional reporting requirements.

[1] Monthly balance of income and expenditure (run rate balance).

[2] There are 102 (48 trusts and 54 PCTs) statutory organisations within the turnaround cohort but Ipswich PCT and Suffolk Coastal are under joint management and are treated as one organisation, as are Fareham and Gosport PCT and East Hampshire PCT, and three Cumbrian PCTs.

NHS IT Programme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what penalty charges have been levied on suppliers to the NHS IT programme, broken down by *(a)* company and *(b)* the part of the programme. [75031]

Caroline Flint: Under the terms of the contracts let by NHS Connecting for Health, the agency which is delivering the national health service national programme for information technology, a significant proportion of the completion risks have been transferred to the supplier. Payment to the supplier depends on system deployment, which incentivises deployment. NHS Connecting for Health has retained extensive rights under its contracts to defer payments, receive compensation for missed milestones and, if necessary, to terminate contracts, for failure to achieve the required performance levels.

In the early days of the new national network (N3) contract some early milestones were missed and clawback of £4.5 million was agreed with BT. N3 performance has since recovered and is now ahead of schedule.

Relevant contractual levers have also been applied on a number of other occasions where local service providers have failed to meet specified performance or deployment activity.

While not classed as penalty charges, these sanctions have been in the form of the withholding of payments.

NHS Performance

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her oral statement of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 253, on NHS performance, in which areas of NHS activity the £765 million surplus that has reduced the gross NHS deficit from £1.27 billion to £512 million arose; and if she will make a statement. [77065]

Andy Burnham: The national health service is not only delivering more and improved health services, but also a much better quality of care for patients. Some NHS organisations were able to deliver these improvements and deliver a surplus for 2005-06. There are a wide range of service improvements that trusts made irrespective of whether they were in surplus.

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her oral statement of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 253, on NHS performance, on what basis the gross deficit of £1.27 billion for the NHS financial year 2005-06 was calculated. [77066]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* The gross surplus is the aggregate of surpluses reported in the provisional unaudited outturn figures for 2005-06 by all national health service trusts, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities.

NHS Projects

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS health *(a)* promotion and *(b)* prevention projects planned for the 2005-06 financial year have been (i) withdrawn, (ii) cut and (iii) postponed until the 2006-07 financial year. [51938]

Caroline Flint: The "Choosing Health" White Paper, published in 2004, sets out the Government's key programme of measures to promote health and prevent disease by supporting the public to make healthier and informed choices.

A delivery plan was published in 2005 following publication of the "Choosing Health" White Paper. This sets down plans for delivery against all "Choosing Health" commitments. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Obesity

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(b)* Education and Skills about reducing obesity in (i) schools and (ii) young people; and if she will make a statement. [68842]

Caroline Flint: The childhood obesity public service agreement (PSA) "to halt the year-on-year rise in obesity in 2 to 10 year olds by 2010" is jointly held by the Department, Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Mechanisms are in place to ensure that contributions from relevant government departments are properly co-ordinated and discussed at official and ministerial level. These include the Obesity Programme Board, which meets quarterly and includes senior departmental officials from Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Treasury, DfES, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Food Standards Agency, and DCMS. The cross-Government Ministerial Committee on Domestic Affairs sub-Committee on Public Health has the obesity PSA as a standing agenda item at each of its regular meeting.

I also refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1204W.

Occupational Therapy

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what is the current *(a)* average and *(b)* longest waiting time for assessment for occupational therapy over the last three years; [77288]

(2) how many patients are currently awaiting assessment for occupational therapy. [77289]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not available centrally.

The major employers of occupational therapists are the national health service and local authorities (LAs). In the NHS it is for primary care trusts, in partnership with strategic health authorities, LAs and other stakeholders, to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services. LAs directly employ occupational therapists and the delivery of the service will be determined by the employing authority. A number of LAs are in discussion with their NHS partners regarding the integration of occupational therapy services, however this information is not available centrally.

Osteopathy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the basis is for the proposed changes to the regulation of osteopaths; and if she will make a statement. [76209]

Andy Burnham: The Government have made no proposals at this point for changes to the regulation of osteopaths. The recent review of non-medical professional regulation, which has reported to Ministers, looked at the need for change in the regulation of all non-medical professions. A statement will be made in due course when we reach our decisions on this review.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the budget for the General Osteopathic Council is publicly funded. [76170]

Andy Burnham: The General Osteopathic Council is self-funded through registrants' fees. No proportion of the budget is publicly funded.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what weight the Foster Review has given to the Government's principles of better regulation in considering the future regulation of osteopaths. [76171]

Andy Burnham: The Government's five better regulation principles require regulation to be proportionate, accountable, consistent, transparent and targeted. These principles underlie the review of non-medical professional regulation, which includes the regulation of osteopaths.

Parliamentary Questions

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will answer question numbers *(a)* 57781 and *(b)* 57782 tabled on 7 March and question numbers *(c)* 58559 and *(d)* 58560 tabled on 9 March. [73585]

Caroline Flint: Answers were given on 7 June.

PFI Projects

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the remaining stages are of each private finance initiative hospital project yet to reach final close; and whether additional stages are required to complete these projects which were not required for projects already completed. [70161]

Andy Burnham: The remaining stages of each private finance initiative (PFI) hospital project yet to reach financial close are shown in the table.

National Health Service Trust	*Current status*	*Value (£million)*
St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals	Full business case (FBC) approved proceeding to financial close	338
University Hospital Birmingham	FBC approved proceeding to financial close	697
Tameside and Glossop Acute Services	At preferred bidder stage proceeding to FBC	91
Essex Rivers Healthcare, Colchester	At preferred bidder stage proceeding to FBC	223
Mid Essex Hospital Services, Chelmsford	At preferred bidder stage proceeding to FBC	186
North Middlesex University Hospital	At preferred bidder stage proceeding to FBC	108
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals, Wakefield	At preferred bidder stage proceeding to FBC	280
Salford Royal Hospitals	At preferred bidder stage proceeding to FBC	190
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals	At preferred bidder stage proceeding to FBC	360
Walsall Hospitals	At short list bidder stage proceeding to preferred bidder	100
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys	At short list bidder stage proceeding to preferred bidder	78
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells	At short list bidder stage proceeding to preferred bidder	428
South Devon Healthcare	Advertised in Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) proceeding to shortlisted bidder stage	341
Leicestershire Partnership	Pre-OJEU	50
University Hospitals of Leicester	Pre-OJEU	550
University Hospital of North Staffordshire	Pre-OJEU	411
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital	Pre-OJEU	121
Hillingdon Hospital	Pre-OJEU	338
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals	Pre-OJEU	80
North West London Hospitals, Northwick Park	Pre-OJEU	305
Aintree Hospitals	Pre-OJEU	50
Southampton University Hospitals	Pre-OJEU	80
Southend Hospital	Pre-OJEU	100
North Bristol/South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trusts	Pre-OJEU	400
Taunton and Somerset	Pre-OJEU	80
Plymouth Hospitals	Pre-OJEU	209
Papworth Hospitals	Pre-OJEU	148
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals - 2010	Pre-OJEU	500

National Health Service Trust	Current status	Value (£million)
East and North Hertfordshire/West Hertfordshire Hospitals	Pre-OJEU	880
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals	Pre-OJEU	500
Plymouth Hospitals	Pre-OJEU	400
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital	Pre-OJEU	300
Mersey Care	Pre-OJEU	192
Leeds Teaching Hospitals, Children's	Pre-OJEU	204
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals	Pre-OJEU	200
United Bristol Healthcare	Pre-OJEU	104
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Cherry Knowle	Pre-OJEU	50
Whipps Cross University Hospital	Pre-OJEU	328
Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals	Pre-OJEU	317

We announced on 26 January that all trusts with PFI schemes with an expected capital value of greater than £75 million would need to reconfirm their plans. This an additional check put in place to ensure that all schemes properly take account of the current reforms to the NHS such as choice, a movement of services into primary and community settings, the new financial regime as well long-term affordability, assumptions on efficiency gains and income growth.

Primary Care Trusts

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts are operating panels to review GP referrals to consultants; and if she will make a statement. [68238]

Caroline Flint: The information about which primary care trusts are operating referral panels is not held centrally.

The Department is clear that referrals to community-based clinical assessment services, and other such centres, should happen only where it adds genuine clinical value for patients.

Sexual Health

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to the sexual health sector in each of the last five years. [77150]

Caroline Flint: In February 2005, individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including those covering the London area were notified of their choosing health revenue allocation. In 2006-07, £91.5 million has been allocated to PCTs for sexual health modernisation which includes funding for Chlamydia screening, contraception and abortion services and a further £111.5 million will be allocated in 2007-08. In addition, a further £15 million genito-urinary medicine capital was allocated in 2005-06 and a further £25 million in 2006-07.

Data on spend on sexual health services in each PCT is not collected centrally.

Sheppey Community Hospital

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the new x-ray scanner will be *(a)* installed and *(b)* operational at Sheppey Community Hospital. [77614]

Caroline Flint: This is a local matter. However, the Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority has advised that the new x-ray scanner at Sheppey Community Hospital is due to be installed during the week commencing 19 June 2006. Following installation, it is anticipated that the x-ray scanner will be operational within three weeks.

Sickle Cell Anaemia

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people diagnosed with sickle cell anaemia there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* London. [72319]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect this information.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* received information on which aims to develop a cure for sickle cell anaemia; and if she will make a statement. [72320]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The main agency through which the Government supports medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body which receives its grant-in-aid from the Office of Science and Innovation, part of the Department of Trade and Industry.

The MRCs current portfolio in this area includes a £1.25 million programme on inherited blood disorders; this includes sickle cell anaemia.

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual projects, including a number concerned with sickle cell anaemia, are available on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington, Northumberland, closed; what the cost of maintaining and securing the buildings and grounds of the hospital was in each of the last five years; and what steps she plans to take to expedite the disposal of the hospital estate. [76202]

Ms Rosie Winterton: St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington, which forms part of the Secretary of State for Health's residual estate, closed in 1996.

The cost of security and maintenance, to ensure that the intrinsic value of the buildings on the site is maintained, in each of the last five years is:

	Cost (£)
2001-02	[1]135,000
2002-03	142,500
2003-04	160,200
2004-05	165,600
2005-06	165,250

[1] Estimated.

The site has been sold, subject to planning consent being granted. The prospective purchaser's planning application was refused on appeal in May 2006. Options that will achieve an early sale are currently being considered.

Stroke/Heart Attacks

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* stroke and *(b)* heart attack patients have died on the way to hospital in an ambulance in each of the last five years; and how long the journey was in (i) miles and (ii) minutes on each occasion. [77609]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Tobacco Purchasing

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will publish the consultation on raising the age limit for the purchase of tobacco products. [74121]

Caroline Flint: The consultation on raising the age of sale for tobacco products will be published shortly.

Treatment Costs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost to the NHS of comparable procedures undertaken in *(a)* NHS hospitals and *(b)* independent sector treatment centres. [72762]

Andy Burnham: Value for money of the independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) procurement has been ensured by running a robust and competitive procurement process, and by benchmarking procedure prices between contracts and comparing them to the national health service equivalent cost and the prices paid by the NHS to the independent sector under spot purchase arrangements.

Across the full period of the wave 1 ISTC contracts, the average percentage cost compares favourably with the historical cost to the NHS of spot purchasing from the independent sector.

Tuberculosis

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the average cost to the NHS of a case of active tuberculosis disease in each of the five years. [75367]

Caroline Flint: The exact costs of treating people with tuberculosis are not routinely collected, and treatment costs can vary widely from patient to patient.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the cost benefits of early and accurate diagnosis of *(a)* latent tuberculosis and *(b)* active tuberculosis disease. [75366]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not undertaken a formal cost benefit analysis on the benefits of early and accurate diagnosis of latent or active tuberculosis (TB) disease.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published a clinical guideline on the diagnosis and management of TB, and measures for its prevention and control in March 2006. NICE made recommendations about the effectiveness, including cost effectiveness, of diagnostic tools for early and accurate diagnosis of latent TB and active TB. The clinical guideline and associated reports are available on NICE'S website at:

www.nice.org.uk.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 19 June 2006

WALES

A5 (North Wales)

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps he is taking to tackle the impact on road traffic in England of the long-term closure of the A5 in North Wales; and what information he has received about when it is likely to open again. [78430]

Mr. Hain: The Welsh Assembly Government took the decision to close a short section of the A5, between Ty Nant and Dinmael, in the interests of public safety. The Assembly Government are continuing to work with local authorities, business and tourist representatives to minimise any adverse effects.

I understand that remedial works could take around six months to complete, depending on site conditions. However, the meantime, urgent steps have been taken to provide an alternative route to alleviate pressures. As a result, the old A5 was re-opened to vehicles not exceeding 7.5 tonnes on 16 June.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by his Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77302]

Mr. Hain: No. The Wales Office records total hospitality costs, which will include any spending on alcohol.

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many working days were lost to his Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated total cost to the Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [78079]

Mr. Hain: Since 2004 the Wales Office has formed part of the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) for sickness monitoring purposes. Prior to 2004 it was included with those of the National Assembly for Wales.

Figures regarding sickness absence are contained in the annual report, "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service", published by the Cabinet Office. Reports for each year since 1999 are available in the Library and on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/occupational_health/publications/index.asp

The figures relating to the Wales Office are not available separately, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will estimate the pension liability of the Law Officers' Departments over the next 30 years. [75240]

The Solicitor-General: The pension liabilities of the Crown Prosecution Service, Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office, Serious Fraud Office and Treasury Solicitor's Department (including HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and the Attorney-General's Office) are not estimated by individual departments. Civil service pension liabilities are estimated for individual pension schemes as shown in the breakdown of liabilities per scheme given in Table 1 of the technical Note by HM Treasury, placed in the Library of the House on 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-90, following an oral Statement in Parliament by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Payment Schemes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of compiling, printing and posting the leaflet Single Payment Scheme: Additional Cross-compliance Requirements; and whether there are plans to issue further single payment scheme publications in the current financial year. [76649]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has not issued a publication entitled the Single Payment Scheme: Additional Cross-compliance Requirements. RPA did publish recently a supplement of the Cross Compliance Handbook for England 2006, for which the cost of compiling, printing and posting was £85,871.00.

There are plans to produce a 2007 version of the Cross Compliance Handbook for England, incorporating any new statutory management requirements that have to be implemented under EU Regulations and a 2007 supplement for the current Set aside Handbook and Guidance.

Rural Payments Agency

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that those claimants whose 2005 single farm payment claims were paid after 31 March 2006 receive their 2006 single farm payments before those whose 2005 claims were paid before 31 March 2006. [73219]

Barry Gardiner: No. This would not ensure the optimal and earliest delivery of the maximum subsidy to claimants. Priorities will therefore be drawn up with the view to maximising payments as early as possible within the regulatory payment window, starting on 1 December 2006.

Timber

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he maintains a register of central Government building and refurbishment projects in relation to ensuring compliance with the Government's timber procurement policy. [76283]

Barry Gardiner: The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs does not hold a register of central Government building and refurbishment projects. There is an annual Sustainable Development in Government report in which Departments are encouraged to report their timber purchases as appropriate.

Wildlife and Countryside Act

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to consult on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's proposed list of bird species to be included on schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. [78793]

Barry Gardiner: I will be making an announcement shortly.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Battery Recycling

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether plans are in place to introduce battery recycling facilities on the parliamentary estate. [76279]

Nick Harvey: Batteries from electrical equipment owned by the two Houses are stored for collection by a contractor for recycling. It is intended to extend this facility in due course to all used batteries on the estate and this will be publicised to Members and staff when more details are available.

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the Chief Accounting Officer of the House. [76864]

Nick Harvey: Section 3 (2) of the House of Commons (Administration) Act 1978 gives the Commission power to appoint an Accounting Officer responsible for accounting for the sums paid out of money provided by Parliament for the service of the House of Commons. The current Accounting Officer is the Clerk of the House and Chief Executive of the House of Commons Service, Roger Sands, who has been in that position since January 2003. The details of his qualifications and career in the House of Commons Service are available in a number of reference books. In common with other Accounting Officers, he has undertaken the centrally provided training given to Accounting Officers on their appointment. He is assisted in the discharge of his Accounting Officer responsibilities by appropriately qualified and experienced staff in the Directorate of Financial Management.

Officers of the House (Accommodation)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what accommodation is made available to Officers of the House; and if he will make a statement. [76939]

Nick Harvey: Officers of the House who are provided with residential accommodation are the Clerk of the House, the Serjeant at Arms and the Speaker's Secretary.

Security

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1907, on security (Abingdon Street barrier), if he will place in the Library a copy of the review; what representations he has received about the review; what the cost was of undertaking the review; when he expects a final decision to be made about the arrangements at the steel barrier; what complaints the Commission has received about the waterproof equipment issued to officers working at the steel barrier in Abingdon Street; and if he will make a statement. [75634]

Nick Harvey: The review consists of an ongoing process rather than a written report. Regular meetings are held involving the management of the security team and those representing both police and security officers. The purpose of these meetings is to keep under continual review all matters relating to the steel barrier, with a particular emphasis on operating guidelines and the health, safety and welfare of staff operating the system. It was through this process that the issue of improved clothing was identified, and is being provided following discussions with uniform specialists within the Metropolitan Police Service.

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how often and for what length of time *(a)* police officers and *(b)* security officers are required to serve at the steel barrier in Abingdon Street; whether there are plans to increase these duties; what representations the Commission has received from (i) the Police Federation and (ii) others representing police officers and security officers on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [75935]

Nick Harvey: I understand that the overall hours worked at the Corus barriers by police and security officers are in line with other posts where there is limited protection from the elements. It is not the practice to give rostering details of security staff. These working arrangements continue to be discussed between the security team management and those representing both police and security officers. The Commission has not

received any representations from either the Police Federation or others on this matter. Recognising the nature of these duties, the parliamentary authorities have been very supportive of reducing the operating hours of the scheme where possible; for example, during each parliamentary recess.

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* security officers were on (i) short-term and (ii) long-term sick leave after a period of service at the steel barrier in Abingdon Street in each week since October 2005; and if he will make a statement. [75936]

Nick Harvey: I understand that a total of two police officers and one security officer have reported sick following alleged incidents while operating the Corus barriers which began in October 2005. The total number of days lost to sickness is 157. All these incidents occurred within the first three months of operation of this scheme. Regular risk assessments and health and safety advice from both the House authorities and the Metropolitan Police Service have resulted in the introduction of additional safety measures which appear to be working effectively.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the Chief Accounting Officer of the Electoral Commission. [76720]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission does not have a "Chief Accounting Officer". The Electoral Commission's Accounting Officer, who is designated by the Speaker's Committee in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, is Peter Wardle, the Commission's chief executive. Mr. Wardle has a Bachelor of Arts degree. Before becoming chief executive of the Electoral Commission in December 2004 he had been a senior civil servant for 10 years, including periods as Principal Finance Officer at the Cabinet Office and Director of Strategy and Planning at the Inland Revenue.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Rwanda

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what response his Department has made to requests for support for the witness protection programme in Rwanda. [77710]

Hilary Benn: Rwanda's Prosecutor General is seeking support to establish within the national Public Prosecution Service a protection service for victims and witnesses of crime, including genocide survivors who may be at risk of harassment and intimidation. The Director of the Survivors' Fund UK, a British NGO, has also discussed with me the need for witness protection in Rwanda. The Public Prosecution Service has an important role to play in ensuring that the rights of Rwanda's citizens are protected and that they have access to justice.

DFID's office in Rwanda has been in discussion with the Prosecutor General and is currently assessing how best to support the national victim protection service. The United Nations Development Programme is already providing modest support for this and it will be important to ensure that any DFID funding complements and does not duplicate existing funding. On this point, the DFID office is currently taking forward discussions with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). DFID's response will depend upon the outcome of these discussions.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Business Review

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether UK companies would be obliged to report on *(a)* relationships with suppliers in Zimbabwe and *(b)* their own operations in Zimbabwe under the provisions of the proposed Business Review contained within the Company Law Reform Bill. [77688]

Margaret Hodge: Under clause 399 of the Company Law Reform Bill, all companies, apart from small companies, will continue to be required to produce a Business Review, in accordance with the EU Accounts Modernisation Directive. Information on the company's relationships with suppliers and on their operations wherever located must be included in the Review to the extent necessary to provide a balanced and comprehensive analysis of the company's business consistent with the size and complexity of the business.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to what extent the Business Review provided for in the Company Law Reform Bill will oblige UK companies to report on their operations in states which the UK Government consider to be perpetrating abuse of human rights. [77689]

Margaret Hodge: Under clause 399 of the Company Law Reform Bill, all companies, apart from small companies, will continue to be required to produce a Business Review, in accordance with the EU Accounts Modernisation Directive. Information on the company's operations wherever located must be included in the Review to the extent necessary to provide a balanced and comprehensive analysis of the company's business consistent with the size and complexity of the business.

Company Law Reform Bill

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the likely monetary effects on British business following amendment of the Company Law Reform Bill in the House of Lords. [78567]

Margaret Hodge: The Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Company Law Reform Bill was updated after the Bill was brought from the House of Lords (24 May 2006) to reflect the amendments that had been made to the Bill since introduction. The Bill is expected to bring savings for business of some £250 million a year, of which £100 million will be for small businesses. As well as the direct savings, the Bill is also expected to lead to indirect benefits, through improved performance, for example through encouraging good practice in company decision-making.

The direct costs associated with the Bill are expected to be in the range of £8 million to £47 million. The majority of these costs (£6 million to £36 million) are associated with opposition amendments to the "Exercise of Members' Rights" provisions made in the House of Lords. The Government intend to reconsider these during the consideration of The Bill in the House of Commons.

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the Chief Accounting Officer of his Department. [76839]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Departmental Accounting Officer, and Permanent Secretary, is Sir Brian Bender. His academic qualifications are a BSc and PhD in Physics. He has no professional accountancy qualifications. He has been a Permanent Secretary and Departmental Accounting Officer since 1999, in four Departments: the Cabinet Office (1999-2000), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (2000-01), Defra (2001-05) and DTI since October 2005.

The Accounting Officer is a role that the Permanent Secretary combines with his personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the Department and for department-wide procedures in financial and other matters. The Accounting Officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by the Director General of Finance and Strategy.

The current Director General of Finance and Strategy is Mark Clarke. He has an MA from Oxford University in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE). He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1979 with Arthur Andersen and Co., and is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (FCA). Since 2000 he has held Finance Director roles within Barclays, Abbey and Bank of Ireland, where he was UK Finance Director. From 1995 to 2000 he was a Director in the management consultancy practice of PricewaterhouseCoopers, specialising in financial management, performance management and business effectiveness. He joined DTI in June 2006.

Energy Bills

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what the Department's projections are for *(a)* commercial, *(b)* retail, *(c)* household and *(d)* manufacturing energy bills in January (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) 2009, (iv) 2010 and (v) 2015; and if he will make a statement; [78287]

(2) what the Department's projections are for average commercial *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity prices in January (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) 2009, (iv) 2010 and (v) 2015; and if he will make a statement. [78288]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI does not project energy bills or prices for the commercial, retail, household or manufacturing sectors.

The DTI does make a range of assumptions regarding the likely path of future fossil fuel prices (oil, coal and gas) when undertaking forward-looking analysis and these are illustrated in the recent paper on UK Emissions projections. This is available at http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/environment/projections/recent/page26391.html.

Energy Provision

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much public subsidy was given to the *(a)* nuclear, *(b)* oil, *(c)* gas, *(d)* coal and *(e)* renewables generating industries in each of the past 30 years. [68029]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested is as follows:

Nuclear

Available figures for nuclear subsidies are given in the following table. Figures are based on the premium received by Nuclear Electric plc over and above the market price for electricity in the period 1990-96. Figures dating back to 1974 could not be obtained without disproportionate cost.

	£ million
1990-91	1,265
1991-92	798
1992-93	864
1993-94	895
1994-95	892
1995-96	699
1996-97	0
1997-98	0
1998-99	0
1999-2000	0
2000-01	0
2001-02	0
2002-03	0

With the exception of British Energy, there have been no public subsidies to the nuclear generating sector since privatisation. In terms of British Energy, a loan facility was provided to the company in 2002 to support it through its restructuring. This loan was re-paid in full with interest in December 2003 and no further drawings can be made. As a result of the restructuring which completed in January 2005, the Government have taken direct financial responsibility for BE's historic spent fuel liabilities. The following payments have been made since restructuring to meet those historic spent fuel liabilities:

2004-05—£185 million;

2005-06—£189 million.

The Government are also underwriting British Energy's decommissioning fund to the extent that its liabilities outweigh its assets. In return, the company is making enhanced payments into the fund. On current valuations, the assets of the fund exceed the liabilities.

Oil and gas

I am not aware of any subsidies to the oil and gas generating industries over the last 10 years. Further, historic, information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Coal

I am not aware of any subsidies to the coal generating industries over the last 10 years. Further, historic, information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Renewables

Information on how much was spent by Government on renewable energy research, development, dissemination and demonstration, between 1989 and 1997, was published by my hon. Friend, the then Energy Minister to the hon. Member for Lewes (Mr. Baker), on 24 March 2000, *Official Report*, column 715W.

The statistics indicate that investment in renewable energy remained broadly unchanged between 1989 and 1996 at under £26 million a year. This compares to Government spending of around £500 million in renewables and other low carbon technologies between 2002 and 2008. The Chancellor also recently announced in the Budget a further £50 million, on top of the £30 million that I had previously announced, for the Low Carbon Building Programme, which supports micro-generation and energy efficiency measures.

Further, historic, information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Interconnector

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much electricity has been inputted through the inter-connector with France in each of the last five years; and what percentage of total UK electricity supply electricity so inputted represents. [78171]

Malcolm Wicks: The available information is as follows:

	Electricity exported from the UK via the interconnector with France (GWh)	*Electricity exported from the UK to France as a percentage of UK electricity production*	*Electricity imported into the UK via the interconnector with France (GWh)*	*Electricity imported into the UK from France as a percentage of UK electricity supply*
2001	193	0.1	10,563	2.7
2002	621	0.2	9,042	2.3
2003	2,873	0.8	5,000	1.2
2004	728	0.2	10,027	2.5
2005	765	0.2	11,159	2.7

Wylfa Nuclear Power Station

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the Department will announce whether the life of Wylfa nuclear power station will be extended beyond its planned closure date of 2010; and if he will make a statement. [78286]

Malcolm Wicks: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has responsibility for the decommissioning and clean up of the UK's historic nuclear legacy including that of the Magnox nuclear power station at Wylfa. The NDA's current expectation as set out in its approved Strategy is that Wylfa will close at the end of 2010. However, my Department has asked that the NDA consider the options for running Wylfa beyond that date. The NDA is producing a report on the options which it will in due course publish.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the date when a firm order will be placed for each of the future aircraft carriers. [77391]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 14 June 2006]:* The future aircraft carrier (CVF) programme is in its demonstration phase. This will develop and deliver a mature design; provide a more detailed cost definition; further reduce risk within the programme; and produce a contractual framework that will allow a decision to be made to commit to manufacture. Only when we are satisfied that all this work is sufficiently mature will the main investment decision be taken and orders placed.

Debt Collectors

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its (i) executive agencies and (ii) non-departmental public bodies use the services of private debt collectors. [71065]

Mr. Ingram: The Defence Bills Agency, which carries out accounts payable and receivable functions for the Ministry of Defence and its executive agencies, does not use the services of private debt collectors in its debt collection process. Although the Department sponsors six executive NDPBs, these are all independent charities and it is therefore a matter solely for these bodies as to whether or not they use the services of private debt collectors.

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the chief accounting officer of his Department. [76792]

Mr. Watson: The Principal Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Defence is the Permanent Secretary, Bill Jeffrey. His degree is in Mathematics (BSc (Hons)) and he has experience at senior levels in several Government Departments, including in posts with substantial financial responsibilities.

Accounting Officer is a role that the Permanent Secretary combines with his personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the department and for department-wide procedures in financial and other matters. The Accounting Officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by suitably qualified and experienced senior managers.

Foreign Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on foreign travel by his Department in each of the last eight years. [76057]

Mr. Watson: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since 1999, the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. This information is available in the Library. Information for the financial year 2004-05 was published on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 158WS. Information for the financial year 2005-06 is in the process of being collated and will be published shortly.

All travel is conducted in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Ministerial Code, the Civil Service Management Code and Joint Service Publication (JSP) 800.

Indonesia (Training Courses)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to provide *(a)* training courses to military personnel from Indonesia and *(b)* other forms of military and security co-operation to that country; and if he will make a statement. [78372]

Mr. Ingram: Following the Prime Minister's visit to Indonesia in March 2006, a joint statement was issued with the President of Indonesia on our bilateral relations in the round. This welcomed

> "the launch of a new modern defence and security relationship to address contemporary challenges, from co-operation on counter-terrorism and maritime security to UK support for Indonesia's security sector reform process".

Consequently, and in consultation with other Government Departments, the MOD has offered training courses to Indonesian military personnel in the following subjects during the current financial year.

Peace Support Operations.

Managing Defence in a Diplomacy.

Various subjects at the Royal College of Defence Studies.

Jungle Patrolling.

Maritime Exclusive Economic Zone management.

Other forms of military and security co-operation undertaken this financial year include a programme of two-way senior officer visits, support to the development of Indonesia's Security Sector Strategy, and a visit by HMS Westminster to Jakarta.

Iraq

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he was first informed that 'wetting' was official policy for dealing with looters in Basra; who authorised this policy; and if he will make a statement. [77184]

Mr. Ingram: The practice of 'wetting' is not, and has never been, official policy for dealing with looters in Basra.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for Ministers of State in his Department on foreign visits in each of the last three years. [69109]

Mr. Watson: Under the terms of the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, departments are expected to make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements. Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. This information, which is available from the Library of the House, includes accommodation costs. The actual cost for overnight accommodation for each of the Defence Ministers while on foreign visits in each of the last three years could be calculated only at disproportionate cost. When the Defence Ministers are overseas, including when visiting the armed forces, they frequently stay in an official residence or as a guest of the Commanding Officer of the military establishment. In such instances no accommodation costs are incurred.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions Ministers of State in his Department stayed overnight in *(a)* five star, *(b)* four star and *(c)* three star hotels on foreign visits in each of the last three years. [69110]

Mr. Watson: No information is held regarding the star rating of the hotels used by Defence Ministers. The choice of hotel is determined by best value for money based on advice from the British Embassy in the country being visited. Under the terms of the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, departments are expected to make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements. Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. This information is available from the Library of the House.

Private Office Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of his private office staff is *(a)* male, *(b)* female and *(c)* disabled. [69117]

Mr. Watson: The ratio of staff in the private office of the Secretary of State for Defence is 45 per cent. male and 55 per cent. female. The overall ratio for the private offices of the other Defence Ministers is 66 per cent. male and 33 per cent. female. These figures exclude special advisers.

The percentage of disabled staff in the private offices is not available as a declaration of disability in Ministry of Defence by an individual is on a solely voluntary basis and made in confidence.

RAF Menwith Hill

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on security patrolling of the roads around RAF Menwith Hill by the Ministry of Defence Police Agency in each year since 2003. [76295]

Mr. Ingram: The approximate totals spent by the US authorities on security patrolling of the roads around RAF Menwith Hill by the Ministry of Defence Police are set out in the table on a year by year basis:

	£
2003-04	531,000.00
2004-05	560,000.00
2005-06	608,000.00

Service Allowances

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria must be met for members of the armed forces to be able to claim longer separated service allowance. [77612]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* Regular service personnel in the Royal Navy (RN) and Army are able to claim longer separated service allowance (LSSA) as follows:

when they have been in receipt of full-time regular pay for 12 months or more;

when, if serving accompanied at their permanent duty station, they are away from their spouse or registered civil partner. (This does not apply if both are serving personnel; in this instance both are eligible to claim LSSA when they are serving apart from each other);

when they spend periods of 10 consecutive days or more away from their permanent duty station on temporary duty, operations or exercises, and

when they are posted unaccompanied to a designated LSSA payment area. Designated areas include the Falkland Islands, Ascension Island and Diego Garcia. MOD can also include areas in support of United Nations or national operations as required.

Regular service personnel in the Royal Air Force (RAF) are no longer able to claim LSSA; since the roll-out of joint personnel administration (JPA) to the RAF, they are eligible instead for longer separation allowance (LSA).

Full-time reserve service and volunteer reserve service personnel of all three services, non-regular permanent staff and additional duties commitments personnel are eligible to claim LSSA once they have either received a second year bounty or completed 12 months full-time service, provided they meet the remaining eligibility criteria as set out above. (Full-time service usually results either from previous regular service or from mobilisation).

In addition, RAF volunteer reserve personnel are entitled to claim LSSA for attendance at their annual two-week camp, provided they meet all other qualifying criteria. As part of the harmonisation of allowances across the services, this entitlement will be removed when RAF reservists transfer onto JPA (currently scheduled for 1 April 2007) and become eligible for LSA.

TRANSPORT

Boatmaster's Licence

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the likely impact on *(a)* volunteers and *(b)* the general public's use of small boats of the operation of the boatmaster's certificate scheme. [78072]

Dr. Ladyman: The regulatory impact assessment for the new boatmaster's licence regulations is available in the Libraries of both Houses. In the regulation of public safety there is no distinction made between the requirements for commercial passenger operators and those in the voluntary sector.

There is no impact on the general public's use of small boats, as the regulations do not apply to pleasure vessels.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which individuals and organisations are on the Steering Group overseeing the introduction of the revised boatmaster's licence. [78073]

Dr. Ladyman: The members of the Freight Standards Steering Group are:

Name	Representing	Organisation
Ian White	Association of Inland Navigation Authorities	British Waterways
Capt. Heather Chaplin	Association of Inland Shipping Operators (North)	—
Allan Graveson	National Union of Marine, Aviation and Shipping Transport Officers	NUMAST
Captain Julian Parkes	UK Major Ports Group/British Ports Association	PLA
David Lapthorn	Chamber of Shipping	Lapthorn Shipping
Peter Hugman	Commercial Boat Operators Association	Barge Consult
Jan Burgess	British Tugowners Association	Serco Denholm
Richard Crease	Transport and General Workers Union	TGWU
Paul Baker	National Union of Rail and Marine Transport Workers	RMT
Roger Spence (Chairman)	Maritime and Coastguard Agency	—
Julie Carlton	Maritime and Coastguard Agency	—
Alex Steele	Maritime and Coastguard Agency—Survey Policy	—
Richard Bone	Maritime and Coastguard Agency—Secretary	—
Correspondence only		
Steve Yandell	RMT	—
Steve Turner	Transport and General Workers Union	TGWU

The members of the Domestic Passenger Ship Steering Group are:

Name	Representing
Keith French	Passenger Boat Association
Mark Rayment	South Coast Passenger Vessel Operators Association
Paul Holman	Chamber of Shipping
D Mann	River Association of Freight Transport
Bill Frampton	Wightlink
John Woodburn	Windermere Lake Cruises
David Polson	Shetland Island Council
Mrs. J Bradley	Tenby Harbour Users Association
David Bell	British Waterways
Rod Mitchie	Highland Marine Transport Association
Hamish Munroe	Central Scotland Passenger Vessel Association
Iain Moore	Loch Lomond Association
Tim Deaton	Passenger Boat Association
Jeremy Phillips	St. Mary's Boatman's Association
Capt. S Gunn	Orkney Ferries
Ken Oliver	Association of Passenger Craft Operators
Nigel Saw	British Marine Federation
John Sweeney	Loch Lomond Boat Operators
K Dunstan	The Bristol Packet
Peter Tambling	Heritage Afloat
Dennis Armstrong	Caledonian MacBrayne
Mat Spencer	Red Funnel (Ferries)

The Boatmaster's licence has been developed in consultation with the above groups, and a working group involving many of the same organisations, as well as training establishments and the Company of Watermen and Lightermen.

Concessionary Travel Scheme

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who the initial recipients will be of the additional funding for the new national concessionary travel scheme announced by the Chancellor in March. [78506]

Gillian Merron: No decisions have been taken yet on how the national scheme will be delivered in 2008. The Department for Transport will be working with representatives from the bus industry, local government and other interested parties to consider the best framework for delivering the improved concessionary fares entitlement.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many appeals have been lodged with him by bus operators against concessionary travel schemes introduced in 2006; which concessionary travel authorities' schemes have been appealed against; and when he will *(a)* consider and *(b)* decide each appeal. [78507]

Gillian Merron: 60 appeals have been lodged with the Secretary of State against the following concessionary travel schemes introduced on 1 April 2006:

Bedfordshire County Council
Bristol City Council (on behalf of Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire, and North Somerset)
Cherwell District Council
City of York Council
Devon County Council
Dorset County Council
East Sussex County Council
Essex County Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive
Hampshire County Council
Harrogate Borough Council
Kent County Council
Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive
Norfolk County Council
Redditch Borough Council
South Oxfordshire District Council
South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
Suffolk County Council
Warwickshire County Council
West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
Wiltshire County Council

The legislation does not specify any time limit for reaching a decision on appeals. The Secretary of State will consider and determine the appeals within a reasonable timeframe.

M25

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps will be taken to alleviate congestion and inconvenience to road users between junctions 27 and 30 of the M25 when the planned expansion and widening begins. [78869]

Dr. Ladyman: Road users of the M25 between junctions 27 and 30 already experience congestion and delays, especially during peak times. The objectives of the widening are to improve journey time reliability and provide drivers with smoother, less stressful and safer journeys.

During normal daytime operations the traffic will have, at least, the existing number of lanes in both directions. At most locations this will be three lanes in both directions. To allow safe construction at difficult locations the number of lanes may be reduced for limited periods at night and at weekends.

During construction, lane widths will be narrower and the hard shoulder will be used as a running lane. The use of a lower speed limit will help traffic flow smoothly through the roadworks area. A breakdown service, free to the road user, will be provided and CCTV cameras will monitor traffic to enable rapid clearance of any breakdowns.

Works will be placed on hold during the period for the Olympics.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the expansion and widening of junction 25 of the M25 to be complete. [78873]

Dr. Ladyman: The scheduled completion date of the M25 junction 25 eastbound improvement and Holmesdale tunnel refurbishment is November 2007.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects completion of the M25 Holmesdale Tunnel refurbishment; and how much the project will cost. [78874]

Dr. Ladyman: The scheduled completion date of the M25 Holmesdale Tunnel refurbishment is November 2007. The approved budget of the scheme is £75.1 million.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the planned dates are for the expansion and widening of the M25 between junctions *(a)* 5 and 7, *(b)* 1b and 3, *(c)* 23 and 27 and *(d)* 27 and 30. [78875]

Dr. Ladyman: The widening of three of the sections, that is *(a)* junctions 5 to 7, *(c)* junctions 23-27 and *(d)* junctions 27-30, will be delivered within a Design Build Finance and Operate (DBFO) contract, which also includes widening of the M25 between junctions 16 and 23. The widening of these sections will be phased over approximately 10 years, scheduled to commence in 2008. The phasing of the works is to be determined with the successful bidder. From the work we have done so far we believe the section between junctions 16 and 23 will be the first to be widened.

The widening of the section between junctions 1b and 3 is being delivered through the same early contractor involvement contract that is delivering the adjacent A2/A282 improvement. The widening of M25 junctions 1b and 3 will start in 2007, subject to completion of any statutory processes and availability of funding and take about 18 months to complete.

Weymouth Relief Road

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role the South West regional assembly will play in determining the priority given to building the Weymouth relief road. [78432]

Dr. Ladyman: The South West regional assembly was one of the principal organisations which contributed to the advice provided by the south west region in January 2006 on the priority that it attaches to major transport schemes in the south west including the Weymouth relief road. The advice included proposals for the delivery timescales for transport schemes within the indicative regional funding allocation for the south west. We are currently considering this advice and hope to announce our response to it before the summer recess.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total UK expenditure on capacity-building of the Afghan Government, including strengthening democratic institutions, was in each year since 2002. [78797]

Dr. Howells: The total UK expenditure on capacity building of the Afghan Government, including strengthening democratic institutions, since 2002 can be broken down as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2002-03	26
2003-04	100
2004-05	108
2005-06	71

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her US counterparts regarding proposals to start poppy eradication with crop-spraying planes in Afghanistan; and what the Government's policy is regarding this issue. [78798]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with her US counterparts regarding proposals to crop-spray in Afghanistan. The Government of Afghanistan's eradication policy, as set out in the National Drug Control Strategy, is based on ground based eradication targeted where there is access to legal rural livelihoods. The UK has no plans to undertake or support aerial eradication.

Eradication on its own will not solve the drugs problem in Afghanistan. It is a useful deterrent where there is access to legal livelihoods. But tackling the drugs trade requires a range of activities including arresting and convicting the traffickers who profit from the trade, and putting in place the development programmes which enable farmers to move away from growing poppy. That is why the UK is spending £270 million over a three-year period on supporting the Government of Afghanistan's National Drug Control Strategy.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the most recent assessment is of progress in encouraging farmers in the Helmand Province in Afghanistan to grow alternative crops; and if she will make a statement. [78799]

Dr. Howells: The Department for International Development (DFID) has a number of programmes which seek to provide economic alternatives to farmers who grow poppy in Helmand Province. When in Afghanistan last week, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development announced a UK contribution of £30 million over the next three years in Helmand. However, whether farmers choose to pursue alternative livelihoods to poppy in Helmand also depends on effective law enforcement and a credible threat of eradication. That is why the UK is supporting the multifaceted approach set out in the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy. We believe that the focus on the four key priorities—targeting the trafficker, strengthening livelihoods, reducing demand and developing effective institutions will together have a greater impact on the drug trade.

In terms of measuring the impact of the Government of Afghanistan's National Drug Control Strategy in changing farmers' behaviour, Afghanistan has a poorly developed data collection and management system. DFID is working closely with the Central Statistics Office of the Government of Afghanistan to put in place mechanisms to ensure we are able to do this. These efforts should start to bear fruit over the next few months. This will allow us to make more robust assessments about the progress we are seeing in changing the behaviour of those farmers that currently grow poppy.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to her Afghan counterpart concerning reports that the Afghan Government have started remobilising militia groups to fight the Taliban; what her assessment is of those reports; and if she will make a statement. [78800]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary raised the issue of armed militias during his call on President Karzai on 13 June 2006. He received assurances from President Karzai that the Afghan Government did not intend to remobilise militias. President Karzai explained the Afghan Government's plans to establish community police units under the control of the Ministry of Interior to help deliver stability in some rural areas. Our ambassador in Kabul regularly discusses security matters with the Afghan Government and will continue to monitor the situation closely.

We recognise there is a need to increase the capacity and effectiveness of the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, and the UK and the international community are playing an active role in supporting the establishment of effective Afghan security forces.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total UK expenditure on Afghan *(a)* police equipment and *(b)* salary payments has been since January 2006. [78912]

Dr. Howells: The UK does not make direct salary payments to the Afghan National Police (ANP). However, the UK contributes to the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) which supports salaries and the purchase of equipment for the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan. The UK's total contribution to LOTFA last financial year 2005-06 was £1.5 million. There has been no UK expenditure on equipment for the ANP since January 2006.

Burma

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have supplied military equipment to Burma in each of the last three years. [78098]

Dr. Howells: Comprehensive information on international exports of military equipment to Burma is not available. There is currently no international mechanism that provides the fully comprehensive data required for a full assessment. However, the UN Register of Conventional Arms does provide information covering those countries who have submitted returns. Further information is available on the UN website at:

http://disarmament.un.org/cab/register.html

The EU maintains an arms embargo against Burma and a ban on the supply of equipment that might be used for internal repression.

Guantanamo Bay

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information the Government have sought from the United States Administration in respect of the *(a)* cause and *(b)* circumstances of the deaths of three detainees held at the Guantánamo Bay military detention centre; and what information has been provided. [78060]

Dr. Howells: The United States Government have told us, as they have also announced publicly, that they will conduct an investigation into the deaths of the three detainees. We welcome that decision and look forward to hearing the results of the investigation.

Iraq

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's role is in the demobilisation of militia groups in Iraq; and if she will make a statement. [78801]

Dr. Howells: The new Iraqi Government are currently considering their approach to the demobilisation of militia groups. We are ready to help with this effort and hope that other members of the international community will do likewise.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's role is in increasing Iraqi capacity to house the detainee and prisoner population. [78906]

Dr. Howells: The UK has deployed in Iraq a team of HM Prison Service officers who work with the UK military and international donors to assist and advise the Iraqi Correctional Service (ICS) in southern Iraq. Since 2003, the team has helped the ICS to increase capacity significantly by building new prisons and refurbishing and extending existing ones, including providing separate facilities for women and juveniles.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the UK is providing to the new Iraqi Government in the Constitution Review process. [78908]

Dr. Howells: The Iraqi Government will lead this process with support from the UN. We are in contact with them and stand ready to assist. We hope others in the international community will also stand ready to help through the UN as and when required.

Israel

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters in respect of *(a)* Israel's possession of nuclear weapons and *(b)* the prospects for Israel joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty were raised during her meeting with her Israeli counterpart on 12 June. [78061]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did not discuss the prospects for Israel signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty (NPT), or Israel's possession of nuclear weapons, during her meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni.

We have on a number of occasions called on Israel to accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state and also to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and will continue to do so.

Michael Shields

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she has taken to assist the transfer of Michael Shields from Bulgaria to the UK to serve his sentence of imprisonment; and if she will make a statement. [78508]

Dr. Howells: We fully support Mr. Shields' request to be transferred back to the UK and have advised Mr. Shields and his family on the procedures involved. Officials from our embassy in Sofia have discussed Mr. Shields' transfer with the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice, most recently on 9 June, and will continue to monitor the situation closely. Consular staff are also in contact with the Prisoner Transfer Section of the Home Office to facilitate Mr. Shields' return.

Pakistan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Pakistan authorities on the abduction of Christian children from their villages in the Punjab, Pakistan, by the militant Islamic group Jumait-ud-Dawa. [78045]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of the report in the Sunday Times of 21 May 2006 that Jamaat-ud-Daawa are involved in the abduction of Pakistani Christian children. Our high commission in Islamabad is currently looking into this. We have not so far raised the question with the Pakistani authorities.

Venezuela

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at what level UK/Venezuela counter-narcotics co-operation is undertaken; and what recent assessment she has made of its effectiveness. [78057]

Dr. Howells: The UK co-operates closely with the Venezuelan authorities and law enforcement agencies at all levels as well as with other international partners to combat drug trafficking and strengthen institutions in the fight against illicit drugs and international organised crime. I hope to travel to Venezuela later this year. UK support for Venezuelan anti-narcotics operations has recently led to several seizures of illicit drugs and associated arrests.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Best Value Performance Indicators

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Audit Commission has amended its methodology for assessing Best Value Performance Indicator 199 in the last 12 months. [78378]

Mr. Woolas: The Audit Commission has not amended its methodology for assessing Best Value Performance Indicator 199 in the last 12 months.

Building Regulations

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many private sector providers of building regulation enforcement have been debarred from that role for poor performance in the last five years. [75666]

Angela E. Smith: The Construction Industry Council (CIC) acts as the Department for Communities and Local Government "Designated Agent" for the purpose of examining, approving and maintaining standards for approved inspectors. No approved inspectors have been removed from the CIC's register for poor performance in the last five years.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the performance of *(a)* public and *(b)* private providers of building regulation enforcement in enforcing energy conservation measures. [75673]

Yvette Cooper: The primary responsibility for compliance with the Building Regulations, including those dealing with energy efficiency, rests with those carrying out the building work. The Department for Communities and Local Government has made no formal assessment of the effectiveness of building control in this respect. However, operational and performance issues are discussed with representatives of building control bodies and are the subject of advice from the statutory advisory committee. My officials have played a key role in supporting an industry initiative to develop building control performance indicators and revised performance standards, due to be launched soon. In the context of a strategic review of the regulations, we will be exploring the options for improving compliance.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints she has received about the operation of Part P of the Building Regulations since it was reformed; which organisations have written to her opposing those changes; and if she will make a statement. [75983]

Angela E. Smith: Part P was reformed by way of an amendment to the Building Regulations (SI 2006 No. 652) on 6 April 2006. During April and May, the Department for Communities and Local Government received around 200 inquiries about Part P. The majority asked for further information or clarification, while around 10 per cent. were general complaints. The Department is aware of only one letter from an individual complaining specifically about the amendment, and a letter in February from the Electrical Safety council opposing the proposed changes.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what prosecutions have taken place for non-compliance with sustainable building regulations. [77036]

Angela E. Smith: As building control is a fully devolved service under the Building Act 1984, no central records are kept of prosecutions arising from non-compliance of any building regulation.

Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to announce her decision on the establishment of a parish council for Canvey Island. [77628]

Mr. Woolas: It is expected that a decision on the establishment of a new parish and parish council for Canvey Island will be announced shortly.

City Region Meetings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for her Department to organise further city region meetings. [78362]

Mr. Woolas: As part of the Government's work on cities and towns, last year Ministers held summits with each of the eight core cities: Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield. This year, Ministers have held summits with smaller cities and towns: with Regional Cities East on 10 March; with Central Lancashire on 15 May; with Coastal Towns on 16 May; and with Tees Valley and Hull and the Humber on 22 May. We plan to hold two further summits this year, one with towns and cities in the South-West and the second with towns and cities in the Midlands and South-East (the "Growing Places" summit). We also plan to hold two mini-summits, in Stoke-on-Trent and in York. The dates of these four events have not been finalised.

Following the summits of last autumn, the eight core cities were asked to develop business cases for their areas, setting out their vision and related barriers and enablers. Birmingham and Manchester have presented these to Ministers and further presentations for the remaining six cities are planned or expected during this and the next few months.

The Secretary of State will also be attending the Core Cities annual summit, in Bristol on 26-27 June.

Civil Servants (Expenses)

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria must be met for civil servants in her Department to

claim back or have paid for them overnight accommodation in London; and what criteria applied to civil servants in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [78274]

Angela E. Smith: Staff who work in the Department for Communities and Local Government may claim overnight subsistence if they stay away from home overnight on official business away from their normal workplace. Subsistence covers a period of 24 hours to meet the actual receipted costs of meals and accommodation. There are different indicative ceilings for night subsistence in London and elsewhere. Current indicative rates for London are £95 per night. The same criteria applied to staff working in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Construction Industry Council

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibility she has for the Construction Industry Council; and if she will make a statement. [77792]

Angela E. Smith: I have no direct responsibility for the Construction Industry Council (CIC) although the Department for Communities and Local Government use them as agents to help us appoint private sector approved inspectors for building control. CIC is an independent representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist business associations in the construction industry.

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the Chief Accounting Officer of her Department. [76820]

Angela E. Smith: My Department's Permanent Secretary, Peter Housden, is the Principal Accounting Officer.

The Accounting Officer is a role that the Permanent Secretary combines with his/her personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the Department and for Department-wide procedures in financial and other matters. The Accounting Officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by suitably qualified experienced senior managers.

The Department is currently in the process of recruiting an experienced Director of Finance with a recognised accountancy qualification in line with Treasury Guidelines.

The Department's accounting teams are led by a qualified accountant.

Fire Service

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to encourage more *(a)* women and *(b)* ethnic minority candidates to apply to join the Fire Service; what questions are asked of applicants to assess commitment to equality and diversity; what measures she has put in place to ensure more (i) women and (ii) ethnic minority staff have access to senior positions; what targets have been set for representative numbers of women and ethnic minorities within the whole service; and if she will make a statement. [77424]

Angela E. Smith: The Fire and Rescue National Framework set out the Government's commitment to achieve greater diversity within the fire and rescue service. We are supporting the service to build a more diverse work force, including women, ethnic minorities and other under-represented groups.

On 16 May I announced the launch of a national awareness raising advertising campaign aimed specifically at women to encourage them to consider a career as a firefighter. We have developed national firefighter selection tests with the aim of ensuring fairness and consistency in selection procedures across the service. The new process will require all applicants to be asked to demonstrate their commitment to equality and diversity in their responses to questions at the application form, written test and interview stages. These are designed to identify that they understand and respect diversity and have a fair and ethical approach to others.

The repeal of the Fire Services (Appointments and Promotion) Regulations in October 2004 has enabled people to apply to join the fire and rescue service at any level in the organisation, including strategic management. In addition, recruitment, retention and career progression targets for women and ethnic minority staff have been set for every fire and rescue service.

The existing targets strategies have been reviewed and a new strategy will be published in 2006 following consultation with stakeholders.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Fire Services College charged each brigade in Scotland for providing *(a)* training courses and *(b)* access to the college's library and online information and development resources in each of the last 10 years. [76269]

Angela E. Smith: Information on the provision of training and library services by the Fire Service College is only available for the past five years. The amount charged by the College to Scottish Fire and Rescue Services is as follows:

Scotland Fire and Rescue Services—Training

£

	Financial years				
	2006-05	*2005-04*	*2004-03*	*2003-02*	*2002-01*
Central Region FRS	490.00	1,17.00	552.00	1,85.00	1,06.00
Dumfries and Galloway FRS	290.00	104.00	996.00	263.00	995.00
Fife FRS	2,052.00	5,412.00	3,980.00	3,992.00	2,706.00
Grampian FRS	13,782.00	12,229.00	13,090.00	8,038.00	7,144.00

Scotland Fire and Rescue Services—Training

£

	Financial years				
	2006-05	*2005-04*	*2004-03*	*2003-02*	*2002-01*
Highland and Islands FRS	3,218.00	2,255.00	8,001.00	7,375.00	9,892.00
Lothian and Borders FRS	3,667.00	5,761.00	7,261.00	8,138.00	10,625.00
Strathclyde FRS	13,396.00	10,579.00	10,521.00	6,754.00	7,049.00
Tayside FRS	2,575.00	1,693.00	373.00	321.00	913.00
Total::	39,470.00	39,250.00	44,774.00	35,966.00	40,530.00

Library Services

£

	Financial years				
	2006-05	*2005-04*	*2004-03*	*2003-02*	*2002-01*
Central Region FRS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dumfries and Galloway FRS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fife FRS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grampian FRS	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00
Highland and Islands FRS	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lothian and Borders FRS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Strathclyde FRS	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tayside FRS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total::	1500.00	1500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00

Governance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made with her Department's consultation on the governance arrangements for local areas. [76982]

Mr. Woolas: We have been engaged in a wide-ranging debate with local government and other stakeholders about local governance and will set out our policy proposals in the forthcoming White Paper which we intend to publish shortly after the summer recess.

Green Public-Private Partnerships

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans there are to review and revise the publication 'Green Public-Private Partnerships.' [77037]

Angela E. Smith: There are currently no plans to update the publication 'Green Public Private Partnerships'.

Licensing Act

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many temporary event licences have been issued under the Licensing Act 2003 by Castle Point borough council since that Act's implementation. [77630]

Mr. Woodward: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not held centrally.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will attend the St. Mary's Church charity fund raising proms night on 15 June to observe the effect of the operation of the Licensing Act 2003. [77642]

Mr. Woodward: I am the Minister responsible for the Licensing Act 2003 and associated policy and I have therefore been asked to reply.

I was travelling abroad on 15 June and would not therefore have been able to attend this event.

We are currently monitoring and evaluating the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 nationally, but it is too early as yet to draw firm conclusions.

Local Authority Staff

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to review the limits on political activity for local authorities' staff. [76191]

Mr. Woolas: Our Discussion Paper, "Standards of Conduct in English Local Government", published on 15 December 2005, included our proposals for changes to the legislation on the political restrictions relating to local government employees. This followed consultation on a review of the regulatory framework governing the political activities of local government employees in 2004.

Local Government

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures are followed in respect of elections for new parish councils; and if she will make a statement. [77629]

Mr. Woolas: The procedures that should be followed in respect of elections for new parish councils are set out in the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 and associated published guidance.

District Councils should consult locally with interested parties on the electoral arrangements of new parish councils and then submit proposals on these to the Electoral Commission. If the Electoral Commission decides to implement proposals for new parish council electoral arrangements it does so by order at approximately the same time as the Secretary of State makes an order for the creation of a new parish.

Ministers' Offices

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Ministers in her Department have private offices in 26 Whitehall. [78335]

Angela E. Smith: None of the Ministers in the Department for Communities and Local Government has a private office in 26 Whitehall.

National Travel Scheme

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance she has given to *(a)* bus operators and *(b)* local authorities in Hampshire for the administration of the National Travel Scheme for the elderly and disabled, with particular regard to clarifying the conditions on which free travel is given. [73587]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

No decisions have been taken yet on how the national scheme will be delivered in 2008. The Department for Transport will be working with representatives from the bus industry and local authorities to consider the best framework for delivering the improved concessionary fares entitlement.

Sheltered Housing

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the effects of the introduction of steady-state contracts on charities providing supported sheltered housing and care; and if she will make a statement. [76254]

Mr. Woolas: We continue to receive representations about a wide range of issues relating to the Supporting People Programme. This includes the 1,000 plus responses to the recent Supporting People consultation which ran between 15 November 2005 and the end of March 2006.

A number of these representations did contain references to new Supporting People contracts.

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many working days have been lost to the Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated total cost to the Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [77758]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government was created on 5 May 2006 and its predecessor, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, was created on 29 May 2002. The number of days lost due to sickness and costs are contained in the annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published by the Cabinet Office. Reports for 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 are available in the House of Commons Library and on the Cabinet Office website at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/conditions_of_service/publications

Supported Housing

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of building-based supported housing were replaced by floating support in 2005-06. [76227]

Mr. Woolas: Supporting People administering authorities provide DCLG with quarterly information about the number and types of services and units. This allows us to identify numerical changes over time in the services provided, but it does not allow us to identify either the reason for any change or whether changes are linked. As such, it is not possible for DCLG to identify from information held centrally the extent to which any changes in service provision arise from the replacement of building-based supported housing by floating support.

Valuation Office Agency

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1444W, on the Valuation Office Agency, whether the Valuation Office Agency's council tax automated valuation model holds *(a)* data from the index of multiple deprivation and *(b)* crime statistics in any form. [78247]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency's (VOA's) automated valuation model (AVM) neither *(a)* uses nor *(b)* holds data on these matters.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the 10,000 neighbourhoods in the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model were designated; and whether they correlate with existing territorial classifications. [78255]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has identified approximately 10,000 localities for use within its automated valuation model (AVM). Each locality represents a geographic area within which domestic property prices are influenced by the same or similar market forces. The extent of each locality was determined, and then refined during the AVM analysis process, by experienced chartered surveyors employed within the VOA using their market and valuation

knowledge. The VOA has not tested the extent to which locality boundaries correlate with existing territorial classifications although localities do not extend beyond local authority boundaries for operational reasons.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the technical limit is of the number of photographs that the Valuation Office Agency's digital photography application can hold. [78324]

Mr. Woolas: There is no technical limit on the number of photographs that can be held by the Valuation Office Agency's digital photography application.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the name is of the Valuation Office Agency's digital photography application. [78325]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency's digital photography application is a bespoke application, written in ORACLE 9i software, and is simply referred to as "Digital Photography".

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency uses geocodes in its automated valuation model. [78380]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) uses only the National Land and Property Gazeteer "x, y co-ordinates" for spatial coding in its automated valuation model (AVM). No geocode data on proximity to geographic features or facilities is used.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency's Automated Valuation Model uses census data. [78654]

Mr. Woolas: No.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information and advice is given to women following an abortion; and if she will make a statement; [75534]

(2) what research her Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake to ascertain what counselling is given to women seeking an abortion; and if she will make a statement; [75644]

(3) what advice her Department issues to women contemplating an abortion; and if she will make a statement. [77597]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not undertaken research to ascertain what counselling is given to women seeking an abortion and has no plans to do so. In addition, the Department has not issued advice to women contemplating an abortion. A number of organisations do produce patient leaflets on this issue including the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) and the Family Planning Association.

The RCOG's evidence-based guideline "The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion (2004)" gives recommendations to commissioners and service providers on the information to be given to women contemplating an abortion, following an abortion and on women's counselling needs.

Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health will be abolished. [78446]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The abolition of the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) will require the passing of primary legislation to repeal the provisions set out in statute for CPPIH to exist. Therefore, the date on which CPPIH is abolished is dependent on parliamentary time, and the passage of legislation.

Diabetes

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 720W, on diabetes, what assessment she has made of the impact of mandatory National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on diabetes issued to primary care trusts since January 2006; and if she will make a statement. [70668]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data on the impact of the mandatory National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on diabetes issued to primary care trusts since January 2006 is not held centrally.

Genito-Urinary Services

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the Genito-Urinary Medicine Services Review of Watford General Hospital and St. Albans City and District Hospital commissioned by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [77820]

Andy Burnham: The Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health (MedFASH) is currently undertaking a national service review of capacity in Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) commissioned by the Department.

I understand that MedFASH has now completed the review of Watford General Hospital and St. Albans City and District Hospital and the report has been circulated to all relevant stakeholders. The findings are for strategic health authorities in conjunction with primary care trusts to implement locally.

Once the national review of all services is completed, a summary report will be published and placed in the Library.

Haemophilia

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1013-14W, on haemophilia, (1) when she expects developments with regard to the Department's consideration of the Macfarlane Trust's submission; [78804]

(2) whether she plans to meet the chairman of the Macfarlane Trust. [78805]

Caroline Flint: The Minister for Public Health plans to meet the chair for the Macfarlane Trust on 12 July and the Macfarlane Trust's submission will be discussed. An earlier date was offered.

Health Services (Gloucestershire)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will meet the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in Gloucestershire to discuss issues arising from the review of health services there. [78714]

Caroline Flint: Avon, Gloucester and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority launched its formal consultation on 12 June on "The Future of Healthcare in Gloucestershire Proposals for Developing Sustainable NHS Services" which will conclude on 4 September. Should the members of the overview and scrutiny committee feel that at the end of the consultation they have issues to raise they have the power to make a formal referral to Secretary of State.

Honeybourne Centre

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Honeybourne Specialist Rehabilitation and Recovery Centre in Cheltenham opened; and how much the project cost. [77002]

Caroline Flint: Within the framework of the "NHS Plan" and other national policy guidance, local national health service organisations are responsible for planning and developing health services for their local population.

Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority has advised that the Honeybourne Specialist Rehabilitation and Recovery Centre in Cheltenham opened in September 2005, and that the project cost £1,078,000.

NHS Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS organisations did not achieve their cash releasing efficiency savings targets in 2005-06; and by what margin in each case. [67939]

Andy Burnham: Information specific to cash releasing efficiency savings at national health service organisation level is not held by the Department.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what level of planned savings each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* NHS trust within the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority has to make as part of the operating framework requirements laid down by that strategic health authority; and what percentage that figure represents of the turnover of the trust in each case. [78713]

Caroline Flint: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 835W.

Operations (Day Cases)

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why her Department's Autumn Performance Report 2005 (Cm 6704) states that 70 per cent. of planned procedures now take place as day cases (p. 16), when the data placed in the Library relating to the answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1117W, on operations, implies that the proportion of procedures performed as day cases has been at 50 per cent. since 2002-03. [73870]

Andy Burnham: The data from the Department's Autumn Performance Report 2005 are for elective activity, which includes waiting list, booked and planned admissions. The data in the answer of 17 May include all elective and non-elective operations including emergency admissions, which reduces the day case rate.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the process for overview and scrutiny committee reports to the Department of Health; what action she takes in the light of such a report; and what powers she has to order an independent inquiry into the proposals that *(a)* a strategic health authority, *(b)* a primary care and *(c)* an NHS trust including foundation trusts produce. [75992]

Andy Burnham: The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny of Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 provide for an overview and scrutiny committee to refer a case to the Secretary of State where the committee considers that consultation has been inadequate or the proposal is not in the interests of the health service in its area. The Secretary of State will consider the referral alongside information provided by the local national health service and departmental officials. The Secretary of State may ask for independent advice on the referral, which may be from the independent reconfiguration panel or a different source. Where the proposal relates to an NHS foundation trust, the overview and scrutiny committee refers the case to Monitor, who may also seek independent advice.

Parliamentary Questions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will answer question 72961 on the Black and Minority Ethnic Mental Health Network. [78715]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A reply was given on 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1283W.

PCT/Hospital Trust Boards

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ex-health service employees sit on the boards of *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* hospital trusts. [78143]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available centrally.

Primary Care Trusts (Hertfordshire)

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the two new primary care trusts to be introduced to cover Hertfordshire will *(a)* be run by separate management teams and *(b)* be headed by separately appointed chairmen and chief executives; and if she will make a statement. [78021]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* Currently, the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA), which will form part of the new East of England SHA with effect from 1 July, is in discussions with stakeholders, including all local Members of Parliament, about shared management options for the two new primary care trusts (PCTs) in Hertfordshire.

No decisions will be taken until that process has been completed.

Each PCT will retain its own board with its own chair.

South Central SHA

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where the offices of the new South Central Strategic Health Authority will be located; and whether they will be operational by 1 July. [78566]

Caroline Flint: This is a local matter. However, the Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority (SHA) has advised that a final decision on the location of the office for the new SHA for South Central has not yet been made. On 1 July, the South Central SHA will continue to operate from three existing offices in Southampton, Winchester and Oxford.

Velcade

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress has been made on *(a)* the licensing of Velcade and *(b)* access to Velcade for patients; [77226]

(2) if she will make a statement on the availability of Velcade. [77295]

Andy Burnham: Velcade was granted a European Union-wide marketing authorisation in April 2004. The current licensed indications are mono-therapy for the treatment of progressive multiple myeloma in patients who have received at least one prior therapy and who have already undergone or are unsuitable for bone marrow transplantation.

Preparatory work on the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) appraisal of Velcade has commenced and I understand that NICE will publish a timescale for completion of this work in due course.

In 1999, the Department issued Health Service Circular 1999/176, which asks national health service bodies to continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from NICE has not yet been issued. These arrangements should include an assessment of the available evidence. There is no bar on clinicians prescribing drugs that have not yet been appraised by NICE.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casinos

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions her Department has had with *(a)* the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and *(b)* the Department for Communities and Local Government on (i) the planning process for, (ii) the economic impact of and (iii) the social impact of new casinos. [77064]

Mr. Caborn: My Department has worked very closely with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and now the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of a range of issues concerning the new casinos permitted under the Gambling Act 2005. This includes, for example, the production of the "Casinos: National Policy Statement" (December 2004) which addresses planning, regeneration and social issues and the amendments to the Use Classes Order to make casinos a sui generic use, which was brought into effect at the beginning of April 2006.

Commonwealth Institute Building

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to bring forward legislation to delist the Commonwealth Institute building. [77657]

Mr. Lammy: Given the Commonwealth Institute's unique role as an international and inter-governmental organisation whose future is of concern to all 53 Commonwealth countries, Government are considering whether special measures are appropriate in relation to the Commonwealth Institute building. Discussions are continuing across Government and it would be inappropriate for me to comment further at this stage.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she will answer the letter of 26 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. L. Bosch. [77589]

Mr. Woodward: I understand my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State replied to my right hon. Friend's letter on 9 June 2006.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will obtain a reply on behalf of the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton to the letter of 9 May to the Chief Executive of Television Licensing with regard to Mr. P. Hartley. [77627]

Mr. Woodward: TV Licensing operates as agent for the BBC, which as television licensing authority has responsibility for administering and enforcing the licensing system. I have therefore asked the BBC's Head of Revenue Management to look into this matter for my right hon. Friend.

Digital Switchover

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to ensure that digital television is made accessible to those who are partially sighted. [77257]

Mr. Woodward: With the availability of audio-description services, digital technology can greatly enhance the enjoyment of television by blind and partially sighted people. But we are aware that some of them might need extra help in selecting, installing and using the digital equipment. This is why the Government have announced assistance schemes for people aged 75 and over, people in receipt of disability living allowance or attendance allowance, and the people registered as blind. I can confirm that people who are registered as partially sighted will also be eligible for the schemes. I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 14 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2101W, for more information on the schemes.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps have been taken to ensure inclusion of blind and partially sighted people in progress towards digital switchover. [76555]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* With the availability of audio-description services, digital technology can greatly enhance the enjoyment of television by blind and partially sighted people. But we are aware that some of them might need extra help in selecting, installing and using the digital equipment. This is why the Government have announced assistance schemes for people aged 75 and over, people in receipt of disability living allowance or attendance allowance, and the people registered as blind. I can confirm that people who are registered as partially sighted will also be eligible for the schemes. I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 14 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2101W, for more information on the schemes.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will increase audio description targets to at least 20 per cent. to ensure greater inclusion of blind and partially sighted people in the digital switchover. [77383]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Foyle (Mark Durkan) on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 943W.

Gambling Act

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding the Government are providing to local authorities to cover the *(a)* implementation costs and *(b)* ongoing costs associated with the Gambling Act 2005; and whether the New Burdens principle applies. [78301]

Mr. Caborn: The Spending Review 2002 included provision for a number of new burdens on local authorities during the spending review period, including the set up costs of the licensing scheme to be established under the Gambling Act 2005. The funding was included within general grant. This is unhypothecated provision and local authorities are responsible for decisions on the use of that funding.

The net additional cost to local authorities of the ongoing costs associated with the Gambling Act 2005 will be met from the fee arrangements. The Department will consult fully on the fees that local authorities may charge with a view to these fully meeting their efficient costs.

Ice Rinks

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many publicly-funded ice rinks there are in England. [77575]

Mr. Caborn: There are 40 ice rinks in England of which 18 are in public ownership.

Library Closures

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many libraries have *(a)* closed, *(b)* been scheduled for closure and *(c)* opened in each local authority in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [78074]

Mr. Lammy: The table shows the change in the number of static public libraries in England, grouped into bands by opening hours, over the last five years and, for context, the comparable figures for 1997-98. The same information for each of the 149 library authorities in England can be found in the Public Library Statistics published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Copies are held in the House of Commons Library.

Static libraries in England

	Hours open per week				
	60+	*45-59*	*30-44*	*10-29*	*<10*
1997-98	6	449	1,279	1,323	157
2000-01	19	469	1,206	1,331	130
2001-02	28	493	1,199	1,311	115
2002-03	42	598	1,168	1,240	91
2003-04	51	683	1,143	1,186	80
2004-05	69	727	1,139	1,106	96

I welcome the opening of Gloucestershire county council's two new libraries in Dursley and Longstevens.

Licensing Act

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licences have been issued in respect of charity fund-raising events which did not provide alcohol since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003; and if she will make a statement. [77659]

Mr. Woodward: This information is not held centrally.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent consideration she has given to seeking to amend the Licensing Act 2003 to allow 'cumulative effect' to be considered in licensing decisions. [78402]

Mr. Woodward: The cumulative impact of multiple licensed premises on crime and disorder has always been, and continues to be, a matter which licensing authorities are entitled to take into account when representations are made to them about applications for the grant or variation of a premises licences or club premises certificates. This was confirmed by the decision of Mr. Justice Beatson on 11 April 2006 in the unreported case of R (J D Wetherspoon plc) *v.* Guildford borough council. The Government therefore have no plans to amend the Licensing Act 2003 for this purpose.

Listed Buildings

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether primary legislation is required to delist *(a)* the Commonwealth Institute building and *(b)* other Grade II* listed buildings. [78148]

Mr. Lammy: Primary legislation is not required to delist Grade II* listed buildings. Buildings can be removed from the statutory list if the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport considers, having consulted with her statutory advisers, English Heritage, and others as appropriate, that the building no longer has special architectural or historic interest. This is not the case with the Commonwealth Institute. Due to the unique and wider considerations which apply to the Commonwealth Institute, the Government are considering whether special measures are appropriate in this case. No decisions have yet been taken.

London Olympics

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the likely impact of the London Olympics on (a) Stroud and *(b)* the South West, with particular reference to (i) events, (ii) use of training facilities and (iii) opportunities for tourist visits. [77824]

Mr. Caborn: My Department has not made a specific assessment of the impact to Stroud, or the South West, of holding the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

However, the 2012 games will have a positive impact on investment, tourism and business opportunities across the UK, and will be a boost in our drive to create a healthier and more active nation.

Each region has been asked to develop a plan to ensure that they take full advantage of these benefits.

With close proximity to London and the Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy in neighbouring Dorset as the venue for all the 2012 sailing events, the games will be a terrific boost for Stroud and all the South West.

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many working days were lost to her Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated total cost to her Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [77254]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Sick absence figures are contained in the annual report Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service published by the Cabinet Office. Table A of the report gives details of both the average working days absence per staff year and the number of staff years on which that calculation is based on. The most recent report for the calendar year 2004 was announced by ministerial statement on 15 November 2005, and copies placed in the Library of the House. This report and those for 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 are available on the Cabinet Office website at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/occupational_health/publications/index.asp.

TV Licence

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to compensate those who will lose the value of the stamps on a television licence savings card because they were unable to transfer to a new savings card by 31 July. [77825]

Mr. Woodward: The BBC, as television licensing authority, is responsible for administering both the savings stamp scheme and the new savings cards. I understand from the corporation that savings stamps will remain redeemable from TV Licensing without limit of time. Holders of savings stamps will not therefore lose their savings in the event of delays in transferring the balance to a savings card.

Whole Sport Plan

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 946W, on the Whole Sport Plan, how much of the £158.5 million has been spent; how much is allocated to each of the 34 priority and development sports; and how much is allocated to each of the other 12 sports. [78233]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* Of the £158.5 million so far committed by Sport England through Whole Sport Plans £65.3 million has been spent to date.

Of the £158.5 million a total of £157 million has been committed to the 34 priority and development sports and £1.5 million has been committed to 12[1] other sports.

The table shows a breakdown of funding 'committed' and 'committed in principle to each sport.

Sport England: whole sport plan awards 2005 to 2009

£

34 priority and development sports	*WSP funding committed as at 14 June 2006*	*WSP funding committed 'in principle' as at 14 June 2006*
Angling	369,999	369,998
Athletics	2,646,000	830,000
Badminton	10,290,555	0
Baseball/Softball	1,240,000	0
Basketball	1,773,500	1,000,000
Boxing	2,555,000	0
Canoeing	3,560,000	0
Cricket	13,400,000	0
Cycling	8,100,055	0
Equestrian	1,900,000	0
Football	4,500,000	0
Golf	8,171,000	0
Gymnastics	3,729,948	0
Hockey	5,410,000	0
Judo	3,826,000	0
Karate	950,000	1,000,000
Lacrosse	1,260,000	0
Modern Pentathlon	789,000	0
Mountaineering	750,000	0
Movement and Dance	318,500	300,000
Netball	10,800,000	0
Orienteering	750,000	750,000
Rounders	450,000	0
Rowing	5,622,000	0
Rugby League	9,910,000	0
Rugby Union	6,490,000	3,000,000
Sailing	5,509,000	0
Squash	6,205,000	0
Swimming and Diving	11,393,000	0
Table Tennis	3,833,480	0
Tennis	8,500,000	0
Triathlon	2,521,400	0
Volleyball	1,465,000	0
Waterskiing	700,000	0
	149,688,437	7,249,998
Total	156,938,435	

Sport England: whole sport plan awards 2005 to 2009

£

34 priority and development sports	*WSP funding committed as at 14 June 2006*	*WSP funding committed 'in principle' as at 14 June 2006*
12 other sports		
Archery	30,000	15,000
Bowls	213,500	[1]0
Caving	7,500	0
Fencing	80,000	30,000
Handball	10,500	0
Ice Skating	136,875	25,000
Petanque	5,000	0
Real Tennis	9,000	0
Shooting	402,500	[2]0
Skiing	70,000	30,000
Surf Life Saving	10,500	0
Taekwondo	30,000	[2]0
Tug of War	4,750	0
Weightlifting	388,000	30,000
Wrestling	15,000	0
Yoga	6,000	[2]0
	1,419,125	130,000
Total	1,549,125	
Total	158,487,560	

[1] No whole sport plan submitted.
[2] No longer funded.
[1] The table shows 16 'other' sports but four of those are no longer funded or did not submit a whole sport plan.

Young Athletes

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to ensure that sufficient facilities exist in West Yorkshire *(a)* for the coaching of young athletes and *(b)* where such athletes can train and compete. [77681]

Mr. Caborn: The Government have, through a number of programmes, made substantial investment into the provision of facilities in West Yorkshire for young athletes. The investments include;

£27,571,000 through the New Opportunities Fund School programme.

£2,659,007 through the Community Club Development Programme.

£1,418,900 through the Community Sports Coaches Scheme, with a further £1 million of partnership funding, which has helped to appoint 74 community coaches in West Yorkshire.

£20,000 into the Step into Sport programme through West Yorkshire Sport.

PRIME MINISTER

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his press office. [74349]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. McFadden) today.

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the chief accounting officer of his Office. [76710]

The Prime Minister: For accounting purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) today.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how many of his staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77317]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. McFadden) today.

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited by his Office in each of the last three years. [77318]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. McFadden) today.

Dorneywood Trust Deed

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of the 1942 Dorneywood Trust Deed. [78415]

The Prime Minister: Copies of the Trust agreement are available in the Library in the House.

Health Service Statistics

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the oral answer of 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1477, what geographical area he referred to when giving statistics for health services. [77069]

The Prime Minister: The geographical area referred to was the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area. My answer included work force figures for Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA and the new mental health service at the Gloucestershire Partnership National Health Service Trust.

House of Lords (Nominations)

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 118-19W, on House of Lords nominations, how many of the 4,090 people nominated for a non-party peerage were interviewed; and whether the Commission's undertakings on confidentiality and the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 applied to the process extend to the names of those nominated. [76601]

The Prime Minister: This is a matter for the House of Lords Appointments Commission.

Meetings (Back Benchers)

Bob Russell: To ask the Prime Minister if he will offer to all Back-Bench hon. Members individual private meetings following his slot for oral questions. [78213]

The Prime Minister: I meet, when appropriate, hon. Members of all parties at a time of mutual convenience.

Social Exclusion

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister which Government Minister is responsible for tackling social exclusion; and in which Government Department the civil servants responsible for this issue are located. [78266]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press notice on Machinery of Government Changes issued by my Office on 5 May, a copy of which is available on the Number 10 website. I also refer the hon. Member to the press notice on Social Exclusion issued by the Cabinet Office on 13 June, a copy of which is available on the Cabinet Office website. Copies of both press notices have also been placed in the Library of the House.

Special Envoys

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister which individuals have acted for him as Special Envoys since May 2005; what their function was in each case; and which countries each has visited. [76286]

The Prime Minister: In his capacity as Special Envoy to Afghanistan, Lieutenant-General John McColl helped coordinate high-level dialogue between President Karzai and me. Lieutenant McColl visited Afghanistan in his capacity as Special Envoy.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Cynon Valley (Ann Clwyd) is a Special Envoy on Human Rights in Iraq. My right hon. Friend has visited Belgium, Iraq and the United States since May 2005, to report back to me on developments regarding human rights issues in Iraq, as well as raising issues with Iraqi and international interlocutors.

My noble Friend right hon. Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean is a Special Envoy to the Two Kingdoms Dialogue (UK-Saudi Arabia), reporting to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary. My noble Friend accompanied the then Foreign Secretary my right hon.

Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) to Riyadh in April 2006 and co-chaired the one-day Two Kingdoms Dialogue conference. In October 2005 I also appointed my noble Friend as my Special Representative to assist the Government's efforts to conclude Memoranda of Understanding, and associated arrangements, to facilitate the deportation from the UK of foreign nationals who represent a threat to the national security or whose presence in the UK is not conducive to the public good, with a number of Middle East and North African countries.

In his capacity as my special representative to the Sultan of Brunei, Lord Powell of Bayswater undertakes meetings to discuss a wide range of matters of bilateral interest as well as regional and international issues.

In respect of Lord Levy I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 17 March 2006, *Official Report*, Columns 2581-82W.

Veterans' Day

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister what events he will be hosting in Downing Street on Veterans' Day in celebration of veterans; and to which *(a)* individuals, *(b)* groups and *(c)* hon. and right hon. Members invitations to such events have been extended. [77530]

The Prime Minister: I will be holding a reception at Downing Street to mark Veterans' Day. Representatives from nearly 40 Veterans associations, along with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Browne), my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Brown) and my hon. Friend the Minister for Veterans (Mr. Watson) have been invited. Those attending the reception have been selected to represent as broad a range of veterans' experience, service and age as possible.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many staff work in his official residences. [71073]

The Deputy Prime Minister: None.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in her Department's press office. [74364]

Mr. McFadden: Information on ethnicity is collected on a voluntary basis.

Where the information requested results in a figure of five or less these figures are not released as disclosure could lead to the identification of the people involved.

Unfortunately, on this occasion, I am unable to provide the information.

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the Chief Accounting Officer of her Department. [76817]

Hilary Armstrong: The Accounting Officer for the Cabinet Office is the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Gus O'Donnell KCB.

Sir Gus has a first class honours degree in economics from the University of Warwick and an M. Phil in economics from Nuffield College, Oxford. These courses covered a wide range of subjects, including accountancy. He also worked as a research assistant on a project to show the impact of various methods of adjusting companies' financial accounts to allow for the effects of inflation. He then spent four years lecturing in economics and econometrics at the University of Glasgow.

Sir Gus has served as permanent secretary to HM Treasury (2002 to 2005), Managing Director, Macroeconomic Policy and International Finance (1999 to 2002) and as Director of Macroeconomic Policy and Prospects (1998 to 1999). He has also worked as the UK's executive director to the IMF and World Bank (1997 to 1998) and as Head of the Government Economics Service, the UK's largest employer of professional economists (1998 to 2003): He has undertaken training throughout his career in a wide variety of subjects, including management and leadership.

Accounting Officer is a role that the permanent secretary combines with his/her personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the Department and for Department-wide procedures in financial and other matters. The Accounting Officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by suitably qualified and experienced senior managers.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many of her staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77269]

Mr. McFadden: As at 31 December 2005, there were 1,821 staff employed by the department. Of these 1,590 staff were under age 55 and 231 were age 55 or over.

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into her Department in each of the last three years. [77270]

Mr. McFadden: The number of people over the age of 55 years recruited into the Department in each of the last three years are shown in the table.

	Number of staff
2003-04	16
2004-05	19
2005-06	16

Foreign Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on foreign travel by her Department in each of the last eight years. [76053]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Office Resource Accounting System does not hold information on overseas travel by officials detailed to the level that is required to answer this question, and it could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

Since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. This information is available in the Library. Information for the financial year 2004-05 was published on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 158WS. Information for the financial year 2005-06 is in the process of being collated and will be published shortly.

All foreign travel under taken by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by her Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature was of the charges brought against them. [73953]

Mr. McFadden: No illegal immigrants have been employed directly by the Department.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) which Government Bills sponsored by her Department are still to be introduced during the current Session; and when, and into which House, each will be introduced; [77500]

(2) what plans she has for legislation in the next Session of Parliament; and if she will make a statement. [77501]

Hilary Armstrong: I refer the hon. Member to the response given by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1431W.

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many working days were lost to her Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated total cost to her Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [77256]

Hilary Armstrong: Information on working days lost per employee due to illness in the Cabinet Office and its agencies is published each year in "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service". The latest publication for calendar year 2004 was announced by ministerial statement 15 November 2005 and copies were placed in the Libraries of the House. The following table details the approximate total cost of working days lost to the department and its agencies in years 1997 to 2004.

Cabinet Office and agencies are committed to managing sick absence effectively by making sure that managers proactively manage sickness absence and that they have the tools and training to do so.

	Working days lost per employee	*Average basic salary (£)*	*Estimated cost of total days lost (£)*
1997	6.6	15,155	932,214
1998	6.1	15,480	945,938
1999	6.8	15,550	971,398
2000	4.6	15,850	838,717
2001	5.7	16,400	838,411
2002	4.8	16,980	940,375
2003	4.2	17,770	1,034,924
2004	3.6	18,890	957,496

Notes:
1. The figures are based on Cabinet Office and the agencies that were attached to the Department and reported returns at the time of each report.
2. The estimated cost of total days lost is based on the average annual salary figures used in the report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service".

Wage and Administration Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on *(a)* wages and salaries and *(b)* total administration of the (i) Cabinet Office, (ii) Prime Minister's offices and (iii) Central Office of Information in each year since 1996-97, including the estimated outturn for 2005-06; and what the planned expenditure is for (A) 2006-07 and (B) 2007-08. [73539]

Hilary Armstrong: The Prime Minister's office is an integral part of Cabinet Office and is included in this response.

Details of the Cabinet Office, including the Prime Minister's Office, expenditure on wages, salaries and total administration costs in 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 can be found in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts, schedule 2 (Cm 5053—page 14, Cm 5443—page 11, HC346—page 21, HC185—page 21, HC1190—page 27, and HC372—page 23 respectively).

Copies of these reports are available in the Library and the reports for 2000-01, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are available on the Cabinet Office website at http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/annualreport/index.asp.

For 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, administration costs for the Cabinet Office can be found in the Cabinet Office Appropriation Accounts (HC 251-XVII—page 6, HC 1-XVII—page 6 and HC 11-XVII—page 6 respectively) copies of which are available in the Library. Expenditure on wages and salaries is not separately identifiable for these years.

2005-06 figures are subject to final audit, but are estimated to be:

	£000
Wages and salaries	101,400
Administration costs	167,700

On a like-for-like basis, planned expenditure in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is expected to be at a level similar to 2005-06, other than for the effects of inflation and Cabinet Office's continuing strive for efficiency. However, wages, salaries and total administration costs are likely to vary as a result of machinery of government changes.

Details of wages, salaries and total administration costs for the Central Office of Information for the years 1996-97 to 2004-05 are contained in COI's annual report and accounts, (pages 5, 6, 6, 7, 22, 32, 41 and 42 respectively) which are available in the Library on the COI website, at: http://www.coi.gov.uk/aboutcoi.php ?page=56.

2005-06 figures are subject to final audit, but are expected to be:

	£000
Wages and salaries	22,480
Administration costs	37,008

On a like-for-like basis, planned expenditure in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is expected to be at a level similar to 2005-06, other than for the effects of inflation and COI's continuing efficiency target to reduce the unit cost of output by 2.5 per cent. per annum. However, wages, salaries and total administration costs will increase because of the transfer of Directgov and the Media Monitoring Unit from Cabinet Office to COI from 1 April 2006.

TREASURY

Capital Gains Tax Taper Relief

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue implications of abolishing capital gains tax taper relief and reducing the annual exempt amount for individual and trustees to *(a)* £500, *(b)* £1,000 and *(c)* £2,500 in each year from 2004-05 to 2009-10 while simultaneously reintroducing indexation linked to (i) the consumer price index and (ii) the retail price index; and if he will make a statement. [76887]

Dawn Primarolo: Broad estimates of the yield of abolishing capital gains tax taper relief and reducing the annual exempt amount for individual and trustees to *(a)* £500, *(b)* £1,000 and *(c)* £2,500 for the 2006-07 while simultaneously reintroducing indexation linked to either the consumer or retail price index are available in the following table.

Annual exempt amount	Additional revenue (accruals £ million)
£500	3,500
£1,000	3,000
£2,500	2,300

The figures are consistent with the assumptions made in Budget 2006 on future asset prices, and take into account the likely taxpayer behavioural responses to the tax change. The Annual Exempt Amount for Trusts is assumed to be half that of individuals. Figures for other years are not available.

Data Protection

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 175W, on the Data Protection Act, how many responses to requests to HM Revenue and Customs for information under the Data Protection Act 1998 were completed *(a)* within 40 days, *(b)* between 40 and 59 days, *(c)* between 60 and 100 days and *(d)* over 100 days after receiving the original letter in each of the last five years; and how many are outstanding. [77765]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs was created in April 2005.

	Number
(a) 2005	21,985
(a) 2006[1]	9,141
(b) 2005	810
(b) 2006[1]	552
(c) 2005	373
(c) 2006[1]	160
(d) 2005	95
(d) 2006[1]	43
(e) 2005	3
(e) 2006[1]	0

1 To date.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 175W, on the Data Protection Act, what procedure HM Revenue and Customs uses to respond to requests for information under the Data Protection Act 1998; and what steps the Department takes to ensure that responses to such requests are completed within 40 days. [77766]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs includes training on Data Protection issues for all staff as part of their compulsory induction training. HM Revenue and Customs has a dedicated network of subject access officers who trace, retrieve and copy the personal information requested. These officers attend a mandatory interactive, training workshop where advice and guidance is provided on handling subject access requests as well as information about the principles of the Data Protection Act itself.

An on-line training package is available for all staff to use and a data protection intranet website provides day to day advice on handling subject access requests as well as all aspects of DP legislation.

A central team acts as the central point for logging all subject access requests. This team collates and issues

all the information and by maintaining regular contact with the offices holding the data, ensures that as far as possible all responses are dealt with within the prescribed legislative time frame.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 177W, on the Data Protection Act, when redactions made to documents to be disclosed following a request under the Data Protection Act 1998 are made whether a record is kept of *(a)* who made each redaction and *(b)* why it was made in the case of (i) HM Treasury and (ii) HM Revenue and Customs. [77767]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is as follows:

(a) Records are not routinely kept of the name of the officer who made each redaction.

(b) Redactions are most commonly made to protect personal data belonging to another individual; because the data do not constitute the data subject's personal data; to safeguard the accurate assessment and collection of taxes.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 177W, on the Data Protection Act, what the minimum font size is in which documents held in electronic form are made available by (i) HM Treasury and (ii) HM Revenue and Customs for disclosure under the Data Protection Act 1998 are printed in relation to HM Treasury's policy to provide enlarged print size for the partially sighted. [77768]

Dawn Primarolo: Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs have a policy to provide enlarged print size on request to assist those with visual impairment. HM Revenue and Customs standard is font size 11 although slight variance may occur from system to system. In addition, the font size of documents which have been electronically scanned reflects the font size of the original(s).

Devolved Countries and Regions

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the responsibilities and operational duties are of his Department's devolved countries and regions team. [78220]

Mr. Timms: The devolved countries and regions team advises Treasury Ministers on a range of issues including matters in relation to the devolved Administrations and English regional bodies.

Doha Development Round

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the concordat of the G8 meeting in St. Petersburg on the Doha Development Round, what discussions he plans to have with *(a)* Commissioner Mandelson, *(b)* the director general of the World Trade Organisation and *(c)* Ambassador Susan Schwab on (i) agricultural subsidies, (ii) non-market access and (iii) designation of import/export sensitive commodities. [77699]

Ed Balls: As the Chancellor set out in his statement to the International Monetary and Financial Committee on 22 April 2006, the international community must grasp the opportunity presented by the Doha Development Agenda of world trade talks to achieve an ambitious outcome, by the end of 2006, that will make a real contribution to poverty reduction.

The need for a fairer trading global trading system was a key message of the UK presidency reflected in the communiqués of the G8 Finance Ministers in June 2005, the G8 Heads of State at Gleneagles in July 2005 and G7 Finance Ministers in December 2005. G8 Finance Ministers reiterated this message in their June 2006 communiqué, where they agreed:

> "on the importance for global growth of an ambitious outcome from the Doha Development Round and recognise that urgent progress is needed for its achievement. Many developing countries also need substantial aid for trade to help them take advantage of general trade liberalisation".

As set out in the 2006 Budget, the UK Government continue to work with fellow EU and WTO member states towards an ambitious and pro-development conclusion to the Doha Round that would: substantially increase market access for developing countries; substantially reduce all trade-distorting domestic support; and provide effective special and differential treatment to enable developing countries to capture the gains from trade. All WTO members need to maintain commitment to the Round so that we can deliver on the promises of Doha without lowering the level of ambition.

To this end Treasury Ministers and officials have conversations and discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals as part of the process of policy development, analysis and delivery.

Domestic Building Renovations (VAT)

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he applied to the European Commission by the 31 March 2006 for a reduced rate of VAT on repair and renovation work for domestic buildings. [78429]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government chose not to apply to the European Commission for this reduced rate.

Government Spending

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what total Government spending was in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [78105]

Mr. Timms: Total public spending that can be identified as benefiting a particular country or region for 2000-01 to 2005-06 is published in table 7.1 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2006 (Cm6811). Public spending can be split into that which can be identified as benefiting a particular country or region and that which is for the benefit of the UK as a whole, for example defence spending. Therefore, the figures in PESA 2006 do not represent total public spending, which is not available by country.

Lifetime Savings Scheme

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of a lifetime savings scheme for all individuals which would start with an element of child benefit and develop with significant tax benefits later in working life. [78450]

Ed Balls: The Government seek to promote saving and asset ownership for all, from childhood, through working life and into retirement. In keeping with this lifecycle approach, the Government aim to support:

saving for children, through the Child Trust Fund, which promotes saving and financial education and will ensure that in future all children have a financial asset at age 18;

saving throughout working life, through individual savings accounts, which provide accessible, tax-free savings; and

saving for retirement, in particular through pensions tax relief.

In addition, through the Saving Gateway, the Government are exploring the use of matching to promote saving among those that do not usually save.

Lyons Review

Mr. Willis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with Sir Michael Lyons on his review of local government taxation; and if he will make a statement. [78030]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy analysis, development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussion.

Sir Michael Lyons' work into the function of local government, its future role and how it is funded in England is independent. Sir Michael published an Interim Report in December 2005 and a paper covering the role and function of local government in May 2006. He is due to make his final report to Ministers by the end of December 2006.

National Insurance

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been notified that they have incomplete national insurance contribution records in each year since 1997. [78000]

Dawn Primarolo: National insurance deficiency notices for the six-year period from 1996-97 to 2001-02 were issued in a single exercise. A total of 10,021 million notices were issued in the period October 2003 to September 2004. It is not possible to break this figure down into individual years.

3,785 million notices were issued for 2002-03 tax year and 3,278 million notices were issued for 2003-04 tax year.

National Savings

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was lent to the Treasury by National Savings in each year since 1997. [78368]

Ed Balls: None. NS&I products are liabilities of the Exchequer, which meets its related obligations to lenders, and which are administered by NS&I.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what rate of interest the Treasury pays National Savings. [78374]

Ed Balls: The Treasury does not pay interest to National Savings & Investments (NS&I). NS&I products are liabilities of the Exchequer, which meets its related obligations, including interest payments, to lenders, and which are administered by NS&I.

Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Government have made of the amount of *(a)* income tax and *(b)* national insurance contributions that would be paid by the 125,000 people who lost occupational pension rights from schemes that started to wind up before 6 April 2005 if the Government restored 100 per cent. of their lost pensions; and if he will make a statement. [78413]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to estimate the amount of income tax that would be paid, as we do not have any information on the income distribution of people affected. No national insurance contributions would be paid.

Poverty (Wirral, West)

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures his Department has taken to reduce poverty in Wirral West since 1997. [78381]

Dawn Primarolo: The Treasury has, in partnership with other Government Departments, tackled poverty and promoted economic opportunity through:

promoting macroeconomic stability;

supporting work for those who can and ensuring that work pays, through the New Deals, a national minimum wage and the working tax credit;

providing financial support for groups at particular risk of poverty, such as child benefit and the child tax for families, and the pension credit for pensioners.

Across the UK, these measures have helped lift more than a million people out of poverty since 1997. Tax credits are benefiting more than half a million families in the North West region, and in Wirral South claimant unemployment has fallen by half, youth unemployment has fallen by 75 per cent. and long-term unemployment has fallen by 89 per cent.

Premium Bonds

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what returns the average investor could expect from Premium Bonds in each year since 1997. [78367]

Ed Balls: The average return to investors from Premium Bonds in each year since 1997 are set out in the following table.

	Expected annual return for average investor[1] (percentage)
1997	4.79
1998	5.00
1999	3.77
2000	4.02
2001	3.85
2002	2.51
2003	2.30
2004	2.64
2005	3.14

[1] Rounded to account for the fact that the minimum prize value is £50.

Scottish Executive

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department's *(a)* efficiency reviews, *(b)* public service agreements and *(c)* spending reviews are applied to the block grant allocated to the Scottish Executive. [78199]

Mr. Timms: The Scottish Executive is responsible for setting its own targets for efficiency and public service delivery in devolved areas. Changes to the Scottish Executive departmental expenditure limit are determined in accordance with the Treasury publication 'Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly—a Statement of Funding Policy'. The latest edition was published in July 2004.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* conventions are applied to the treatment of funds drawn down to the Scottish Consolidated Fund and subsequently (i) underspent and (i) overspent by the Scottish Executive. [78218]

Mr. Timms: Section 10 of the Treasury publication "Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly—a Statement of Funding Policy" details the arrangements that are in place for the handling of end year flexibility, breaches of departmental expenditure limits and the management of cash balances.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with the Scottish Executive on the treatment of underspends in the Scottish Consolidated Fund and its future distribution. [78219]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with the Scottish Executive from time to time to discuss matters of common interest.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters have been received by the Tax Credits Office in each month since October 2005; and if he will make a statement. [75002]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 7 June 2006]:* The volumes of items of post[1] that HM Revenue and Customs' Tax Credit Office (TCO) received in each of the months since October 2005 was around:

[1] These will include changes of circumstances and renewal forms.

	Items received
2005	
October	281,000
November	241,000
December	215,000
2006	
January	211,000
February	233,000
March	257,000
April	167,000
May	254,000

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the accuracy level of tax credits processing was in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [75772]

Dawn Primarolo: For 2003-04, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 698W.

Performance for 2004-05 was published in the departmental accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005 which are available on the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm.

Indicative results for the Department's performance for 2005-06 will be published shortly in HMRC spring departmental report 2006.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the reasons for the tax credit overpayments in 2004-05; how many of these involved official error; and if he will make a statement; [76416]

(2) how many tax credit overpayments involving official error have been made since April 2003; and in how many of these cases the overpayment has been written off. [78151]

Dawn Primarolo: For information on number of overpayments involving official error, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 772W.

For causes of overpayments I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 5 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 55-56WS.

The amount of 2003-04 overpayments written off due to official error can be found in the Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report on the Accounts of the Inland Revenue 2004-05, which is available on the HMRC website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/ir-report2005.pdf

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which of the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report on Tax Credits: Putting Things Right had been *(a)* implemented, *(b)* accepted but not implemented, *(c)* rejected and *(d)* considered for implementation by 31 May 2006; and if he will make a statement; [76427]

(2) if he will make a statement on plans to implement the recommendations in paragraph 5.17 of the Parliamentary Ombudsman's June 2005 report on tax credits. [76428]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC have responded positively to the Ombudsman's report. For example:

HMRC have improved guidance to staff on the availability of interim payments.

Suspension of recovery on disputes was introduced in November 2005.

A revised award notice including a single page check sheet to help claimants with their award notice were introduced from April 2006. The check sheet includes a section on overpayments and highlights the availability of additional tax credits payments.

The Code of Practice on overpayments (COP26) was revised earlier this year and now provides a clearer statement of what is meant by the reasonableness test in official error cases.

From November 2006 the tax credits computer system will limit any in year adjustment to the cross year recovery limits as detailed in COP26. The Tax Credit Office have a manual process to effect requests in the interim.

In respect of recommendation 10, current policy is for overpayments to be written off where there was a mistake by HMRC and it was not reasonable for the claimant to have spotted the error. The Government believe this strikes the right balance between being fair to those claimants who have been paid the incorrect amount and being fair to the taxpayer in general.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff were employed by *(a)* the tax credits office and *(b)* the tax credits hotline in each month from September 2005 to March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [62787]

Dawn Primarolo: For the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff employed in Tax Credit Office (TCO) at the end of September 2005, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 7 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 1326W.

(a) The number of FTE staff in post in the TCO at the end of October 2005 to the end of February 2006 inclusive was around:

Staff number (FTEs)

Month	*Number*
2005	
October	2,800
November	2,800
December	2,800
2006	
January	2,800
February	3,000
March	3,100

(b) HMRC estimates of the number of full-time equivalent staff employed on tax credit helplines, in each month from September 2005 to March 2006 are detailed in the following table. In addition HMRC can use up to another 1,350 staff (FTEs) to answer tax credit calls at peak times.

Staff number (FTEs)

Month	*Number*
2005	
September	3,400
October	3,400
November	3,400
December	3,400
January	3,200
2006	
February	3,300
March	3,350

Tax Investigations

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax investigations were carried out in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998. [78779]

Dawn Primarolo: Since 1998 the number of tax investigations concerning income tax and corporation tax carried out in Northern Ireland each year are respectively:

	Number
1998-99	5,860
1999-2000	10,917
2000-01	11,162
2001-02	10,009
2002-03	7,673
2003-04	8,308
2004-05	6,804
2005-06	6,272

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax was recovered in Northern Ireland by HM Revenue and Customs as a result of tax investigations in each year since 1998. [78780]

Dawn Primarolo: The amounts brought to charge in relation to income tax and corporation tax as a result of tax investigations carried out in Northern Ireland each year is respectively:

	£ million
2000-01	22.09
2001-02	24.71
2002-03	29.76
2003-04	39.04
2004-05	43.40
2005-06	49.43

Data in respect of earlier years are not available.

Tax Revenue

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the tax revenue from *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [78106]

Mr. Timms: As taxes are often collected centrally and cannot usually be directly attributed to countries within the UK, only a limited amount of estimates are available.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publishes regional and country information for stamp duties and estimates for income tax, which are available on their websites:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15_2_october04.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#311

The Scottish Executive produce estimates of tax revenues attributable to Scotland in their publication 'Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland'. These are published at:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47121/0020630.pdf

Unclaimed Assets

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether further legislation will be required for the use of unclaimed assets for charitable and other purposes. [77703]

Ed Balls: The Government reported in the Budget that the banking industry has set in train work to develop a scheme to enable unclaimed assets to be reinvested in society. The industry's steering group is currently considering issues of definition, reuniting and operation and distribution. The Government are clear that such a scheme needs to be consistent with retaining the rights of owners to reclaim assets at any time and, with this in mind, is assessing the legal and accounting issues involved. This work is ongoing.

Valuation Office Agency

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency has purchased *(a)* software and *(b)* consultancy services from the company CDC Ltd. in the last five years. [78317]

Dawn Primarolo: The Valuation Office Agency has not purchased *(a)* software or *(b)* consultancy services from the company CDC Ltd. in the last five years.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the documents produced by the Valuation Office Agency Director of Modernisation for the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation conferences in *(a)* Spain in February 2005 and *(b)* Blackpool in May 2006. [78319]

Dawn Primarolo: No documents were produced by the Valuation Office Agency's Director of Modernisation for the IRRV conference Spain in February 2005. However, some slides were used at this presentation and a copy of these has been placed in the Library. He did not attend the IRRV conference in Blackpool in May 2006.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent communications, public relations and marketing staff were employed by the Valuation Office Agency at each grade in each year since 2001. [78341]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by the Valuation Office Agency, by grade, since 2001 in the categories described are shown in the following tables:

Staff responsible for internal communications channels and content (including maintenance of the Agency's intranet site) and for external publications and communications (including maintenance of the Agency's website)

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Band 1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Band 3	1	1	3	3	3	3
Band 4	7	8	8	8	8	8
Band 6	1	1	1	1	1	1

Within the District Valuer Services business stream of the Agency, a number of staff are employed, on a full or part-time basis, as client account or client development managers. Their numbers are shown in the following table. "Marketing" is part of their much wider roles, and no separate attribution of time to this particular aspect is available.

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Senior Civil Service	—	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.20
Band 1	—	—	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Band 2	—	—	—	—	4	4
Band 3	—	—	—	—	4	4

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Degree Subjects

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many higher education institutions in the North East region offered *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* physics, *(c)* biology, *(d)* chemistry, *(e)* computing and electronics and *(f)* engineering-related degrees in each year since 1994-95; and how many enrolments there were in each year. [75207]

Bill Rammell: There are five HE institutions in the North East: Durham University, Newcastle University, The University of Northumbria at Newcastle, The University of Sunderland and the University of Teesside. The available information is shown in the following tables:

Number of HE institutions in the North East with first degree students studying Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Computing or Engineering as their principal subject

	Mathematical sciences	Of which: Maths	Physical Sciences	Of which: Physics	Of which: Chemistry	Biological Sciences	Of which: Biology
1994	5	5	5	3	5	5	3
1995	5	5	5	3	5	5	3
1996	5	5	5	3	5	5	3
1997	5	5	5	3	5	5	4
1998	5	5	5	3	5	5	4
1999	5	5	5	3	5	5	4
2000	5	5	5	3	5	5	5
2001	4	4	5	3	5	5	5
2002	4	4	5	4	5	5	5
2003	5	4	5	3	5	5	5
2004	4	4	5	2	5	5	5

	Computer Sciences	Of which: Computer Science	Engineering and technology	Of which: Engineering
1994	5	5	5	5
1995	5	5	5	5
1996	5	5	5	5
1997	5	5	5	5
1998	5	5	5	5
1999	5	5	5	5
2000	5	5	5	5
2001	5	5	5	5
2002	5	5	5	5
2003	5	5	5	5
2004	5	5	5	5

Notes:
1. Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December each year.
2. Mathematical Sciences include disciplines such as statistics and operational research in addition to mathematics courses.
3. Physical sciences include disciplines such as geography, geology, materials science, forensics and archaeology in addition to physics and chemistry courses.
4. Biological Sciences include disciplines such as microbiology, biochemistry and molecular biology in addition to biology courses.
5. Computer Sciences include courses in artificial intelligence and software engineering in addition to named computer science courses.
6. Engineering and Technology covers all engineering disciplines and metallurgy and textile courses.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Number of first degree students enrolled at HE institutions in the North East, who are studying Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Computing or Engineering as their principal subject

	Mathematical sciences	Of which: Maths	Physical Sciences	Of which: Physics	Of which: Chemistry	Biological Sciences	Of which: Biology
1994	950	670	2,545	455	985	1,895	840
1995	865	680	3,180	460	945	2,900	750
1996	865	680	3,200	485	970	3,570	685
1997	895	725	3,250	425	965	3,815	685
1998	805	750	3,470	460	965	4,550	635
1999	805	690	3,175	425	900	4,185	655
2000	720	620	2,930	385	740	4,090	670
2001	665	550	2,850	370	710	4,150	675
2002	975	710	3,165	510	755	4,835	750
2003	1,040	740	3,380	530	815	5,095	715
2004	1,045	750	3,460	580	870	5,255	665

	Computer Sciences	Of which: Computer Science	Engineering and technology	Of which: Engineering	Total (individual subjects)
1994	1,160	2,575	3,095	4,395	9,920
1995	2,830	2,830	4,825	4,160	9,825
1996	2,935	2,935	4,500	3,810	9,565
1997	3,090	3,090	4,085	3,425	9,320
1998	3,490	3,385	4,360	3,115	9,310
1999	3,640	3,640	3,385	2,860	9,165

	Computer Sciences	Of which: Computer Science	Engineering and Technology	Of which: Engineering	Total (individual subjects)
2000	3,885	3,885	3,165	2,685	8,990
2001	4,350	4,350	2,975	2,515	9,175
2002	4,730	4,685	2,975	2,760	10,175
2003	4,795	4,715	2,970	2,730	10,240
2004	4,505	4,395	4,160	3,900	11,155

Notes: 1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 5 so components may not sum to totals.
2 Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December each year.
3. Between 2001-02 and 2002-03 the subject groupings changed from HESA groups to JACS groups: this may cause a discontinuity.
4. Mathematical Sciences include disciplines such as statistics and operational research in addition to mathematics courses.
5. Physical sciences include disciplines such as geography, geology, materials science, forensics and archaeology in addition to physics and chemistry courses.
6. Biological Sciences include disciplines such as microbiology, biochemistry and molecular biology in addition to biology courses.
7. Computer Sciences include courses in artificial intelligence and software engineering in addition to named computer science courses.
8. Engineering & Technology covers all engineering disciplines and metallurgy and textile courses.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Headteachers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* average gross salary for headteachers is in a (i) secondary and (ii) primary school in Castle Point. [77631]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Overseas Students

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many overseas students were studying at English Universities in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* subject and *(b)* country of origin. [77335]

Bill Rammell: The available information has been placed in the House Libraries. The data in the tables has been taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record where the method of recording subject of study was revised in 2002/03, hence figures for 2002/03 onwards are not comparable to earlier years.

Pupil Exclusions

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils have been reinstated into schools by the independent appeals panel after being permanently excluded for violent conduct in each of the last three years. [78145]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally. The appeals data provided to the Department do not include the reason for the exclusion. The latest available information on appeals against permanent exclusion from school for any reason is given in the table.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1]: summary of exclusion appeals, England: 2001/02 to 2003/04

	Appeals against exclusion from school		
	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Number of appeals lodged	1,130	1,070	1,130
Number of appeals heard	1,060	990	1,050
Percentage of appeals heard[2]	94.2	92.2	92.8
Number of appeals determined in favour of the parent/pupil	260	210	220
Percentage of appeals determined in favour of the parent/pupil[3]	24.4	21.1	21.2
Number of successful appeals where reinstatement was directed	n/a	150	130
Percentage of successful appeals where reinstatement was directed[4]	n/a	71.3	57.0

n/a = Not available.
[1] Excludes non-maintained special schools.
[2] Shown as a percentage of appeals lodged.
[3] Shown as a percentage of appeals heard.
[4] Shown as a percentage of appeals determined in favour of the parent/pupil.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School exclusion appeals survey.

This information is taken from 'National Statistics First Release: Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England, 2003/04, SFR 23/2005', which is available in the Library.

Information on fixed period and permanent exclusions and exclusion appeals during the 2004/05 school year will be published by the Department on 29 June 2006.

Safety Equipment (Schools)

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are being taken to ensure the installation of appropriate safety equipment within schools, with particular reference to steps taken at the construction stage. [77860]

Jim Knight: Overall responsibility for installing safety equipment lies with the Employer, under the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act, 1974. In the case of community schools, community special schools, maintained nursery schools, pupil referral units and voluntary controlled schools the employer is the local authority. For foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary-aided schools and some independent schools, the employer is usually the governing body of the school.

The employer has the duty to prepare the overall health and safety plan, ensure its implementation and monitor it. Local authorities have the powers to delegate more detailed planning to schools if they wish, but continue to have ultimate responsibility. The plan is enforceable by the Health and Safety Executive who can take action against the employer.

At construction stage responsibility for planning and specifying appropriate safety equipment, which meets required standards, lies with the employer and their agents (architects or equivalent professional consultants). The responsibility for ensuring equipment is installed accordingly and is working correctly on completion lies with the contractor.

Science Teaching

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to broaden the curriculum for the teaching of science. [77713]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* From September 2006, we are introducing a revised key stage 4 programme of study which focuses on scientific literacy. It will maintain the breadth, depth and challenge of the current curriculum while giving teachers greater flexibility to provide for the wide range of students' interests and aptitudes.

We are making similar changes to the key stage 3 science curriculum which will commence in September 2008.

Sex Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are being taken *(a)* to improve sex education and *(b)* to increase awareness of sexual health issues in schools. [77620]

Mr. Dhanda: We are committed to helping schools improve their delivery of this important area of the curriculum. In addition to the Department's 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (2000) which includes guidelines on the coverage of sexual health issues, all teachers of SRE are encouraged to undertake the Government funded certificate in personal social and health education (PSHE). The certificate supports standards in the delivery of PSHE teaching including sex and relationship education and is also open to community nurses. To date, over 2,000 teachers and nurses have been certificated under the programme.

The Department has also recently announced the launch of a subject association for PSHE. The association will provide a central support network for teachers giving them a focal point to receive advice, gather and share examples of good practice and promote existing guidance, on all areas of PSHE, including SRE and sexual health.

In 2006-07, the National Healthy Schools programme, a key programme for driving up standards in PSHE, will also benefit from increased funding (£12.4 million). Healthy Schools must demonstrate that they have a sex and relationship education programme in line with DfES guidance.

Teachers have also been given a package of support from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. This has included guidance on assessment to help schools evaluate what young people are learning through PSHE as well as units of work on SRE.

Tuition Fees (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was paid in tuition fees by students in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* Peterborough city council area in each year since fees were instituted. [77913]

Bill Rammell: Students on full-time undergraduate courses and their families are expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their tuition based on household income. Students from lower income backgrounds are wholly or partially exempt from paying tuition fees.

The amount of private contributions to tuition fees by students from Peterborough local authority in academic years 1999/2000 to 2003/04 are given in the table.

Contribution from students paying all or part of their tuition fees

Academic year	*£ million*
1999/2000	0.5
2000/01	0.8
2001/02	0.8
2002/03	0.9
2003/04	1.0

Source:
Student Loans Company (SLC)

Data in the answer cover the period from 1999/2000 to 2003/04. Data for 2004/05 onwards are not available as student applications from Peterborough were processed by another local authority (Cambridgeshire), and can not be disaggregated.

Contributions towards tuition fees of up to £1,000 were introduced in academic year 1998/99 but, as that year was treated as a transitional year, data are not available on the same basis as subsequent years.

Academic years 1999/2000 and 2000/01 contain two and three cohorts respectively of students subject to the new student support scheme.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Audiology

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost of providing a digital hearing aid on the NHS is in the Province including *(a)* assessment, *(b)* fitting, *(c)* follow-up and *(d)* purchase of the aid (i) to the NHS and (ii) to the patient. [77239]

Paul Goggins: The answers to *(a)*, *(b)* and *(c)* cannot be provided because the information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The cost of purchasing a digital hearing aid (DHA) varies depending on the specification. The majority of DHAs provided cost between £56 and £270. There is no cost to the patient.

Bullying in Schools

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of bullying of children have been reported in the last financial year *(a)* at primary schools and *(b)* in post primary education, broken down by (i) board area, (ii) category of bullying and (iii) type of location of incident. [77356]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education does not collect the information requested.

Information about the scale and nature of bullying in Northern Ireland schools is contained in a research report published in October 2002. A research briefing summary is available on the Department's website at:

www.deni.gov.uk/rb8_2002.pdf

The Department has recently commissioned updated research into bullying, in all its forms, and the results are expected to be ready for publication by mid 2007.

Businesses

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he has taken to help businesses become more innovative since 31 May 2005; and how many businesses in Northern Ireland have been assisted in this way over the period. [77097]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment continues to work with all Departments and Invest NI to ensure the delivery of 'think/create/innovate—the Regional Innovation Strategy for Northern Ireland', which seeks to develop the region's innovation economy. A formal review of 'think/create/innovate' is currently under way, the outcomes of which will contribute to the identification of the key priorities for Northern Ireland's R&D and innovation system during the period 2006-10.

In the period 1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006, Invest NI supported 180 research and development projects which offered grant of £11.86 million against total project costs of £31.35 million. Invest NI also delivered £12.3 million assistance against total project costs of £60.8 million to support a further 308 projects across a range of process, strategy and innovation programmes. 131 businesses were also offered grant of £1.5 million to improve their use of information communication technology and implement new e-business processes and 126 businesses received assistance to enter/develop new markets under the Explorers/Connections programmes.

Recognising the importance of best practice, Invest NI also supported 71 Business Improvement Training agreements, visited 419 companies to provide tailored ICT advice, provided 104 companies with ICT demonstrations, responded to 480 requests for technical advice, conducted 430 intellectual property searches, and delivered 514 portions of HR advice and guidance.

Invest NI also delivered £2.5 million to business in respect of 10 existing letters of offer under the Centres of Excellence programme.

In March 2006, Invest Northern Ireland hosted its first ever Innovation Week with the theme of 'Think Different Grow Fast.' 16 events were delivered across Northern Ireland which attracted more than 1,000 business representatives.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many meetings Ministers have attended with *(a)* senior departmental officials and *(b)* business leaders in Northern Ireland to discuss how best to help Northern Ireland businesses become more innovative since 31 May 2005. [77098]

Maria Eagle: In keeping with the ethos of the Economic Vision and the Regional Innovation Strategy for Northern Ireland, the importance of innovation as a driver to the Northern Ireland economy is a key component of the activities undertaken by the NI ministerial team and their respective Departments.

For instance, during the period in question, Ministers took part in 12 company visits at which they promoted the continued need for innovation as key to company competitiveness. Innovation has also been a key feature of a recent trade mission to India.

Innovation has also been a topic for discussion raised by Ministers at various networking events hosted by Northern Ireland's business representative organisations, in addition to being the subject of a number of key note addresses, including the recent International Creative Clusters conference which took place in Belfast in October 2005.

At a strategic level, Ministers and senior departmental officials for the Departments of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Employment and Learning and Regional Development regularly participate in Economic Development Forum (EDF) meetings at the Northern Ireland Office at which they discuss many of the issues of importance to Northern Ireland's social and economic development, including a quarterly report by the EDF Innovation Sub-Group.

More generally, Ministers meet on a regular (usually weekly) basis with senior officials from their departments to discuss key policy and operational issues. The Regional Innovation Strategy for Northern Ireland has the ownership of all Departments and is a key influence underpinning departmental activities.

Census

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 798W, on the Valuation and Lands Agency, how many census output areas there are in Northern Ireland. [78321]

Mr. Hanson: The 2001 census results in Northern Ireland were reported for 5,022 census output areas.

Consultants

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria and procedures he uses when selecting consultants for publicly-funded work. [77377]

Mr. Hanson: The procedure for the appointment of consultants for work within Northern Ireland Departments is based on a competitive process and is governed by the rules set out in the Government Accounting Northern Ireland manual (GANI) and the Public Contracts Regulations 2006.

Where expected spend is not above European Union procurement thresholds, Departments will comply with the principles set out in GANI.

Where spend is expected to be above European Union procurement thresholds in addition to complying with GANI, Departments will comply with the procedures set out in the Public Contracts Regulations 2006.

The criteria used for awarding a public contract will be based on the offer which

is the most economically advantageous from the point of view of the contracting authority; or

offers the lowest price.

Cross-border Action

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action each relevant Department of the Northern Ireland Administration has taken since his announcement with the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs in December 2005 of cross-border action for the north-west region. [75421]

Mr. Hanson: Following our statement in December 2005, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and I announced the establishment of a North West Gateway Initiative on 2 May. This comprises a framework of elements aimed at addressing various problems and offering solutions on a co-ordinated basis across the region. Work at departmental level, North and South, includes the commencement of a non-statutory development framework for the north-west on which consultation with key stakeholders is planned at an early stage; and a seminar involving further and higher education and business interests is being held later this month to consider how best to utilise education and training resources to enhance the skills profile of the region.

The National Roads Authority in the South and Roads Service in Northern Ireland are in discussion aimed at identifying potential improvements to the roads' network for the north-west and both Finance Departments have invited the Special EU Programmes Body to assist in the development of strategic proposals which could be considered under the new round of EU Structural Funds.

On economic development, skills and employment, the respective agencies are working together on action plans in their respective areas, e.g. trade and investment promotion (IDA/EI/INI/ITI), tourism (Tourism Ireland/NITB/Failte Ireland), skills/training (FAS/DEL), education, innovation and business development. This work will draw on the joint economic study exploring further opportunities for North-South economic co-operation. It will also build on a range of existing initiatives such as Innovation North West Ireland, Destination North West, the North West Business and Technology zone, North West Region Data Capture project and others. On telecommunications, the issue of open access is being further investigated in the context of the wider needs of the region and, in particular, the completion of telecoms requirements for the cross-border technology park.

A round of consultations between the joint group of officials established earlier this year to assist in maximising the potential of the north-west region and key stakeholders took place on 12 June. It is envisaged that the group will hold further consultations as work progresses.

Departmental Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from his Department in each of the past five years. [71773]

Mr. Hain: The following information represents the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from the Northern Ireland Office in each of the past five years:

Fujitsu Services (Technical support for Causeway Programme)

McCombe Bros Ltd (Security work/maintenance on property as part of Key Persons Protection Scheme)

British Telecom

Knock Travel Agents (Travel agents used by NIO for booking flights)

Victim Support Northern Ireland (Voluntary Body part funded by NIO)

Deloitte MCS Ltd (IT Consultancy for Hamill, Nelson and Wright Inquiries)

J H Turkington and Sons Contractors Ltd (Building contractors for Public Prosecution Service new regional accommodation)

Jameson Building Services Ltd (Security work/maintenance on property as part of Key Persons Protection Scheme)

Madden and Finucane Solicitors (Legal fees relating to Bloody Sunday Inquiry)

Heron Bros Ltd (Contractors for Phase 1 of Juvenile Justice Centre (Rathgael))

Child Sexual Abuse

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what treatment and services are available to children and young people in Northern Ireland who have been victims of sexual abuse. [76400]

Paul Goggins: Medical services for child victims of sexual abuse are provided by community paediatric medical staff or by paediatricians in a hospital setting and are subject to formal protocols.

Victims may also be referred for counselling/psychotherapy services. These are delivered by:

- health and social services trusts, mainly through primary care mental health services, mainstream psychiatric services, and specialist children's services;
- voluntary organisations; and
- independent providers.

In addition to the resources allocated for the delivery of these services by HSS trusts, Government support voluntary organisations working with victims of sexual violence through the provision of grant funding.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in each Department in Northern Ireland, including the Northern Ireland Office, have *(a)* applied to buy added years and *(b)* are currently paying for added years to be added to their pension arrangements. [77311]

Mr. Hanson: The table details the number of staff in each Department in Northern Ireland, including the Northern Ireland Office who have applied to buy added years and those who are currently paying for added years to be added to their pension arrangements.

Information on Agencies sponsored by Departments is included with the Department unless separately identified.

Figures relating to the Northern Ireland Office include both members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the Home Civil Service working in that Department.

Employing department	*Applications to buy added years*	*Staff currently paying for added years*
Department of Education	0	7
Department of Finance and Personnel	0	60
Department of the Environment	0	44
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	1	80
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	0	20
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	0	5
Department of Regional Development	0	55
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	0	17
Department of Social Development	1	8
Child Support Agency	0	4
Social Security Agency	0	10
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Industry	0	11
Department of Employment and Learning	0	11
Northern Ireland Office	6	13
Northern Ireland Prison Service	0	5
Total	8	352

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1977W, on departmental staff, what criteria for the award of non-consolidated bonuses were used in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; and what assessment he has made of the (i) average size and (ii) number of such awards in those years. [77218]

Mr. Hanson: The criteria for the award of all non-consolidated bonuses used between *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06 were unchanged in that they were entirely performance related. The number and size of the bonuses available each year therefore vary according to performance of staff and to the budget available.

The increase in the overall value in bonuses awarded in 2005-06 as compared with previous years is due to an increase in the value of non-consolidated performance bonuses paid to non-industrial staff below senior civil service level as a result of the 2005-06 pay settlement. This reflects Government pay policy to reward higher in-year performance through the award of non-consolidated bonuses.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of staff in each Department in Northern Ireland, including his Office, are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77314]

Mr. Hanson: The following table details Northern Ireland Civil Service staff in post (permanent and casual) as recorded in the December Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for the 11 Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office.

	Age categories		
Department	*Under 55 years*	*Aged 55 years and over*	*Total*
DARD	3,625	533	4,158
DCAL	395	49	444
DE	603	93	696

Department	Age categories: Under 55 years	Aged 55 years and over	Total
DETI	670	78	748
DFP	2,869	437	3,306
DEL	1,692	156	1,848
DHSSPS	885	153	1,038
DOE	2,554	210	2,764
DRD	3,926	796	4,722
DSD	7,814	432	8,246
OFMDFM	332	39	371
NIO	1,833	212	2,045
Total	27,198	3,188	30,386

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into each Northern Ireland Department, including his Office, in each of the last three years. [77315]

Mr. Hanson: The number of people over the age of 55 years recruited into each Northern Ireland Department in each of the last three years is detailed in the following table:

Department	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
DARD	9	5	8	22
DE	1	—	2	3
DETI	1	2	—	3
DFP	5	8	7	20
DHSSPS	3	4	3	10
DOE	1	1	4	6
DRD	4	3	4	11
NIO	4	4	1	9
DCAL	—	2	—	2
DSD	—	—	—	—
OFMDFM	—	—	—	—
DEL	—	—	—	—
Total	28	29	29	86

Departmental Travel

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much each Department under his authority spent on travel expenses in each of the past five years. [77353]

Mr. Hanson: The following table provides a breakdown of the costs for each financial year from 2001-02 to 2005-06 for the 11 core NICS Departments and the Northern Ireland Office.

Costs include all travel by standard mileage rate, public transport rate, air, rail, sea, bus and cycle travel. Figures also include car parking, passenger and equipment allowances.

Travel costs by financial year

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
DARD[1]	3,144,327.44	2,631,764.34	3,183,046.83	3,220,450.96	3,080,000.00
DCAL	138,737.00	125,820.00	94,912.00	85,006.00	95,121.81
DE	410,744.58	389,922.89	420,634.88	404,826.70	385,227.44
DEL	675,859.00	730,847.00	730,951.00	792,316.00	589,426.00
DFP	850,128.00	871,469.00	769,208.00	838,055.00	914,079.00
DHSSPS	444,509.00	438,984.00	521,337.00	467,161.00	436,569.00
DSD	193,239.81	184,327.26	237,876.01	271,347.87	184,186.59
OFMDFM	514,099.53	591,976.99	385,243.49	364,494.23	280,614.09
DETI	1,099,968.99	394,951.54	386,164.43	389,030.27	342,701.77
NIO	1,299,549.00	1,474,632.00	1,463,167.00	1,359,458.00	1,627,323.00
DRD	185,461.00	188,145.00	156,195.00	153,596.00	144,172.00
DOE	139,706.00	171,344.00	198,612.00	191,316.00	232,902.00

[1] The 2005-06 figures are the latest draft costs. It is not anticipated however that any significant changes will occur. Approximately 85 per cent. of DARD's travel expenditure is in relation to mileage. DARD employs a large number of professional staff (e.g. veterinary surgeons, agricultural inspectors) whose duties require them to travel within rural communities.

Deprivation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of the population in each Northern Ireland *(a)* constituency and *(b)* council area has been assessed as living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland in each of the past five years. [77308]

Mr. Hanson: The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 reports detailed levels of deprivation in small areas throughout Northern Ireland. The following tables give the percentage of the population in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and each *(b)* local government district who live in the most deprived small areas in Northern Ireland.

As these figures are derived from a specific research project, figures for previous years are not available

Table 1: Percentage of population in each parliamentary constituency living in the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland

Parliamentary constituency	Percentage
Belfast, West	79
Belfast, North	60
Foyle	46

Table 1: Percentage of population in each parliamentary constituency living in the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland

Parliamentary constituency	Percentage
West Tyrone	31
Belfast, East	23
Newry and Armagh	23
Belfast, South	19
Upper Bann	18
East Londonderry	13
East Antrim	8
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	8
North Antrim	8
Mid-Ulster	7
South Down	6
South Antrim	4
Lagan Valley	4
Strangford	4
North Down	2

Table 2: Percentage of population in each local government district living in the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland

Local government district	Percentage
Strabane	54
Belfast	48
Derry	46
Newry and Mourne	25
Craigavon	23
Limavady	17
Lisburn	16
Newtownabbey	13
Omagh	13
Moyle	13
Cookstown	11
Coleraine	10
Ballymena	10
Dungannon	9
Fermanagh	9
Larne	8
Carrickfergus	8
Armagh	7
Antrim	6
Down	6
Castlereagh	5
Ards	3
North Down	3
Magherafelt	1
Ballymoney	1
Banbridge	0

Farming

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many farmers in Northern Ireland are registered as *(a)* dairy farmers, *(b)* beef farmers and *(c)* mixed farmers; and how many were registered in (i) 2003-04 and (ii) 2004-05. [78512]

David Cairns: Farmers are not registered in Northern Ireland by the type of farming they practise. Rather, farms are classified for statistical purposes as belonging to one of several standard types. Information on the number of farms in relevant categories, and for the most recent three-year period available, is presented in the following table:

Farm type	2003	2004	2005
Dairy	4,425	4,201	4,058
LFA Cattle and Sheep	15,700	15,464	15,430
Lowland Cattle and Sheep	4,589	4,565	4,619
Mixed	1,058	1,034	944

Finucane Inquiry

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will establish a public inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane in line with the terms recommended by Judge Cory. [76620]

Mr. Hain: The Government announced in September 2004 that steps would be taken to facilitate the establishment of an inquiry into the death of Patrick Finucane with all the powers and resources necessary to fulfil its task. The Government are clear that an inquiry established under the Inquiries Act 2005 meets the requirements set out by Judge Cory in his report into Patrick Finucane's death.

Freedom of Information

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will estimate how many *(a)* health Department and *(b)* NHS personnel in the Province are employed on processing requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [77240]

Paul Goggins: Four staff in the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and 30 staff in health and personal social services bodies are involved in processing requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In addition, in order to respond to particular requests for information, these staff are assisted, as appropriate, by staff from across the Department or the health and personal social services bodies. Information is not available on the amount of time spent on processing freedom of information requests but it represents only a small proportion of the total working time of the staff involved.

Hillsborough Castle

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total budget has been for maintenance of the grounds and buildings of Hillsborough Castle in each year since 1998. [74688]

Mr. Hain: In addition to providing overnight accommodation for myself, the facilities at Hillsborough Castle are also used to provide official hospitality and overnight accommodation for members of the Royal Family, visiting dignitaries and diplomats. Other activities at the Castle include departmental meetings, the annual Garden Party and citizenship ceremonies. In addition to its use by the Northern Ireland Office and other Government Departments, charities and local community groups can request to use the facilities, generally for fundraising purposes, and the Castle and grounds are open at certain times of the year for guided tours. We are able to provide only figures for the last five financial years; these figures include the cost of gardening staff, and major and minor works projects, in addition to routine maintenance.

	Costs (£)
2005-06	675,883.37
2004-05	455,229.05
2003-04	286,461.28
2002-03	363,196.87
2001-02	307,779.74

ICT Sector

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Department for Employment and Learning has spent on training in information and communication technology (ICT) skills in each of the past five years; what measures the Government are taking to encourage graduates to work in the ICT sector; and if he will establish a dedicated fund to encourage growth in the ICT sector. [76221]

Maria Eagle: The Department for Employment and Learning spent the following on training on information and communication technology skills in the past five years:

Total ICT funding

	Amount (£)
2004-05	17,122,478
2003-04	21,154,350
2002-03	19,613,027
2001-02	9,509,116
2000-01	9,881,950
Total	77,280,921

The vast majority of the funds spent (£70,337,817 from the academic year 2000/01 to 2004/05) is in respect of further education. The remainder comprises Management Development (£6,669,954) and Sectoral Development (£273,150). These figures exclude funding to universities for ICT courses. The Department provides a recurrent grant but it is the institutions themselves which allocate funding to subject areas.

The Department funds foundation degrees and other higher education courses delivered in the further education sector in order to encourage students to enter the ICT sector at intermediate level.

In implementing its Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland, the Department places importance on determining the skills needs of each sector. E-Skills, the Sector Skills Council for the IT industry, has carried out research into employer needs, supply and demand and emerging gaps and this analysis of skills gaps has been published. The Department has also commissioned E-Skills to carry out an additional specialist project which specifically focuses on the demand for graduates in the industry. Also Invest Northern Ireland has been jointly involved with the Department in providing projections of the number of graduates likely to be needed for forthcoming emerging employment opportunities.

Alongside this research, the Department in co-operation with the Association of Northern Ireland Colleges and local employers, is developing a short-term course for graduates from a variety of disciplines to enable them to avail themselves of increasing employment opportunities in the ICT sector. This will provide an immediate response to the ICT sector employers' concerns, while longer term need is determined.

There are no plans to establish a dedicated fund to encourage growth in the ICT sector. Invest Northern Ireland already encourages the growth of the sector through a programme of support for indigenous companies and through foreign direct investment. In addition to this individual company support, Invest Northern Ireland also undertakes a number of sector specific initiatives to ensure the continued development of the ICT sector in Northern Ireland.

Local Community Funding

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which areas of Northern Ireland will receive local community funding during 2006-07; and how much each area has been awarded. [78561]

Mr. Hanson: I recently announced that the local community fund was to be relaunched. The fund will spend £4 million over the next two years in the 11 per cent.-20 per cent. most disadvantaged communities as measured by the Noble Index 2005. The Department for Social Development is currently finalising the targeted areas and allocations for 2006-08 and hopes to be able to make a further announcement in July.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much general grant was received by each local authority in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [77220]

David Cairns: The information requested is set out in the following table.

General grant payments: 2005-06

£

District Council	Derating	Resources	Total
Antrim	932,068	0	932,068
Ards	793,767	1,255,948	2,049,715
Armagh	661,165	1,783,504	2,444,669
Ballymena	1,127,190	0	1,127,190
Ballymoney	336,514	1,052,084	1,388,598
Banbridge	473,803	953,758	1,427,561
Belfast	6,409,131	0	6,409,131
Carrickfergus	563,951	264,650	828,601
Castlereagh	700,433	0	700,433
Coleraine	518,886	0	518,886
Cookstown	688,837	972,907	1,661,744
Craigavon	2,337,536	0	2,337,536
Derry	1,315,836	1,276,683	2,592,519
Down	457,780	1,683,189	2,140,969
Dungannon	1,379,379	930,916	2,310,295
Fermanagh	776,276	1,437,935	2,214,211
Larne	481,641	24,202	505,843
Limavady	206,182	1,308,476	1,514,658
Lisburn	1,742,336	0	1,742,336
Magherafelt	611,462	1,466,528	2,077,990
Moyle	158,900	585,645	744,545

General grant payments: 2005-06

£

District Council	Derating	Resources	Total
Newry and Mourne	1,094,799	2,043,239	3,138,038
Newtownabbey	1,534,687	0	1,534,687
North Down	476,077	0	476,077
Omagh	528,960	1,407,084	1,936,044
Strabane	344,959	2,050,252	2,395,211
Total[1]	26,652,555	20,497,000	47,149,555

[1] In addition to the above figure shown for Newtownabbey borough council, an amount of £29,108 was paid by way of a finalisation payment for the 1999-2000 financial year.

Long-Term Care

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of people in Northern Ireland who have had to sell their family homes in order to provide funds for long-term care in each year since proceedings in the case of Pamela Coughlan *v.* the NHS were completed. [78448]

Paul Goggins: The Department does not collect information on the numbers of people who sell their homes to realise the funds required to pay for long-term care and has not made an estimate of such house sales for each year since the judgment in the case of R. *v.* North and East Devon health authority ex parte Pamela Coughlan was handed down by the Court of Appeal in July 1999.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will bring forward amending legislation to end the requirement on those who enter long-term care to sell their family home in order to fund such care. [78449]

Paul Goggins: There is no legal requirement for those entering long-term care to sell a family home to fund their care. Following an individual financial assessment to calculate how much each individual can afford to pay towards the cost of their care, it is entirely a matter for each individual and their advisors to decide how best to meet any charges. Current Northern Ireland legislation provides a 12-week disregard of the value of a residents home following permanent admission to a care home. I am not, however, proposing to promote amending legislation to exclude totally the value of a resident's family home from the assessment of each individual's resources.

Long-term Unemployed

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland are defined as long-term unemployed, broken down by *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* district council area; and what measures the Department for Employment and Learning has in place to encourage long-term unemployed people to return to education. [75424]

Maria Eagle: The number and percentage of long-term unemployed from the claimant count in April 2006, broken down by *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* district council area, are shown in the following tables.

(a) Parliamentary constituencies

	Number of long-term unemployed claimants	Long-term unemployed claimants as a percentage of total claimants
Belfast East	175	16.0
Belfast North	520	23.4
Belfast South	260	18.8
Belfast West	820	26.6
East Antrim	250	18.2
East Londonderry	330	20.0
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	345	27.5
Foyle	690	29.1
Lagan Valley	160	17.3
Mid Ulster	165	19.2
Newry and Armagh	340	24.4
North Antrim	250	16.7
North Down	175	17.1
South Antrim	215	18.6
South Down	290	22.4
Strangford	285	24.9
Upper Bann	185	14.7
West Tyrone	470	25.1
Northern Ireland	5,925	21.2

(b) District councils

	Number of long-term unemployed claimants	Long-term unemployed claimants as a percentage of total claimants
Antrim	100	17.1
Ards	240	24.6
Armagh	115	20.7
Ballymena	140	18.3
Ballymoney	50	12.2
Banbridge	55	16.0
Belfast	1,565	22.9
Carrickfergus	75	14.5
Castlereagh	90	16.1
Coleraine	210	20.1
Cookstown	70	18.0
Craigavon	150	14.3
Derry	690	20.1
Down	205	22.1
Dungannon	90	19.5
Fermanagh	275	30.5
Larne	70	17.9
Limavady	125	19.7
Lisburn	305	21.5
Magherafelt	75	20.5
Moyle	60	18.7
Newry and Mourne	325	25.9
Newtownabbey	220	21.2
North Down	155	17.6
Omagh	185	25.6
Strabane	285	24.7
Northern Ireland	5,925	21.2

The Department for Employment and Learning has introduced a number of policies and initiatives in the further and higher education sectors, to widen access and increase adult participation in vocational education and training; the target group includes the long term unemployed.

These measures include an expansion of courses for those returning to learning; the allocation of additional funding to support provision from non-statutory providers and support measures to provide help to students who are deterred from enrolling in further education because of financial hardship or other difficulties. In 2005-06 this support to students totalled over £2.5 million. There is also an entitlement to free professional and technical courses, for all full-time students, aged 19 and over.

Within higher education, the Department has set a target of progressing year on year towards fair access to HE by 2008. The Widening Participation Strategy has included the setting of an annual target to increase representation of people from lower socio-economic classifications.

The Department also provides a number of targeted programmes to assist those who are out of work move towards, and return to the labour market. This includes a suite of new deal programmes where eligible participants may access short accredited training courses or three units of a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ). The purpose of this provision is designed to assist people find jobs and help them stay and progress in employment through training and work experience.

Neighbourhood Partnerships

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which consultants have been selected to assist with the visioning and action plans for Neighbourhood Partnerships. [77225]

Mr. Hanson: MacBride International was successful in winning the contract to provide consultancy support to seven Neighbourhood Partnerships to assist them with their vision and action planning process.

Noise Nuisance

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints were made about noise levels to each district and borough council in Northern Ireland in each of the past five years; and on how many occasions each council took steps to reduce the noise level. [77306]

David Cairns: District council noise complaint statistics have been collected by the Department of the Environment since 2004, therefore only two years of data is currently available.

In 2003-04, district councils received a total of 8,397 complaints about noise. During the same period a total of 307 noise abatement notices were issued and seven prosecutions were taken by council officers.

In 2004-05 the number of noise complaints received by councils totalled 10,047. During the same period a total of 340 noise abatement notices and 17 prosecutions were taken by council officers.

A breakdown of the statistics by district council is contained in an annual report published by the Department. The reports for 2003-04 and 2004-05 can be accessed on the Environment and Heritage service's website at http://www.ehsni.gov.uk/environment/noise/noisestats.shtml The report for 2005-06 is presently being compiled and will be published by 31 August 2006. Copies of this report will be placed in the Library.

PSNI

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland officers have been injured as a result of gunshot wounds while policing parades in Northern Ireland in each of the past 10 years. [65334]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI advises that while figures can be provided on the number of police officers injured in shooting incidents, it is not possible to specify if the injury was sustained as a result of policing a parade. The overall figures for the number of officers receiving gunshot wounds are as follows:

	Number
1996	4
1997	7
1998	1
1999	0
2000	0
2001	2
2002	1
2003	2
2004	0
2005	0

Note:
2005 statistics are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.

Public Bodies (Funding)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was allocated to the *(a)* Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, *(b)* Northern Ireland Equality Commission, *(c)* Northern Ireland Parades Commission and *(d)* Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland in each year since the inception of each. [34556]

Mr. Hanson: For the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, this financial information can be found in the Cabinet Office annual publications "Public Bodies 1999 to 2005", all of which can be accessed online at: www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/public_bodies/index.asp "Public Bodies 2006" is in preparation and will be published later this year.

Since its inception, similar information for the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland has appeared in its annual reports, copies of which are held in the Library. From 2005, it has also been published in Cabinet Office's "Public Bodies".

Information for all four bodies for 2004-07 are as follows:

£

	Government funding		
Public body/NDPB	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland	6,779,490	6,806,000	6,515,000
Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission	0,970,000	1,450,000	1,475,000
Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland	7,150,000	7,636,000	7,923,000
Parades Commission for Northern Ireland	1,154,000	1,273,000	1,335,500

Renewable Energy

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much of the energy consumed by each Northern Ireland Department came from renewable sources in the last 12 months. [77046]

Mr. Hanson: In the year ending 31 March 2005 (the last complete year for which data is available) the amount of electricity coming from renewable sources consumed by Northern Ireland Departments was as follows:

Department	*Percentage*
Agriculture and Rural Development	2.79
Culture, Arts and Leisure	0
Education	8.41
Enterprise, Trade and Investment	6.94
Environment	12.73
Finance and Personnel	15.87
Health, Social Services and Public Safety	13.83
Regional Development	12.55
Social Development	14.61

The table does not include the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister or the Department for Employment and Learning as these Departments are accommodated in buildings shared with other Departments.

Road Safety

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to increase the seatbelt-wearing rate in Northern Ireland over the next five years. [77379]

David Cairns: The Department of the Environment already develops seatbelt campaigns, supported by the Police Service of Northern Ireland, to ensure that all vehicle occupants are aware of the need to wear seat belts. The Department's Road Safety Education Officers provide teaching resources, training and support and liaise with teachers in all schools in Northern Ireland to ensure that children are encouraged to wear seatbelts.

Measures planned to increase the seatbelt wearing rate in Northern Ireland are:

New primary road traffic legislation on which the Department has consulted will be introduced in due course. This includes making the failure to wear seatbelts an endorsable offence.

Consultations have taken place on Directive 2003/20/EC, including proposals to require seatbelt wearing on buses and coaches where they are fitted and the use of child restraints in cars and goods vehicles. The Department plans to make an announcement on the way forward over the next few weeks.

A new publicity campaign highlighting the dangers of not wearing seatbelts is planned for September.

Special Scientific Interest Areas

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what arrangements are in place for visits by Environment and Heritage Service officials to ensure that areas of special scientific interest in private ownership are not being compromised. [78174]

David Cairns: The Department of the Environment has a statutory responsibility to ensure that areas of special scientific interest (ASSIs) are afforded protection from damage and that they are managed in a manner that will secure their scientific interest. Accordingly, in normal circumstances, EHS conducts one integrity monitoring visit annually and one condition monitoring visit every six years. If a breach of legislation is suspected, entry onto the land will be required immediately.

Restorative Justice

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the progress of plans for the introduction of community-based restorative justice schemes. [76298]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to my statement on community-based restorative justice made on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 98WS.

Staff Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1605W, on staff surveys, for what reason the number of staff surveys conducted in Northern Ireland Departments increased between 2003-04 and 2005-06. [77219]

Mr. Hanson: The following table details the increase in staff surveys undertaken by the 11 core NICS Departments and the Northern Ireland Office between the financial years 2003-04 and 2005-06.

There is no single reason for the increase in staff survey numbers. There is no set number of surveys that Departments are required to carry out in any given year. The increase in surveys reflects the growing focus on measuring internal service provision, staff communication, workplace health and working toward best practice in people management.

Department	Increase in surveys between 2003-04 and 2005-06
DARD	1
DCAL	[1] —
DE	1
DEL	4
DETI	7
DFP	4
DHSSPS	[1] —
DOE	[2] —
DRD	4
DSD	4
NIO	3

[1] Overall reduction of one.
[2] No surveys undertaken.

Stormont

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has *(a)* to restore, *(b)* to catalogue and *(c)* to make information available about the historic artefacts associated with the Stormont Estate not on public view. [74741]

Mr. Hanson: The artefacts are the responsibility of the NI Assembly. None are in need of restoration. A catalogue of the artefacts is available from the Office of the Keeper.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the *(a)* safety and *(b)* quality of the storage of the historic artefacts associated with the Stormont Estate; and what assessment he has made of the need for specialist conservation of such material. [74742]

Mr. Hanson: The majority of artefacts belonging to the Assembly are safely stored in the artefact's store in Parliament Buildings. The remaining artefacts are safely stored in DFP stores in Belfast. Specialist conservation is not required for any of these artefacts.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans there are to return the historic artefacts associated with the Stormont Estate to Parliament Buildings. [74743]

Mr. Hanson: The majority of the historic artefacts are already stored in Parliament Buildings. There are currently no plans to return remaining artefacts to Parliament Buildings.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland where the historic artefacts associated with the Stormont Estate are stored; and whether they can be loaned to museums. [74744]

Mr. Hanson: The majority of items are kept in the artefact's store, Parliament Buildings and the remaining items are stored at DFP stores in Belfast. Any request from a museum to borrow an artefact would be given due consideration.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish a catalogue for visitors of artefacts kept on the Stormont Estate. [74811]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently no plans to publish a catalogue of artefacts kept on the Stormont Estate however a catalogue of Parliament Buildings artefacts is available from the Office of the Keeper.

Theft

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many convictions there were in Northern Ireland in connection with theft from retail outlets in *(a)* 1995 and *(b)* 2005. [76366]

Mr. Hanson: The number of convictions for shoplifting is included in the table. Data for 2003 are the most up-to-date available at present. It should be noted that data are collated on the principal offence rule, thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Convictions for shoplifting offences

	Number
1995	950
2003	600

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pensioners received winter fuel payments in *(a)* East, *(b)* South, *(c)* West and *(d)* North Belfast in each of the last two years for which figures are available. [78754]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of winter fuel payments

Parliamentary constituency	2003-04	2004-05
Belfast East	17,593	17,334
Belfast North	16,725	16,212
Belfast South	15,540	15,276
Belfast West	12,601	12,424

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

County Court Judgments

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 732W, on county court judgment records, what advice was *(a)* sought and *(b)* received on the commercial implications of the existing provision of services in relation to the register of judgments orders and fines of the county court. [77941]

Ms Harman: No such advice has been sought or received. However, independent advice was sought and received in 2004 on the Department's procurement options, the associated risks, the timing of any competition and what it must do to prepare for one.

Departmental Annual Report

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what research her Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake into the reasons for the slippage against Target 5, Measure 1 set out on page 134 of the departmental annual report (Cm 6820); and if she will make a statement. [77529]

Bridget Prentice: This particular component of the shared target with the Home Office measures the time taken to remove detained, non-suspensive claimants whose applications have been certified as clearly unfounded and whose appeal rights against the refusal to grant asylum can only be brought from outside the United Kingdom once removal has taken place.

The Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) of the Home Office has confirmed that a dedicated resource is in place to analyse the quality and timeliness of the non-suspensive appeal (NSA) process and to address issues and difficulties that arise within the process.

Electoral Registration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many electors were registered in each constituency in the year *(a)* before and *(b)* after single signatures for registration were introduced. [21770]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The table shows the number of people registered to vote in each Westminster constituency in Northern Ireland in the years 2001 and 2002, either side of the introduction of individual registration in 2002.

The significant drop in the numbers registering was largely due to the fact that pre-2002 voters were given a year's grace before their names were removed if they did not re-register. The Electoral Fraud Act 2002, which introduced individual registration, was also successful in eradicating duplicate entries and phantom names on previous registers. The register used for the May 2005 general election showed a total number of 1,148,486 people registered.

Electorate figures in 2001 and 2002

Constituency	*30 November 2001*	*1 December 2002*
Belfast East	58,049	50,929
Belfast North	59,653	49,937
Belfast South	59,036	49,349
Belfast West	58,901	48,153
East Antrim	61,092	54,569
East Londonderry	60,921	55,466
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	67,846	63,010
Foyle	71,252	62,801
Lagan Valley	73,027	65,939
Mid Ulster	62,490	58,810
Newry and Armagh	73,600	66,802
North Antrim	75,635	69,728
North Down	63,649	56,606
South Antrim	70,926	62,349
South Down	74,935	68,317
Strangford	72,751	65,558
Upper Bann	73,594	67,595
West Tyrone	61,147	56,507
Total	1,198,504	1,072,425

Homes (Repossession)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in each London borough in each of the past five years; and if she will make a statement. [75696]

Ms Harman: The following table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made in all London county courts in the last five years.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, county courts' jurisdictions are not coterminous with London borough boundaries, and therefore any single court's repossession actions are likely to relate to homes in a number of different boroughs.

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made in county courts[2] in London, 2001-05

					Possession orders made[3]
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Barnet	66	100	97	143	302
Bow	176	248	295	456	817
Brentford	110	113	124	189	290
Bromley	103	161	235	271	486
Central London	43	88	101	162	281
Clerkenwell	31	35	59	78	132
Croydon	257	254	338	394	644
Edmonton	176	206	228	285	553
Ilford	105	115	93	219	309
Kingston-upon-Thames	58	58	91	94	165
Lambeth	117	160	195	311	533
Mayors and City	1	1	0	2	0
Romford	111	118	179	211	445

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made in county courts[2] in London, 2001-05

					Possession orders made[3]
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Shoreditch	48	80	113	155	225
Uxbridge	108	100	98	149	227
Wandsworth	96	100	135	187	295
West London	40	40	64	79	150
Willesden	155	147	236	255	459
Woolwich	53	96	96	181	348
Greater London total	1,854	2,220	2,777	3,821	6,661

[1] Local authority and private
[2] Does not include the small number of possession actions entered in the High Court.
[3] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

John Muhia

Clare Short: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the case of John Muhia (Home Office ref. M746233) is subject to reconsideration; and if she will make a statement. [77929]

Bridget Prentice: The asylum appeal of Mr. John Muhia is listed for reconsideration by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) on 3 July 2006.

Looked-after Children

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she plans to take to ensure *(a)* the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry Report on Care of Young People and *(b)* regular inspections of services for looked-after children in the Isle of Man. [77605]

Ms Harman: The Inquiry Report on Care of Young People on the Isle of Man and the regular inspections of service there, are for the authorities in the Isle of Man.

Magistrates (Retirement)

Ben Chapman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the retirement age is for magistrates. [77940]

Ms Harman: The retirement age for magistrates is 70, with two exceptions. First, if a magistrate is a chairman of the bench when he or she reaches 70, he or she need not retire until the year as chairman has ended. Second, if a magistrate is adjudicating in a case which is in progress on the day he/she reaches 70, the Lord Chief Justice may, with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor, direct that the magistrate need not retire until the case has ended.

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many working days were lost to her Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated total cost to her Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [77255]

Vera Baird: The Department records the average number of sickness absence days per employee each year, and these are published annually by the Cabinet Office in the annual "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" report. The figures that follow are extracted from data held by the DCA for 1997 and 1998, and from the Cabinet Office annual reports, which can be found for the years 1999 to 2004 on the Civil Service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/occupationalhealth/publications/index.asp

	Days per employee	Cost (£ million)
1997	10.7	8.2
1998	10.1	7.9
1999	10.0	7.9
2000	10.0	8.1
2001	8.9	7.8
2002	8.4	8.0
2003	9.1	9.7
2004	8.7	10.6

HOME DEPARTMENT

Mini-motorbikes

12. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to tackle antisocial behaviour involving motor vehicles, with particular reference to mini-motorbikes. [77882]

13. **Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to tackle illegal and antisocial behaviour involving unlicensed mini-motorbikes and motorbikes. [77883]

Mr. McNulty: The Government are aware of the problems associated with motorbike misuse, in particular miniature motorbikes. There is now a range of tools and powers in place to deal effectively with this problem and we are actively encouraging their use.

These specific powers enable immediate action to be taken against antisocial riders, ensuring that communities do not have to suffer prolonged misery caused by the antisocial use of mini-motorbikes.

The Home Office is producing a guidance document to help practitioners.

Violent Crime

14. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of conviction rates in cases involving violent crime. [77884]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In 2004, 55 per cent. of those violent offences proceeded against resulted in a conviction. There were 93,735 violent offences that were proceeded against in 2004, of which 51,415 resulted in a defendant being found guilty.

Occasional Sales

15. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the Kent County Council Act 2001 and Medway Council Act 2001 on occasional sales. [77885]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Report on the Kent Acts concluded that advance notice of occasional sales was helpful in planning operational activity. We will be seeking further evidence from police forces, local authorities and others when we consult on whether the regulatory aspects of the Kent Acts have wider application.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

16. **Mr. Simon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on progress with introducing safer neighbourhood teams. [77886]

Mr. McNulty: By April 2007, neighbourhood policing will have been introduced to every community in England and Wales, delivering increased patrolling and visibility, and ensuring that local officers are more accessible to local people. Every community will have its own dedicated neighbourhood policing team by April 2008.

Police

17. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will meet representatives of the Essex Police Authority to discuss the future of the police service in Essex. [77887]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, has made it clear that he believes the establishment of strategic police forces through the merger of existing police areas is the basis for a reformed, fully effective police service in the future and in particular is the necessary step to enhance the stability of local neighbourhood policing. To that end, I recently met Lord Hannington, Chair of Essex county council to discuss the issues for the Essex area. I can assure you that there is no question of any intent to ride roughshod over concerns raised and I welcome a meeting with representatives from Essex Police Authority.

18. **Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the merger of local police forces. [77888]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, has made it clear that he believes the establishment of strategic police forces through the merger of existing police areas is the basis for a reformed, fully effective police service in the future and in particular is the necessary step to enhance the stability of local neighbourhood policing. To that end, my right hon. Friend recently met the Chair of the Cleveland Police Authority to discuss the issues for the Clevelnd area.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made by police officers in each year since 1997; and what the average number of arrests per police officer was in each year. [74589]

Mr. McNulty: Information on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) can be found in Table AA of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Arrests for Recorded Crime (Notifiable Offences) and the Operation of Certain Police Powers under PACE, England and Wales" which is available on the Research and Development Statistics website www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubs stastistical. Copies are also available in the Library.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police recruits have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed during their period of training in each police force in each of the past five years; and what percentage this represents of the total number of recruits in each year. [77428]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for judicial review of his decisions on the amalgamation of police forces have been made; and if he will make a statement. [77894]

Mr. McNulty: West Mercia and Cleveland police authorities have made applications for judicial review on the Home Secretary's announced intentions. An application has also been received from West Midlands council. We are of course disappointed with the authorities' and councils' decision to go down the path of judicial review. We encourage them to use the opportunity for continued dialogue that has just been announced. Beyond that, it would not be appropriate to comment further on a matter that is before the courts.

Foreign Criminals

19. **Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign criminals are detained in immigration detention centres; and if he will make a statement. [77889]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As of 10 June 2006 there were 450 detainees accommodated within immigration removal centres who are recorded as having previously served a term of imprisonment.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners originally released without consideration for deportation were subsequently deported in the last five years. [77893]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and his predecessor have provided regular statistical updates to the House on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. In particular I refer the hon. Gentleman to the most recent written ministerial statements of 15 and 23 May 2006. We will continue to update the House on the 1,019 cases as we work through them and urgently recheck the information we hold to ensure that any further information we provide to the House is as accurate as possible. We aim to provide a further update by the end of June.

Neighbourhood Policing Schemes

20. **Mr. Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing schemes. [77890]

Mr. McNulty: Earlier this year we published research evidence that showed that neighbourhood policing can deliver significant improvements in crime reduction, perceptions of crime and antisocial behaviour, feelings of safety and public confidence in the police. (The National Reassurance Policing Programme—Home Office research findings number 272.)

In the trial, the reduction in the number of victims of crime was twice as high, and public confidence in the police increased five times as much in the wards with neighbourhood policing activity compared with similar wards without.

Police Cells

21. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the availability of police cells of the appropriate standard to detain suspects prior to court appearance. [77891]

Mr. McNulty: Section 35 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 requires that the chief officer for each police area shall designate the police stations in his or her area which shall be used for the purposes of detaining arrested persons. It is the duty of the chief officer to designate police stations appearing to him or her to provide enough accommodation for that purpose.

Offending Rates

22. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce offending; and if he will make a statement. [77892]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government have taken positive action to reduce offending. Our strategy includes tackling drug misuse, focusing on prolific and other priority offenders and reducing re-offending. Our vision for reducing re-offending is set out in the five-year strategy for protecting the public and reducing re-offending published in February.

Adult Learners Week

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of his Department attended events during the 2006 Adult Learners Week. [75394]

Mr. Byrne: 1,368 Home Office employees attended events during the 2006 Adult Learners Week. This comprised 333 staff from the core non agency, non IND Home Office and 1,035 from IND.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure that local authorities monitor and act on public concerns over antisocial behaviour; [77143]

(2) if he will take steps to make local authorities more accountable to communities when responding to persistent antisocial behaviour and community safety problems. [77144]

Mr. McNulty: A key element of the Government's respect programme is to ensure that all communities see and expect a robust response to antisocial behaviour. We have introduced the necessary tools and powers and expect local authorities to use them where appropriate. This Government have introduced a mandatory antisocial behaviour and respect outcome to all local area agreements (LAAs) to ensure that local authorities monitor and act on public concerns over antisocial behaviour. From April 2007 all areas will be covered by such an agreement. The respect programme is also about empowering the public to hold their leaders to account and have their say about the issues that matter most to them. We will ensure that senior representatives of all crime and disorder reduction partnerships hold regular 'face the people' sessions to promote greater accountability and visibility in local services. The Government are committed to introducing a 'community call for action', a power that will give local communities a formal way to request and ensure that action is taken by the police, local authorities and others in response to persistent antisocial behaviour or community safety problems, where action is not already being taken.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many antisocial behaviour orders were applied for by *(a)* each local authority, *(b)* the police, *(c)* social landlords and *(d)* housing action trusts in Dudley since 1 April 1999; [77146]

(2) how many *(a)* criminal antisocial behaviour orders and *(b)* antisocial behaviour orders have been secured by courts in (i) Dudley and (ii) the West Midlands since the introduction of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. [77330]

Mr. McNulty: From 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) data were collected by aggregate numbers only by police force area. Since 1 June 2000, from copies of the orders received, we are able to determine the type of applicant for ASBOs issued on application. The number of ASBOs issued on application, as reported to the Home Office by the Courts Service, from 1 June 2000 to 30 September 2005 (latest available), wherein restrictions are imposed in the local government authority area of Dudley metropolitan borough council (MBC) is 15. All were applied for by Dudley MBC.

The Police Reform Act 2002 gave authority to the courts, from 1 December 2002, to issue ASBOs, in addition to the sentence, following conviction of a criminal offence. The available information is given in the table.

Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by area and type, from 1 December 2002[1] to 30 September 2005 (latest available)

Number

	On application	*On conviction*	*Total*
West Midlands	113	340	453
Of which:			
Dudley MBC	11	15	26

[1] Prior to this date ASBOs could be issued at the magistrates court on application only. The Police Reform Act (2002) gave authority to the Crown court and the magistrates court to issue an ASBO following conviction for a criminal offence. For comparison purposes all data given in this table are for the period 1 December 2002 to 30 September 2005.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he plans to take to publicise action taken to tackle antisocial behaviour to members of the public in Dudley. [77329]

Mr. McNulty: The respect programme places the emphasis on local agencies to use the tools and powers they have been given to tackle antisocial behaviour and its causes. The Government are determined that people should be confident that their local agencies will respond appropriately to antisocial behaviour. The roll-out Neighbourhood Policing teams and the increase in the number of Police Community Support Officers mean that there are more resources than ever before on the streets to make this happen. This, coupled with new and existing powers, will mean that there is no excuse for inaction.

Through the Respect Academy programme, we are also outlining clearly how important communications, accountability and visibility are for public services in tackling antisocial behaviour. Getting the public to make demands on local agencies for action on antisocial behaviour and disrespect is an important part of sustaining these changes. It is essential that the public feel empowered to play their part in tackling antisocial behaviour through greater awareness of the powers available to them and their local agencies. We want to encourage people to come forward, complain and take a stand. The Respect "Taking A Stand" awards and action days held nationwide will continue to stimulate public debate about acceptable behaviour and inform antisocial behaviour practitioners about local activities. We will also ensure that public services can be held to account and deliver on local priorities by introducing regular and systematic "face the people" briefing sessions, involving senior representation from the police and local authorities. Dudley metropolitan borough council (MBC) has taken a number of steps to ensure that action to tackle antisocial behaviour is well publicised throughout the borough. Dudley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) publishes and distributes two quarterly newsletters, "Dudley Together" and "Home Affairs" to all households and tenants. The local press also publicises details of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) and dispersal notices and most Dudley MBC Neighbourhood Managers hold local community safety forums to inform the community about initiatives and on-going action to reduce antisocial behaviour.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of people who have been made subject to an antisocial behaviour order were in receipt of housing benefit when the order was imposed. [77709]

Mr. McNulty: Information collected centrally for statistical purposes does not identify if an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) recipient is in receipt of housing benefit.

Asylum/Immigration

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* suicides and *(b)* incidents of self-harm there have been in each immigration holding, reception and removal centre in each of the past five years. [75368]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that there have been two deaths in the immigration removal estate in the last five years where the Coroner has recorded a verdict of suicide, at Haslar on 31 January 2003 and at Dungavel on 23 July 2004. We await the Coroner's verdict in a further five cases of apparently self-inflicted death. Details of these are:19 July 2004 at Harmondsworth, 7 November 2004 at Colnbrook, 27 June 2005 at Campsfield House, 15 September 2005 at Yarl's Wood, 19 January 2006 at Harmondsworth. Figures for self-harm incidents for 2004-05, 2005-06 and for April 2006 are reproduced as follows. No figures for are available for periods before this.

Immigration Removal Centre	*Number of individuals on formal self-harm at risk*	*Number of incidents of self-harm requiring medical treatment*
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005		
Campsfield House	33	19
Colnbrook (opened August 2004)	95	34

Immigration Removal Centre	Number of individuals on formal self-harm at risk	Number of incidents of self-harm requiring medical treatment
Dover	72	28
Dungavel	127	1
Harmondsworth	192	39
Haslar	44	8
Lindholme	24	2
Oakington	57	15
Tinsley House	91	8
Yarl's Wood	123	7
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006		
Campsfield House	40	19
Colnbrook	718	91
Dover	91	28
Dungavel	110	0
Harmondsworth	482	40
Haslar	36	2
Lindholme	11	4
Oakington	75	17
Tinsley House	47	3
Yarl's Wood	196	27
1 April 2006 to 30 April 2006		
Campsfield House	1	0
Colnbrook	78	8
Dover	5	4
Dungavel	5	0
Harmondsworth	48	0
Haslar	2	0
Lindholme	0	0
Oakington	5	2
Tinsley House	4	1
Yarl's Wood	39	5

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers who have been detained and subsequently granted temporary release have absconded in each of the past five years. [75788]

Mr. Byrne: This information could be published only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate has been made of the number of asylum seekers who have been *(a)* refused asylum and *(b)* removed from the United Kingdom in each year since 1999; and if he will make a statement [75919]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the refusal and removal of asylum seekers is published quarterly and annually. Copies are available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office research development and statistics directorate website at http://homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were found at each of the main ports of entry to the United Kingdom in each year since 1998; and how many were found in total in each year. [76268]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much compensation was paid out to asylum seekers by the Government in each of the past five years. [74169]

Mr. Byrne: Compensation paid by the immigration and nationality directorate to asylum seekers is not separately identifiable from the total of compensation paid to all members of the public.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evaluation he has made of the effectiveness of automatic number plate recognition technology on the detection and prevention of crime. [76930]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has made £32.5 million capital funding available to the Police Service over a two-year period (2005-07) for the development of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR). This investment addresses the fight against serious and organised crime, terrorism, volume crime and road traffic offending.

The Home Office has commissioned an independent evaluation of the national roll out of ANPR that is due for publication shortly. The report covers a period when ANPR is being mainstreamed in all police forces within England and Wales. The evaluation is expected to show that benefits have accrued as forces gain experience of operating ANPR in conjunction with the National Intelligence Model to target the detection and prevention of crime. Evidence from the previous 'Project Laser' pilot evaluations concluded that officers involved in ANPR achieve more arrests and contribute more offences brought to justice than those involved in general policing.

The ANPR Evaluation Report is due for publication in July 2006 and will be circulated to ANPR stakeholders and a copy will be placed on the Home Office website. (http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Biological Diversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Minister in his Department is responsible for monitoring his Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if he will make a statement. [73942]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office has taken a number of steps to benefit biodiversity. A national Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been introduced across the public sector operated prisons estate, primarily an overarching document covering its designated sites, which encompass seven SSSIs, one NNR and RAMSAR site and a site within a National Park (HMP Dartmoor). There are now six individual designated sites which have their own BAPs, a further 11 locally biodiversity significant sites also have BAPs and a pilot scheme for eight inner-city/urban BAPs is being implemented. Further plans are now being incorporated that will see biodiversity management plans rolled out across the remaining public sector prison estate.

As well as a BAP network the public sector Prison Service has in place a Statement of Commitment for biodiversity and a Statement of Action for biodiversity which were signed by the director general Phil Wheatley in March 2003. Also supporting this the Prison Service has set up a strategic biodiversity group which involves a "central partnership" incorporating representatives from English Nature, the Wildlife Trusts, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

In support of this work the Prison Service has carried out biological surveys at 21 biodiversity significant sites to identify local flora and fauna for action. The service has now put in place over 43 habitat and species action plans involving over 20 separate lead partners.

In recognition of the work that has been carried out on the prison estate operated by the public sector, in 2005 the Prison Service won the Liveable City award for biodiversity. The Sustainable Development Commission has commended these examples of biodiversity good practice.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to him comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74402]

Mr. Byrne: DEFRA is working with a wide range of partners to develop guidance for public bodies to support the implementation of this duty and will involve all relevant Departments on the development of guidance.

British Citizens (Overseas Conviction)

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British citizens convicted of imprisonable offences abroad were deported back to the UK in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2005. [76869]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The Immigration and Nationality Directorate does not hold any records on the number of people convicted of imprisonable offences abroad who have been deported back to the UK. Anyone encountered by the Immigration Service being deported back to the UK is referred to the police.

Community Support Officers

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many community support officers have been recruited in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* Stroud in each year since the scheme was introduced. [77822]

Mr. McNulty: The following table gives details of the number of police community support officers (PCSOs) recruited by the Gloucestershire Constabulary in 2003-04 and 2004-05. Information for 2005-06 is currently being collected and validated. Recruitment information is available only at force level. The table also shows the number of PCSOs employed by the force and for the Cotswold and Stroud Division, of which Stroud is part.

Police community support officers in Gloucestershire and Cotswold and Stroud Division[1]

		Number of PCSOs	
As at 31 March	*Number of PCSOs recruited*	*Gloucestershire*	*Cotswold and Stroud Division*
2002-03	nil	nil	[2]—
2003-04	51	54	[2]—
2004-05	21	72	[3]19
2005-06	[4]—	62	[2]—

[1] Police community support officers were introduced in 2002-03 by the Police Reform Act 2002.
[2] Not available.
[3] Data on PCSOs in basic command units is collected annually and was collected for the first time in 2005 and is the position on 30 June.
[4] Not currently available.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many community support officers there are in Lancashire. [76012]

Mr. McNulty: As at 30 September 2005, there are 159 community support officers in Lancashire. The latest published figures may be found in the Home Office

Statistical Bulletin, Police Service Strength 30 September 2005. This is available on http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfa06/hosb0106.pdf.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter to his predecessor dated 10 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, about Mr. Hamed Siddiqi. [75180]

Mr. Byrne: The immigration and nationality directorate wrote to my right hon. Friend on 24 February 2006.

Departmental Budget

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much of the budget for his Department remained unspent in the 2003-06 financial year. [72875]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office is still finalising its 2005-06 outturn against budget. The provisional position will be reported in the 'Provisional Outturn White Paper' which will be published prior to the summer recess in July.

Departmental Cleaning

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which companies have contracts for cleaning his Department's premises, broken down by building. [73670]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not held centrally. Cleaning most of the Department's premises is contracted out, the main exception being the prison estate where cleaning is generally the responsibility of inmates. Central records of cleaning contracts are not held. The companies listed at annex A have significant contracts for cleaning Home Office premises, either direct with the Home Office or as subcontractors. This information is not available broken down by building and excludes some specialist and smaller contractors and subcontractors.

Annex A: Cleaning contractor (in alphabetical order)

Cambridge Industrial and Commercial Cleaners Ltd.
Carylse Cleaning and Support Services
Enovert FM Ltd.
IES Environmental Solutions Ltd.
ISS Facilities Services Ltd.
Lancaster Office Cleaning
Mitie Cleaning Services
Monthind Ltd.
Ideal Cleaning Services
Office Cleaning Services
PRP Decontamination Ltd.
Rentokil Initial UK Cleaning
Tech Clean Services Ltd.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost was of *(a)* staff away days and *(b)* staff team building exercises in his Department in each of the last three years. [68968]

Mr. Byrne: Information is not collected centrally on the cost of staff away days and team building exercises in the Department.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* sickness and *(b)* staff turnover rates were in (i) the Immigration and Nationality Directorate and (ii) the National Asylum Support Service in each year since 2001. [75242]

Mr. Byrne: The rates for sickness absence for both IND as a whole and the National Asylum Support Service (NASS), as recorded on the central computer database, are provided in Table 1. The staff turnover rate for IND is provided in Table 2.

Table 1: Sickness absence rates

	IND Sickness (percentage)	*NASS Sickness (percentage)*
2005	4.51	5.16
2004	4.66	5.69
2003	4.50	5.41
2002	4.41	4.64
2001	4.15	4.93

Notes:
This percentage rate is calculated from the number of working days lost per person against possible working days in the year.

Table 2: Turnover Rates for IND

	IND turnover (percentage)
2005	5.98
2004	5.28
2003	5.04
2002	6.01
2001	12.63

Note:
The figure for 2005 does not include staff leaving IND to go to posts in the central Home Office.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* whole-time equivalent and *(b)* temporary staff there are in (i) the Immigration and Nationality Directorate and (ii) the National Asylum Support Service in each (A) region and (B) country; and how many there were in each category in each year since 2001. [75243]

Mr. Byrne: The figures for *(a)* whole-time equivalent staff and *(b)* temporary staff in IND and the National Asylum Support Service (NASS), as at 31 March in each year, are provided in the table attached. These are provided by region from 2003 for permanent staff and from 2005 for temporary staff. Detailed figures for 2001 and 2002 and the requested breakdown by county are not available.

IND

	2003		2004		2004		2006	
	FTE	*Temp staff*	*FTE*	*Temp staff*	*FTE*	*Temp staff*	*FTE*	*Temp staff*
Croydon	5190	—	5463	—	4987	891	5142	1164
Eastern	390	—	430	—	321	12	336	36
Midlands	255	—	386	—	353	21	442	33
North East	983	—	1390	—	1845	89	1942	0
North West	1373	—	1580	—	1753	73	1824	124
Scotland	166	—	200	—	253	7	260	20
South East excluding Croydon	3308	—	4019	—	3591	78	3740	64
South West	90	—	112	—	56	1	101	4
Wales	44	—	77	—	92	4	90	5
London	834	—	814	—	1355	207	1331	89
Northern Ireland	11	—	12	—	13	1	15	5
Overseas	—	—	—	—	18	0	49	2
Other	—	—	—	—	50	48	7	184
Total	12644	1457	14483	1220	14687	1432	15279	1730

NASS

	2003		2004		2004		2006	
	FTE	*Temp staff*	*FTE*	*Temp staff*	*FTE*	*Temp staff*	*FTE*	*Temp staff*
Croydon	706	—	661	—	599	157	441	167
Eastern	0	—	29	—	27	0	23	4
Midlands	4	—	37	—	44	10	82	4
North East	10	—	9	—	93	4	104	8
North West	6	—	44	—	33	34	65	10
Scotland	1	—	32	—	2	33	37	2
South East excluding Croydon	0	—	22	—	28	1	33	1
South West	2	—	18	—	2	8	24	0
Wales	2	—	24	—	11	18	20	0
London		—	31	—	20	2	6	2
Northern Ireland	—	—	—	—	0	0	1	0
Overseas	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0
Other	—	—	—	—	4	2	1	1
Total	731	372	907	302	863	269	837	198

Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many domestic violence incidents dealt with by police in the past five years involved disputes regarding child contact. [76728]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many domestic violence incidents dealt with by police in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Luton and *(c)* Bedfordshire in the past five years the children concerned were on the child protection register. [76729]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Equatorial Guinea

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what stage the investigations by the Metropolitan police anti-terrorist branch into the attempted coup in Equatorial Guinea and the involvement of Greg Wales, David Tremain, Eli Calil and others has reached. [68319]

John Reid: The conduct of any criminal investigation is a matter for the police. It is the Government's policy not to comment on such matters.

Home Detention Curfews

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners released on home detention curfew have been recalled to prison in each year since 1999, broken down by reason for recall. [76918]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of persons recalled to prison from home detention curfew between 1999 and 2004, by reason for recall, can be found in table 10.7 of Home Office Statistical Bulletin 17/05: Offender Management Caseload Statistics, England and Wales, 2004. Copies of this publication can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional safeguards he will put in place relating to trafficked children in the Action Plan for Taekling Human Trafficking. [76676]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are currently considering the responses to its consultation on its proposal to publish a National Action Plan for Tackling Human Trafficking. A summary report of responses will be published on 21 June 2006. Whilst a range of views were presented on tackling issues around child trafficking, the Government will fully consider these responses before it decides whether additional safeguards to protect trafficked children are needed. It aims to produce a final UK Action Plan later this year, after further discussions with stakeholders and other Government Departments and agencies, in order to build upon the proposals for action set out in the consultation paper.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crisis centres and *(b)* safe houses there are in England and Wales where child victims of trafficking can find refuge. [76841]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* We are not aware of there being any safe houses specifically for accommodating victims of child trafficking. However, there are accommodation facilities in many locations that will cater for children in need who it is believed may have been trafficked. Planning for children's services is carried out on a locality basis throughout the UK. It is the statutory duty of local authorities under the 1989 Children Act to ensure that safe arrangements are in place to look after individual children at risk, including children from abroad.

It is also the responsibility of the local authority to assess any risk of harm and to arrange for the provision of a suitable range of accommodation for all the children in their area. Any lone child in the UK in contact with any statutory or child welfare agency will be urgently referred to the appropriate local authority. The Home Office National Asylum Support Service (NASS) reimburses local authorities who receive unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) into their care with a total of £140 million p.a. Partnership plans to provide safer arrangements for children who have been trafficked are being incorporated in a Home Office/DfES joint review of how local authorities accommodate children from abroad.

The review will aim to deliver improvements by ensuring UASCs are placed in local authority areas where specialist services are in place—including local authority social workers who can recognise and deal appropriately with UASCs who may have been trafficked to the UK. The review is also designed to increase specialisation, end inconsistencies in treatment and enable the retention and development of expertise.

Illegal Immigration

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 737W, on illegal immigration, what charges were imposed on the air and sea carriers; which carriers were charged; and what penalties were imposed on the carriers. [76936]

Mr. Byrne: Under section 40 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (as amended by the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002), air and sea carriers are liable to a fixed charge of £2,000 for each inadequately documented passenger brought to the UK. In 2005, 2,472 charges were imposed on 157 different carriers. I am unable to disclose details of individual carriers for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* posts, *(b)* full-time equivalent posts and *(c)* vacant posts there were at each civil service grade in the immigration and nationality directorate on the most recent date for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [75162]

Mr. Byrne: The information is set out in the following table:

Table: Staff breakdown by headcount and full-time equivalent (FTE)

Grade	*Headcount*	*FTE*
Senior Civil Servant	45	45
Grade 6	99	98
Grade 7	387	374
Senior Executive Officer (includes accountants)	641	616
Her Majesty's Inspector (Immigration Officer grade)	220	212
Higher Executive Officer (fast stream)	21	21
Higher Executive Officer	1585	1521
Chief Immigration Officer	847	813
Immigration Officer	3562	3439
Executive Officer	2831	2683
Administrative Officer	3725	3499
Assistant Immigration Officer	659	635
Administrative Assistant	2087	1927
Personal Secretaries (all typists)	198	187
Support Grade	494	483
Other (includes statisticians etc)	663	660
Total	1,80641,7213.00	

Notes:
1.Other includes various, (e.g. research and statistical grades), as well as staff whose grade is not recorded.
2. FTE figures rounded to the nearest whole number.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when Lin Homer was appointed director general of the immigration and nationality directorate; where the application for the job vacancy was advertised; how many applications were received for the position; and who made the final decision on the successful candidate. [75849]

Mr. Byrne: Lin Homer was appointed as director general of the immigration and nationality directorate on 27 May 2005 and took up post on 1 August 2005. The post was advertised in the national press including

The Sunday Telegraph, The Observer, The Guardian and The Daily Telegraph. It was also advertised on the Home Office jobs database and the civil service recruitment gateway. There were 40 applicants who responded to the advertisement. The appointment was approved by the Prime Minister with the agreement of the Home Secretary, on the recommendation of the head of the home civil service.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what standard checks are made by the immigration and nationality directorate on its employees' right to work. [76194]

Mr. Byrne: A range of pre-appointment checks are conducted for prospective employees including nationality and residence verification, immigration record checks and national security vetting.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many joint meetings between the officials of the immigration and nationality directorate and Jobcentre Plus have taken place over the past five years. [76195]

Mr. Byrne: Officials, at a variety of levels and locations, in the immigration and nationality directorate meet with their counterparts in Jobcentre Plus on a regular basis. There is no central record of the number or content of these meetings so it is not possible to state how many have taken place over the Past five years.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff at the immigration and nationality directorate have been found not to have valid leave to remain in the United Kingdom in each of the past five years. [75202]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 June 2006]:* The Department's records show that one member of staff of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate was detected as not having valid leave to remain in the United Kingdom in 2004.

Invest to Save

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to meet *(a)* officials of local authorities and *(b)* other stakeholders in receipt of Invest to Save funding to discuss future funding of current projects when initial Home Office financing ends; and if he will make a statement. [75956]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has no current plans to visit any Invest to Save Budget (ISB) projects or to make a statement. However, he strongly supports the objectives of the ISB programme to create sustainable improvements in the capacity to deliver public services in a more joined-up manner. An example of a project that has continued to receive funding from the Home Office is the joint working pilot between the National Missing Persons Helpline and the Metropolitan police from ISB round four.

Knife Crime

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures he is taking to reduce the incidence of knife crime in Peterborough constituency; and if he will make a statement. [77663]

Mr. McNulty: On 24 May, working closely with ACPO, we launched the first nationwide knife amnesty in 10 years. Cambridgeshire Police are participating in this amnesty, which provides an opportunity for the safe disposal of unwanted knives and sharp instruments. The amnesty highlights the dangers of carrying knives particularly to young people. The amnesty runs until the end of June, following which police will undertake robust enforcement as well as educational and other programmes.

The Violent Crime Reduction Bill, currently before Parliament, includes measures to reduce knife crime, including the introduction of a new offence of using someone to mind a weapon; raising the age at which someone can be sold a knife from 16 to 18; and providing powers for head teachers to search pupils for weapons. We are also working closely with community organisations, providing support through the Connected Fund for gun, knife and gang related projects and supporting organisations such as Be Safe, which runs a programme of education for young people on the risks of carrying knives.

Mosques

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken to support mosques in preventing their use by extreme fringe groups. [74901]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 6 June 2006]:* A public consultation on taking powers to intervene in places of worship threatened by extremist activity concluded that self regulation was usually effective. Government have provided encouragement and support to the creation of a Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board. It is expected to be launched in late June.

National Asylum Support Service

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* properties and *(b)* bed spaces are available for use under National Asylum Support Service contracts, broken down by local authority; how many of these were (i) occupied and (ii) unoccupied at the end of March 2006; and what the mean cost was of each (A) bed space and (B) property as at the end of March 2006, broken down by local authority. [71917]

Mr. Byrne: Under its new accommodation contracts the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) no longer procures or maintains properties or bed spaces.

Neighbourhood Charters

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to ensure that the neighbourhood charters will be delivered by service providers. [77328]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

As set out in the respect action plan, published in January 2006, we want to give every area the chance to have a neighbourhood charter. We intend to set out further detail about this in the Local Government White Paper.

Paladin Recommendations

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in implementing the Paladin recommendations proposed by the Metropolitan Police in 2003, with particular reference to the issue of unaccompanied minors entering the UK through London Heathrow. [74836]

Mr. Byrne: Since publication of the report we have made significant progress. In particular the immigration and nationality directorate's (IND) children's taskforce is tackling a number of the recommendations. These include:

the provision of guidance to staff on identifying and dealing with children in need;

developing processes for working with other agencies on child protection issues;

the provision of specialist training for IND staff;

identifying ways to improve information received from abroad, child protection officers are now based at Heathrow airport and both child protection officers and social service staff are based at the Croydon asylum screening unit to ensure a more joined up approach.

Parliamentary Questions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to questions by the hon. Member for Selly Oak *(a)* 23089, tabled on 25 October, on identity cards, and *(b)* 20867, tabled on 18 October, on passports. [52459]

Joan Ryan: I answered my right hon. Friend the Member for Selly Oak's question in relation to passports (20867) on 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 95W. her question in relation to identity cards (23089) was answered on 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 829W.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to question 63206, tabled by the hon. Member for Isle of Wight on 29 March 2006. [73790]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 6 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 268W.

Police Information

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidance was in operation in 1994 regarding the storage and destruction of information by police forces relating to detected crimes; [76145]

(2) under what circumstances police forces may destroy historic information relating to detected crimes; [76146]

(3) what guidance he has issued on the length of time that data collected by police forces relating to detected crimes should be held before being destroyed. [76147]

Mr. McNulty: No central guidance was in operation in 1994 concerning the storage and destruction of information relating to detected crimes. Forces were, however, subject to the relevant legislation that was in place at that time and may have issued their own internal guidance. A Code of Practice on the Management of Police Information (MOPI) was published in July 2005 and came into effect in November 2005. This requires police information to be periodically reviewed and consideration given to its disposal or retention in line with criteria set out in guidance. Guidance to accompany the Code of Practice, agreed with the Information Commissioner, was published in March 2006. This requires that information be deleted where there is no longer a policing purpose for retaining it, i.e. it is no longer necessary; it is no longer adequate or up to date; or it is excessive or not proportionate to the risk.

The guidance states that all records will normally be held for a minimum of six years, but lists a number of issues that forces should consider when deciding whether to retain records for longer. The MOP guidance states that historical data—which it defines as anything recorded prior to the date that the guidance came into effect—must be reviewed when the subject of a record comes to police attention, and that resources dedicated to reviewing other historical records should focus on information relating to certain public protection matters.

Retention of information must also be in line with relevant legislation including the Human Rights Act 1998, the Data Protection Act 1998, the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Prisons

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have been held in crowded conditions in each month since November 2004; and what percentage of the total prisoner population this represents in each case. [77078]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table shows the number of prisoners and the percentage of the total prisoner population held in crowded conditions in England and Wales, since November 2004.

Number of prisoners that have been held in crowded conditions in each month since November 2004 and the percentage of the total prisoner population this represents in each case

	Number	*Percentage*
November 2004	18,418	24.5
December 20 04	17,343	23.7
January 2005	17,169	23.1
February 2005	18,420	24.4
March 2005	17,778	23.7
April 2005	18,211	24.3
May 2005	18,143	23.8
June 2005	18,044	23.7
July 2005	18,600	24.3
August 2005	18,369	23.9
September 2005	18,536	24.0
October 2005	19,099	24.6
November 2005	18,588	24.0

Number of prisoners that have been held in crowded conditions in each month since November 2004 and the percentage of the total prisoner population this represents in each case

	Number	Percentage
December 2005	17,146	23.1
January 2006	17,900	23.6
February 2006	18,086	23.6
March 2006	18,199	23.6
April 2006	18,210	23.7
May 2006	18,874	24.3

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the prison population has been in each of the last five years. [77154]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of prisoners held in prison establishments from 1994 to 2004 can be found in table 8.1 of Home Office Statistical Bulletin 17/05: Offender Management Caseload Statistics, England and Wales, 2004. Copies of this publication can be found in the House of Commons Library. The prison population on 30 June 2005 was 76,190.

Probation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of staff and *(b)* financial resources required to implement end to end offender management in the probation service; and if he will make a statement. [77077]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We expect offender management to be resource-neutral over the long- term, with any costs balanced by savings arising from the benefits of the system. There will be start-up costs in 2006-07 and 2007-08, totalling some £8 million, before full-savings start to be seen. The costs translate into around 90 posts in 2006-07 and 120 in 2007-08.

Probation Hostels

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2005 to the hon. Member for Winchester, *Official Report*, column 1506W, on probation hostels, how many places were available in probation hostels in England and Wales on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many were occupied by high risk offenders on that date. [76914]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As at 28 February 2006, 2,163 bed spaces were available in generic approved premises, formerly bail and probation hotels. Of these, 1,256 were occupied by offenders who were assessed as high or very high risk of harm to the public. The figures do not include data for the newly opened prospects hostels which are a specialist resource for offenders with substance misuse problems.

Reoffending Target

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department is on track to meet its public service agreement target of reducing reoffending by five per cent. by 2006. [76899]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The latest formal assessment on progress is set out in the Home Office Autumn Performance Report 2005 (Cm 6707). Since this assessment juvenile reoffending results from 2004 have been made available. The report shows the reoffending rates within one year for juvenile offenders who receive pre-court disposals, non-custodial disposals and those released from custody in the first quarter of 2004. The results show a 3.8 per cent reduction in reoffending when compared with the same period in 1997 and a reduction of 1.4 per cent. when compared with 2000. The full results are available on line at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1006.pdf. The Government remain committed to reducing reoffending by 5 per cent. by 2006 and to further reductions in the future.

Shoplifting

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps his Department is taking to promote collaboration between police forces in England and Wales and private security offices based in retail stores to help reduce incidents of shoplifting; [77458]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to reduce shoplifting in retail stores; [77459]

(3) how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted for shoplifting in the South Wales police area in each of the last two years. [77457]

Mr. McNulty: Most recent figures held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of defendants found guilty of shoplifting in the South Wales police force area in 2003 and 2004 are 1,671 for 2003 and 1,712 in 2004. The information requested on arrests is not available centrally. There are a number of ways in which private security offices may engage with local police forces. Usually this is through active involvement with crime reduction partnerships, many of which are tailored specifically to address the needs of the business sector. The Home Office has supported the work of the British Retail Consortium in developing business crime reduction partnerships, and has provided over £900,000 of funding for them to set up and run the Action Against Business Crime (AABC) Group. This group provides central co-ordination and support for a national network of business crime reduction partnerships in town centres, shopping centres and industrial estates across England and Wales in their work to prevent business crime. The Home Office also encourages businesses to set up 'Business Watch' schemes in their area, or to consider involvement in the business improvement district (BID) scheme. There is an accredited Business Crime Partnership in the 'Safer Swansea' Community Safety Partnership. One of the first actions of the partnership was to set up a panel which included local businesses and independent members to consider whether those caught shoplifting should be banned from the city centre shopping area. The scheme has been successful and will be rolled out to other retail sites in the borough. Additionally, South Wales police have been

actively promoting the ShopWatch scheme in Swansea, which encourages shop staff to train as special constables in their area of employment.

Stop and Search Records

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what *(a)* computer systems and *(b)* databases of the Metropolitan police stop and search records are maintained; and if he will make a statement. [69795]

Mr. McNulty: The Commissioner is responsible for the day-to-day operational management of the force. I will therefore redirect the hon. Lady's query to the Metropolitan Police Service.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much it cost to keep *(a)* a child and *(b)* a family of two adults and two children in Yarl's Wood detention centre for one week in the last 12 months. [75893]

Mr. Byrne: Services at Yarl's Wood are provided by private contractors and as such the information requested is strictly commercial and confidential.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when the 77 outstanding applications from Zimbabwe for indefinite leave to remain under the UK Ancestral Visa Route which have been awaiting the outcome of the recent fraud inquiry will be processed. [76974]

(2) To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 12 applications from Zimbabwe for indefinite leave to remain under the UK Ancestral Visa route which have been refused were refused because of fraud. [76975]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that 52 applications for indefinite leave to remain under the UK Ancestral Visa route remain under consideration. Completion dates depend on the time required for proper and thorough scrutiny. Our database does not provide details of individual reasons why cases have been refused.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of people who are entitled to, but not receiving *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* income support, *(c)* housing benefit, *(d)* council tax benefit and *(e)* other benefits; and if he will make a statement. [75826]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for North Tyneside (Mr. Byers) on 3 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1034W.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the planned end-date is for the Benefit Processing Replacement Programme (Watch 2); and what the planned *(a)* level and *(b)* timetable of relevant capital expenditure is. [72234]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the current planned end date for the Benefits Processing Replacement Programme (WATCh2); and what is the planned level and timetable of relevant capital expenditure. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

A Departmental Investment Committee recently approved funding for the completion of the WATCh2 Projects and for the Benefits Processing Replacement Programme (BPRP) to develop its overall scope and delivery timetable by June 2006, having regard to overall business priorities including the impact of the recently announced Employment and Support Allowance.

Furthermore an independent review has been commissioned by the Permanent Secretary to examine the Department's integrated programme. It is expected that recommendations from this review will influence the decision for further investment in BPRP. Until such work has been completed we are not in a position to confirm the overall BPRP delivery timeline, nor the planned level and timetable of relevant capital expenditure.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress is being made in improving processing times for disability benefit claims. [77622]

Mrs. McGuire: Processing times for disability living allowance (DLA) and attendance allowance (AA) claims have improved steadily over the last four years. For DLA, it has gone from 42 working days in 2002-03, to 34.5 working days in 2005-06. For AA claims, it has gone from 24.2 working days in 2002-03 to 17.9 working days in 2005-06.

The Disability and Carers Service has achieved this by identification, development and sharing of best practice, the continued exploitation of information technology, and the streamlining of business processes. This has secured continuous improvement in our service delivery to customers together with improved efficiency.

The average processing time for incapacity benefit claims for the year ending March 2006 was 16.3 days, against a benchmark of 19 days. From April 2006, incapacity benefit processing times have been incorporated into a new Jobcentre Plus target covering processing times for incapacity benefit, jobseeker's allowance and income support. Performance for incapacity benefit in April 2006 was 17.3 days against a target of 18 days.

Jobcentre Plus has a programme of work to improve the way that it processes all benefit claims. It is addressing variations in processing times in specific locations and taking action to clear backlogs.

For industrial injuries disablement benefit, the Department aims to clear 90 per cent. of claims within 175 days. For the year ending March 2006, 96.1 per cent. of claims were processed within 175 days. In April 2006, 97.6 per cent of claims were processed within 175 days.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the percentage of housing benefit claimants whose 2005-06 payment was higher than that for 2006-07 and *(b)* the savings accrued to his Department from the changes. [75359]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of incapacity benefit recipients in *(a)* Coventry, South and *(b)* the West Midlands region had a full medical examination in each of the last five years. [77623]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reply to the recommendations contained in the Work and Pensions Select Committee Report on Incapacity Benefits and Pathways to Work. [76122]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We intend to respond to Third Report of the Work and Pensions Select Committee session 2005-06 on Incapacity Benefits and Pathways to Work within two months of its publication in line with the Government's commitment on responses to Select Committee reports.

Biological Diversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to him comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74393]

Mr. Plaskitt: Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, all public bodies have a duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in the exercising of their functions. There is no statutory obligation on Departments to monitor the extent to which public bodies comply with this duty. However, we understand Defra is working with a wide range of partners to develop guidance for public bodies to support the implementation of this duty and will involve all relevant Departments on the development of guidance.

Building on the New Deal Programme

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress has taken place in the development of the building on new deal programme. [69446]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are still considering the timing of implementation of the building on new deal pilots.

Child Poverty

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans the Government have to review the way they measure child poverty and those who qualify as the poorest within the category of families living below 60 per cent. of median income since publication of the most recent figures on child poverty. [67282]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our long-term strategy to meet the child poverty target remains as set out in 'Opportunity for all' and in the Child Poverty Review, which was published alongside the 2004 Spending Review White Paper.

A consultation around measuring child poverty was published in 'Measuring Child Poverty' in December 2003. This outlines the Government's measure of UK child poverty for the long term and will be used to measure progress against the 2010 target.

This consists of:

Absolute low income—to measure whether the poorest families are seeing their incomes rise in real terms;

Relative low income—to measure whether the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole; and

Material deprivation and low income combined—to provide a wider measure of people's living standards and includes a higher low-income threshold of 70 per cent. of median income.

From next year, we will be collating those material deprivation figures. The material deprivation tier will not only give a wider measure of people's living standards, but it will also capture elements of persistent and severe poverty, as highlighted in the final conclusions of the child poverty consultation.

We remain firmly committed to our challenging goals to halve and then eradicate child poverty, and we are not resting on our laurels. We are currently re-examining our strategy for meeting the 2010 target, including a reinforcement of our labour market policies, complemented by increases in tax credits, and further improvements in public services.

All publications listed are available in the Library.

Child Support Agency

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the current backlog is of child support cases waiting to be assessed. [75806]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. Given that he is currently on leave, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the current backlog is of child support cases waiting to be assessed.

In March 2006, there were around 304,000 cases that had yet to receive an assessment or calculation.

Please note that this number is different from the total number of cases waiting to be cleared, which stood at 333,000 in March 2006. This is because new scheme cases are only considered cleared when they have received a calculation and have a payment schedule in place. In March 2006, there were around 29,000 new scheme cases that had received a calculation, but were awaiting a payment schedule.

Although the total volume of uncleared cases fell by 8% between January 2005 and March 2006, the Agency recognises that this remains unacceptably high. The Agency therefore has a 2006/07 target to ensure that, by March 2007, the volume of new scheme uncleared applications outstanding at March 2006 is reduced by 25%.

I hope you find this helpful.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many applicants under the old Child Support Agency system have applied to be transferred to the new system; [75808]

(2) what the cost would be of transferring all applicants under the old child support system to the new system; and if he will make a statement. [75809]

Mr. Plaskitt: There is no provision for applying for transfer from the old to the new child support schemes and for that reason information is not available. Legislation only allows transfer if a case has prescribed links to a new scheme application.

The cost of transfer would depend on the volume of cases transferred, which in turn will be impacted by the date of transfer. This is because old scheme cases are continuously reducing in number as a result of both natural attrition and reactive (linked case) conversion.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents assessed under the old system of child support are still making payments to their children. [75812]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. Given that he is currently on leave, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents assessed under the old system of child support are still making payments to their children.

The Agency records information in terms of cases rather parents. My answer is therefore provided on this basis.

At the end of March 2006, there were 305,000 old scheme cases on the old computer system (CSCS) where a Full Maintenance Assessment had been carried out, and a positive maintenance liability had been established. Of these:

Payment was received in 152,000 cases.

A further 61,000 cases had a Maintenance Direct arrangement in place. This means that although the Agency has established the appropriate amount due, the non-resident parent will pay the parent with care directly, without the need for the Agency to collect money.

In addition, there were 86,000 old scheme cases where a Full Maintenance Assessment had been carried out, and a positive maintenance liability had been established that were operating on the new computer system (CS2). Of these:

Payment was received in 34,000 cases.

A further 9,000 cases had a Maintenance Direct arrangement in place.

I hope you find this helpful.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a further statement on progress towards overcoming the computer problems at the Child Support Agency. [76461]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make a further statement on progress towards overcoming the computer problems at the Child Support Agency.

The new child support scheme was introduced on 3 March 2003. It has been well publicised that there has been a number of technical problems with the performance of the new computer system (CS2) from this date.

A great deal of work has been carried out over recent years to improve the stability of the new computer system (CS2) and operational performance has improved to the point where contracted service levels are now consistently being met.

We are making good progress to remedy the remaining problems with the new computer system and future IT releases are planned during 2006 and 2007 to resolve various system performance issues and build on the improvements already made. In addition there are a number of planned enhancements to the computer system that form part of the programme to implement the three-year Operational Improvement Plan.

I hope you find this helpful.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-resident parents receiving benefits which the Child Support Agency has a claim against, are not paying the minimum payment required under the new scheme. [76834]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-resident parents currently receiving benefits which the Child Support Agency has a claim against, are not paying the minimum payment required under the new scheme.

The Agency records information in terms of cases rather parents. My answer is therefore provided on this basis.

In order to obtain the benefit status of non-resident parents associated with new scheme cases, it has been necessary to match data from the Agency's administrative systems with data from the benefit records system administered by Jobcentre Plus. The latter set of administrative data is published quarterly, and the latest information available is for November 2005.

At the end of November 2005, there were 70,000 new scheme cases involving a non-resident parent (NRP) in receipt of Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance or Incapacity Benefit in which maintenance was due. Of these, maintenance was not received from 38,000 cases.

It should be noted that there are also a small number of Non Resident Parents (the number of which cannot be quantified) who receive other benefits against which the Agency has a claim; namely—Retirement Pension, Pension Credit, Bereavement Allowance, Widowed Parents Allowance/Pension, Incapacity Benefit, Carer's Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Maternity Allowance, War Disablement or War Widows Pension, also certain training allowances. However, it is not possible to provide information on maintenance collected from these cases.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency cases remain to be transferred from the old scheme to the new scheme. [76835]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds dated 19 June 2006:

In reply to your recent parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. Given that he is currently on leave, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency cases remain to be transferred from the old scheme to the new scheme.

At the end of March 2006 there were 923,000 old scheme cases. There were 600,000 cases on the old computer system (CSCS). There are 322,000 cases on the new computer system (CS2); these are cases that have been reactively migrated due to being linked to the new scheme cases.

Of those old scheme cases that had been reactively migrated from the old system to the new system, we estimate that around 41,000 cases had relevant links to the new scheme cases and have now been converted. We estimate that a further 48,000 cases also have relevant links and are currently awaiting conversion.

I hope you find this helpful.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Support Agency is able to require mobile telephone companies to make known the addresses of parents not paying child support. [76940]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* Client address details held by mobile phone companies are classed as 'communications data' under the Regulations of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and can only be disclosed to an authorised body within this legislation and in relation to a specific statutory purpose. The Child Support Agency is not a RIPA authorised body and is therefore unable to request such information.

Consultants

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the companies which were paid consultancy fees by his Department in 2005-06; how much each was paid; and what each of the companies was used to accomplish. [69702]

Mr. Jim Murphy: A list of companies and the total expenditure on consultancy fees paid by the Department in 2005-06 will be available in July 2006. However, the Department is unable to provide details of each individual engagement the company was used for without a clerical examination of all records and this would incur disproportionate costs.

Correspondence

Mr. Clope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department will respond to the letter of 12 August 2005 to the office at Cotlands Road, Bournemouth about Mrs. M. Hind. [67702]

Mr. Plaskitt: A reply was given to the hon. Member on 15 May 2006.

Departmental Computer Security

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the security of chip and PIN access to his Department's computer systems; and how many breaches of that security there have been since its introduction. [75028]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Department does not offer a "Chip and PIN" service for access to the Department's computer systems. The term "Chip and PIN" is normally used in the context of high street retail purchases.

Payments made to citizens via post offices can be made using a "Chip and PIN" capability, but this is managed by a third party.

Access to internal departmental systems is controlled using a desktop smartcard infrastructure which is a completely separate device to that used to enable citizen payments. The DWP security incident recording database records details of incidents investigated by DWP. There are no incidents recorded where the "Chip and PIN" security has been compromised.

Disabled Job Seekers

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what help is available to disabled job seekers from disability employment advisers and other Jobcentre Plus staff relating to job application forms. [75479]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what help is available to disabled job seekers from disability employment advisers and other Jobcentre Plus staff relating to job application forms. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Any disabled customer having difficulties in filling in an application form can ask their adviser for assistance. If the adviser is unavailable someone else will be found to assist the customer.

If appropriate, advisers can refer customers to New Deal for Disabled People Job Brokers or to Programme Centres which offer help tailored to participants' individual needs. Programme Centre provision is designed to help participants improve their jobsearch skills and increase their chances of finding a job. This can include help with letters of application, application forms, CV preparation, preparation for interviews and mock interviews. Job Brokers can provide similar assistance.

I hope this is helpful.

Free Television Licences

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on the provision of free television licences for over 75-year-olds in each of the last five years. [77532]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

	Expenditure (£ million)
2001-02	368
2002-03	385
2003-04	410
2004-05	435
2005-06	461

Notes:
1. These are UK figures.
2. Figures are the amounts paid to the BBC and exclude administration costs.
3. Figures rounded to the nearest million pounds.

Source:
DWP Resource Account.

Job Outcome Targeting

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the introduction of job outcome targeting. [76516]

Mr. Jim Murphy: A new Job Outcome Target was introduced for Jobcentre Plus from 10 April 2006 replacing the previous Job Entry Target.

This target was announced in a Written Ministerial Statement on 30 March 2006 and detail of the new Job Outcome Target is contained in the Jobcentre Plus Business Plan which was placed in the House of Commons Library on 30 March 2006.

Jobcentre Plus

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what audits have been conducted to evaluate the accessibility of JobCentre Plus premises for disabled people at *(a)* Burslem and *(b)* Hanley offices; and when such audits were undertaken. [68314]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to my hon. Friend.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what audits have been conducted to evaluate the accessibility of Jobcentre Plus premises for disabled people at Burslem and Hanley offices; and when such audits were undertaken. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

As part of the process to convert Jobcentres to Jobcentre Plus offices an 'accessibility evaluation' is carried out when we consider the design of the office. When planning a new office or new layout, we take full account of the Disability Discrimination Act and ensure any recommendations, such as ramps or automatic doors, are built into the final design of the office. All of our new, purpose built offices comply with building regulations that cover all access issues.

We carried out audits at Cannon Street, Hanley and Burslem Jobcentres in December 2003 following the creation of Jobcentre Plus. Any adjustments recommended at that time were considered alongside our roll out plans for conversion to Jobcentre Plus offices, taking into account the Disability Discrimination Act requirements. We completed an audit at our office in Stafford Street, Hanley in June 1999 and all resulting recommendations were implemented.

As you know, our office in Stafford Street, Hanley is to become a Benefit Delivery Centre and will not be open to the public. The Jobcentres in Cannon Street, Hanley and Burslem are due to close when our new purpose built Jobcentre Plus office in Huntbach Street, Hanley opens in 2007.

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how Jobcentre Plus handles the requirements of jobseekers who have difficulty in using the telephone. [76316]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how Jobcentre Plus handles the requirements of jobseekers who have difficulty in using the telephone. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

As part of our service modernisation we encourage all new claims to be made over the telephone. However we recognise this is not suitable for everyone. We have put alternative arrangements in place, including a face-to-face interview at the local Jobcentre, or a home visit if this is more appropriate.

Additionally, we can arrange for a third party/nominated advocate to represent the customer on the telephone. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, a Textphone/Minicom service is available, or we can arrange for a British sign language interpreter to be present at a face to face interview.

These alternative arrangements are set out in our leaflet, 'Jobcentre Plus?Our Service Standards', a copy of which is enclosed.

All Jobcentre Plus staff should receive diversity and equality training and this ensures that they are aware of these options.

Jobcentre Plus is about to commission a programme of research to look at whether certain groups, such as customers with specific physical and/or learning difficulties have problems making contact. The results of this research will be available by early summer 2007.

I hope this is helpful.

New Deal for 50 Plus

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on recent changes in the financing of the New Deal for 50 Plus scheme; and what assessment he has made of levels of participation in the scheme since the changes were introduced. [69277]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Since its introduction in April 2000, the only significant change that has occurred to New Deal 50 plus funding was in April 2003 when the New Deal 50 plus Employment Credit, paid by Jobcentre Plus, was replaced by the 50 plus element of the Working Tax Credit, paid by H.M. Revenue and Customs. Incorporating the in-work incentive for over-50s into the tax credit system ensured that those households on the lowest income received the most support, rather than flat-rate payments being made regardless of personal circumstances.

Until March 2003, Employment Credit payments formed the bulk of the New Deal 50 plus programme spend, together with the New Deal 50 plus in-work Training Grant. In 2003-04 the programme spend for New Deal 50 plus still included the remaining Employment Credit payments but, by the 2004-05 financial year, all the New Deal 50 plus Employment Credit starts had completed and all that remained was the spend on the training grant.

Centrally recorded data on starts to the New Deal 50 plus programme are only available from January 2004 onwards. Information before this is not available as the data were not centrally held.

From the start of the programme to February 2006, New Deal 50 plus has been successful in helping more than 150,000 people into jobs.

Parental Support

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the potential cost savings which would result from reducing the maximum age of the youngest child entitling lone parents to receive income support to *(a)* 15, *(b)* 14, *(c)* 13, *(d)* 12 and *(e)* 11 years in each financial year from 2005-06 to 2009-10. [75429]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information is not available from which to make such an estimate.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to Question 63316 from the hon. Member for Portsmouth South, tabled on 29 March 2006, on Post Office Card Accounts. [78095]

Mr. Plaskitt: A reply was given to the hon. Member on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 922W.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average size of the caseload for personal advisers will be once Pathways to Work is fully rolled out. [77241]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* The information requested is not available.

Personal adviser caseloads vary according to the adviser's knowledge and experience of advisory work and the client group. Therefore decisions about an indicial Adviser's caseload can only be decided at local level.

We want to ensure Pathways to Work advisers focus their efforts on helping and supporting people on incapacity benefits into work. Managers in current Pathways to Work pilot areas regularly monitor adviser caseloads to ensure they are manageable and enable customers to maximise their work opportunities. This will continue when Pathways is rolled out nationally.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will break down by main budget heading the £360 million annual cost to roll-out Pathways to Work. [77242]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* The £360 million is to cover a range of welfare reforms as set out in the Green Paper, primarily Pathways to Work. We are committed to rolling out Pathways to Work across the country by 2008. We will also seek to ensure our proposals deliver the service in innovative and more cost-effective ways as we roll out to the rest of the country, learning from the experience of Jobcentre Plus and the private and voluntary sector. We are currently working through the specific detail of the funding plans for Pathways, which we will share more widely in due course.

Pension Credit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners he estimates were entitled to pension credit in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06; how many were receiving the pension credit in each year; how many (i) are entitled to and (ii) are receiving the credit in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [70284]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the format requested. Information that is available is as follows.

Table 1 contains estimates of eligibility in 2003-04 and 2004-05 and projected estimates of eligibility in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Table 1: Number of pensioners estimated to be eligible for pension credit

	Numbers eligible (million)
2003-04	3.8 to 4.3
2004-05	3.7 to 4.2

Table 1: Number of pensioners estimated to be eligible for pension credit

	Numbers eligible (million)
2005-06	3.8 to 4.3
2006-07	3.8 to 4.3

Notes:
1. Estimates of the numbers eligible are given as ranges in order to account for possible biases inherent in estimates from data that is less than perfect. They also take account of the effects of sampling variation.
2. Estimates cover all those aged 60 and over in the private household population of Great Britain. The data source is the Family Resources Survey.
3. As pension credit was introduced mid-way through 2003-04, estimates of the numbers entitled in 2003-04 are only based on six months' data, and should therefore be treated with caution.
4. For the purposes of this analysis, the unit of analysis is the benefit unit. This is either a single person aged at least 60 years old or, if a couple, both will be termed pensioners if one is aged at least 60 years old. This is consistent with both the definition used in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-up" publications, and with the fact any individual aged 60 or over is entitled to pension credit.
5. The data source for eligibility estimates is the Family Resources Survey. Estimates of eligibility for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are based on the Family Resources Survey data for 2003-04 and 2004-05, with incomes and benefits projected forward into the future in order to estimate the eligibility for each pensioner household on the survey. They are calibrated to the 2004-05 National Statistics estimates of non-eligibility to pension credit, which adjust 2004-05 Family Resources Survey data to take account of possible biases in reporting.
6. The latest estimates of the take-up of pension credit can be found in the DWP report entitled "Pension Credit Estimates of Take-Up in 2004/2005". Copies of the publication are available in the Library.
7. Estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.
8. Projections of eligibility may be adjusted following publication of future editions of the National Statistics take-up estimates.

Table 2: Number of pensioners receiving pension credit in 2003-04 and 2004-05

	Numbers receiving (million)
2003-04	2.5
2004-05	2.6

Notes:
1. The numbers receiving in 2003-04 and 2004-05 are derived from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, and relate to the average number of recipients over the period. They are consistent with the figures used to calculate National Statistics estimates of take-up, and so exclude cases in non-private households, and take account of any backdated awards that were paid in respect of 2004-05. Estimates presented here will therefore differ from other published sources.
2. Projected take-up figures are indicative only and not comparable to the published take-up figures for 2003-04 and 2004-05, which include backdated awards of pension credit. Forecasts of future recipients are based on extrapolation of administrative data from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. 3. The latest estimates of the take-up of pension credit can be found in the DWP report entitled "Pension Credit Estimates of Take-Up in 2004/2005". Copies of the publication are available in the Library.
4. Estimates relate to private households only.
5. All figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

Current forecasts suggest that around 2.5 million pensioners may be in receipt of Pension Credit in 2005-06 and around 2.7 million in 2006-07. However, these projections are indicative only and do not include adjustments for backdated awards so are not directly comparable with the take-up estimates for 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rate of pension credit was among pensioners in Newport, East in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [77903]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the format requested. Estimates of eligibility, and therefore of take-up, are not available below the level of Great Britain. Actual figures for receipt of pension credit at constituency level are available.

The number of households in receipt of pension credit in Newport, East is in the following table.

	Household recipients
November 2003	2,570
November 2004	3,380
November 2005	3,540

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
3. Recipients are those people who claim pension credit either on behalf of themselves only or on behalf of a household. This number is equal to the number of households in receipt of pension credit.
Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in each electoral ward in Stroud district receive pension credit. [77810]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Pension credit individual beneficiaries for wards in Stroud parliamentary constituency, November 2005

Ward Name	Individual Beneficiaries[1]
Amberley and Woodchester	60
Berkeley	280
Bisley	70
Cainscross	385
Cam East	235
Cam West	260
Central	85
Chalford	205
Coaley and Uley	70
Dursley	275
Eastington and Standish	125
Farmhill and Paganhill	125
Hardwicke	135
Minchinhampton	220
Nailsworth	295
Over Stroud	60
Painswick	140
Rodborough	130
Severn	205
Slade	100
Stonehouse	500
The Stanleys	235
Thrupp	55
Trinity	90
Uplands	155
Upton St Leonards	70
Vale	70
Valley	105

Pension credit individual beneficiaries for wards in Stroud parliamentary constituency, November 2005

Ward Name	Individual Beneficiaries[1]
Wotton-Under-Edge[2]	305
Stroud constituency total	4,720

[1] The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.
[2] Only part of Wotton-Under-Edge ward is in Stroud parliamentary constituency.
Notes:
1. Number of individual beneficiaries are rounded to a multiple of 5.
2. Because of 1 and [3], wards will not always sum to constituency totals.
3. Wards are based on 2003 ward boundaries.
Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100 per cent. data.

Pensions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his oral statement of 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1648-70, on pensions reform, whether the Department plans to seek to recover pension monies from private companies whose financial dealings were a major contributory factor in the collapse of an occupational pension scheme. [76829]

James Purnell: Legislation provides that, when a salary-related occupational pension scheme winds up, any deficiency in the pension fund becomes a debt on the employer. This is designed to improve the protection offered to scheme members when these events occur. It provides a mechanism for the trustees to be able to take action to pursue the debt. It also means that employers will be liable for a debt should the scheme be underfunded. The legislation is not intended to prejudice any other remedy the trustees may have in respect of any deficiency in the scheme's assets.

The Government believe that solvent employers should ensure that there are sufficient funds in schemes which are winding up to meet the full costs of the rights accrued by scheme members. Regulations came into force on 15 March 2004 that introduce a "full buy-out" requirement to ensure that where a scheme is wound up and its sponsoring employer is solvent, the scheme members are more likely to receive the pensions they expect. Trustees can utilise the regulations if their scheme started to wind up on or after 11 June 2003. From 15 February 2005, regulations introduced a "full buy-out" requirement for schemes whose sponsoring employer became insolvent.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the total cost of full compensation for those covered by the recommendations in the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report "Trusting the pensions promise". [77338]

James Purnell: The estimated cost of full compensation for those covered by the Ombudsman's report was published in the Government's response to that report, laid before Parliament on Tuesday 6 June. This document may be found in the Library.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of private sector employees with final salary pension schemes in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2005. [69458]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available for 1997 and 2005. The following table shows the estimated number of private sector employees who are members of defined-benefit pension schemes since 1991:

	Number of active members of defined-benefit schemes, (million)
1991	5.5
1995	5.1
2000	4.6
2004	3.6

Notes:
1. All figures are estimates and are taken from the Government Actuary's Department Occupational Pension Scheme Survey, years 2004, 2000, 1995 and 1991. 2004 is the latest year for which data are available. The coverage of the survey is the UK.
2. Defined-benefit schemes are schemes where all the benefits (other than benefits secured by additional voluntary contributions) are on a defined-benefit basis. Such benefits are most commonly based on factors such as earnings or length of service. The survey does not separately identify final salary schemes, which are a type of defined-benefit scheme.
3. Estimates include both open and closed schemes.
4. Private sector schemes are those schemes which are not classified as public sector by the Pension Regulator.
Source:
Government Actuary's Department, Occupational Pension Schemes Survey

Personal Capability Assessment

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the revised Personal Capability Assessment for incapacity benefit will apply to existing claimants who are subject to an ad hoc case check as referred to on page 48 of the Green Paper, "A New Deal for Welfare". [75384]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The consultation exercise on the Green Paper ended on 21 April and we will be announcing our proposals shortly.

Post Office Card Accounts

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what occasions *(a)* officials from his Department and its agencies and *(b)* persons acting on their behalf have undertaken cold-calling exercises to members of the public (i) asking for their bank details, (ii) encouraging them to switch their Post Office card account to a bank account and (iii) discouraging them from having a Post Office card account; how many members of the public were called for each purpose; and who authorised the making of such calls. [73877]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions ran a number of small-scale Post Office card account pilots between 13 February and 10 March 2006. The pilots tested various approaches to moving people from having their benefit or pension paid into a Post Office card account to payments into a bank account.

The pilots were authorised by Ministers. I informed the House of the pilots in a written answer on 15 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2187W. They were fully in keeping with the contract between my Department and Post Office Limited which states: "The POCA is intended to be an interim step for Account Holders who will be encouraged by both parties to migrate to Bank Accounts which provide services and opportunities not available through the POCA". I have also placed a copy of the relevant part of the contract in the Library.

The pilots involved:

not promoting the option to open a new Post Office card account for around 3,000 customers making a new claim for jobseeker's allowance, state pension or pension credit;

writing to around 25,000 customers paid by Post Office card account asking them to supply account details. This pilot involved some follow-up telephone calls to check if customers had received their letter and to see if they had any questions or needed help or support to open a new account; and

writing to around 1,500 customers who have one benefit paid into a Post Office card account and another into a bank account saying that we intended to pay both their benefits into their bank account.

A month on to after the pilots had finished we re-contacted around 350 people across the three pilot groups to learn more about their experience.

We have just finished evaluating the results and have shared the results with Post Office Limited. I will place a summary report of the findings in the Library shortly.

Prison Release

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action his Department is taking to improve the job prospects of those recently released from prison. [76514]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We offer support to offenders in a number of ways to improve their job prospects. Employment and benefit surgeries in prisons provide prisoners with interviews with Jobcentre Plus advisers prior to release to discuss employment and training opportunities. Our Freshstart programme guarantees a pre-arranged interview for prisoners who wish to claim Jobseeker's Allowance as soon as possible on release at which jobs, training and benefits are discussed.

Offenders, together with others facing the most severe disadvantage in the labour market, are included in one of the priority groups within the Jobcentre Plus target and performance structure. This ensures our advisers are encouraged to provide particular help and support to people who have additional barriers to work. Because of their disadvantage in the labour market, offenders can also gain early entry into our new deal programme, which can provide them with the training and skills needed to get a job.

Our progress2work LinkUP programme is designed to help those with multiple disadvantage, including offenders and ex-offenders, overcome the particular employment barriers they face. Jobcentre Plus advisers and other relevant agencies refer customers to specialist providers who work with prisons and local probation services to encourage offenders to make use of their services. The programme helps people get and sustain employment and is currently available in 15 Jobcentre Plus districts. We expect provision to be available in a further six districts by the end of the summer.

In partnership with the Home Office and the Department for Education and Skills, the December 2005 Green Paper, 'Reducing Re-offending Through Skills and Employment', announced proposals for further work. For example, working with local employers to help offenders into jobs, and supporting Jobcentre Plus to focus on helping offenders into work rather then placing them on benefits.

Shared Care Orders

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many parents in England are under a shared care order; [76133]

(2) how many parents under a shared care order are required to pay maintenance. [76134]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* This information is not available. However in March 2006 around one in five cases with a calculation on the new child support scheme report that there is shared care of a child (of at least one night a week).

Social Fund

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many telephone calls have been *(a)* answered and *(b)* missed by the new telephone hotline service for social fund loans in the south-west since its inception; how urgent inquiries are dealt with; and why the service is not free to the user. [72365]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to my hon. Friend.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning how many telephone calls have been (a) answered and (b) missed by the new telephone hotline service for Social Fund in the South West since its inception; how urgent enquiries are dealt with and why the service is not free to the user.

Jobcentre Plus in the South West Region do not currently operate a hotline for the Social Fund. The South West region is planning to centralise Social Fund processing in Bristol. Some limited centralisation has already taken place, including moving the processing of Social Fund claims from customers living in Gloucestershire to Bristol.

Customers living in Gloucestershire who want to apply in person for a payment from the Social Fund normally approach their local Jobcentre office in the first instance. Staff at the Jobcentre will then telephone the Social Fund team in South Bristol. There are 10 extensions available for Jobcentre Plus staff to call, however if staff have problems getting through the customer may be given the direct telephone number to try again later.

Although direct calls to these numbers by customers is not free there are plans to introduce 0800 and 0845 numbers in 2007 as part of the centralisation of Social Fund work.

If customers wish to apply for a Crisis Loan for living expenses from the Social Fund they can do this in person at their local office by completing an application form, a decision is usually made on the same day.

I hope this is helpful.

Women Pensioners

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women in Coventry, South he estimates will be entitled to a full basic state pension by 2025. [77621]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the format requested. However, under our proposals, we estimate that almost 5.5 million women in Great Britain will be entitled to a full basic state pension by 2025.

Worklessness (Liverpool)

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for addressing worklessness in Liverpool, Riverside. [74557]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* Since 1997, claimant unemployment in Liverpool Riverside has fallen by 38 per cent. the number of lone parents on benefit has fallen by 24 per cent and the number of incapacity benefits recipients has begun to fall. The New Deal has helped nearly 5,000 into work. However we recognise that there is more to do, in Liverpool Riverside and the country as a whole.

Our recently published Green Paper 'A new deal for welfare: Empowering people to work' sets out our Cities Strategy proposals for piloting new initiatives to help local organisations work together to improve economic regeneration through skills, employment and health. From 2007, the 'Cities' pathfinders will be charged with increasing employment and reducing social exclusion in our most deprived communities. Each area will be asked to develop a consortium with a shared interest in working together to raise employment rates and improve the economy. This may include local authorities, employers, learning and skills councils, regional development agencies, primary care trusts and Jobcentre Plus. The key aim of this initiative will be to provide solutions that offer the maximum degree of flexibility, so that local areas can provide local solutions to local problems.

This approach will provide a real focus for local efforts to help people move back into work, so that the current patchwork of programmes and support, provided by a number of organisations can be delivered in a more integrated, individually-focused and locally responsive way.

Youth Unemployment (Hartlepool)

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to reduce youth unemployment in Hartlepool constituency. [77185]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our welfare to work programmes have been successful in substantially reducing youth unemployment and, since 1997, long-term youth unemployment has been virtually eradicated. In addition, youth claimant unemployment is close to its lowest level for 30 years. In Hartlepool, youth unemployment has been cut by 32 per cent. since 1997 and long-term youth unemployment by 75 per cent.

Our New Deal for Young People programme continues to contribute to this success, having already helped more than 666,000 young people into work, including 2,320 in Hartlepool, 84 per cent. of whom have gained sustained employment.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 20 June 2006

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Child Care

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what steps he is taking to promote choice and diversity in the provision of pre-school child care; and if he will make a statement; [78575]

(2) what steps he is taking to assist local authorities to deliver affordable pre-school child care; and if he will make a statement; [78576]

(3) what steps he is taking to increase parents' access to flexible pre-school child care; and if he will make a statement. [78577]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The Government are committed to maintaining a diverse and vibrant child care market where providers from the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors work together in support of children and families. The new duties in the Childcare Bill will require local authorities to assess child care needs within their area, find out what parents want, and try to meet their needs. This will deliver choice and maintain diversity, responding to the needs of parents who—perhaps because they work atypical hours—are looking for flexible child care.

All three and four-year-olds are currently entitled to 12 and a half hours of free early learning and child care, and by 2010 this will have increased to 15 hours. Parents will be able to use the free entitlement flexibly enabling them to balance work and family life more effectively. From later this year pathfinders will test delivery mechanisms to ensure that parental demand for increased flexibility can be met without driving smaller settings out of business. The findings from the pathfinders will inform the roll out of the extension in hours and flexibility by 2010.

The duty in the Childcare Bill to secure sufficient child care which is eligible under the child care element of the working tax credit will help to improve the affordability of child care by providing greater access for families to the financial support available through the tax credits system. During 2005-06, the level of investment in the child care element of the working tax credit was more than £2.4 million a day, benefiting around 356,000 families. This year the maximum proportion of costs that can be claimed through tax credits increased from 70 per cent. to 80 per cent. We are also tackling high child care costs in London through a pilot programme being run jointly with the London Development Agency and the Greater London Authority which will deliver an additional 10,000 child care places for families on lower incomes.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will recommend Hertfordshire's model for the delivery of Phase 2 child care centres to other county councils and public sector providers; and if he will make a statement. [78578]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* I understand that Hertfordshire county council is still developing its children's centres implementation plan. Each local authority has strategic responsibility for developing children's centre services in its own area. We have issued guidance to help local authorities do this, including examples of good practice. However, detailed plans will be based on an individual authority's own assessment of the needs of children under five and their families in the area, including the levels of disadvantage they face.

Head Teachers

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* head teachers and *(b)* deputy head teachers have taken early retirement in each of the past three years. [78574]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The information is not available in the format requested.

The following table provides the number of teachers in the leadership group, comprising head, deputy and assistant head teachers, who have retired early (defined as before the normal pension age of 60) on premature, actuarially reduced (ARB) or ill health grounds in each year from 2002-03 to 2004-05, the latest information available.

Early retirements[1] of teachers in the leadership group by year and type of award in the local authority maintained sector

	Premature	*ARB*	*Ill-health*	*Total*
2002-03	630	490	370	1,480
2003-04	570	720	370	1,660
2004-05	480	830	180	1,480

[1] Includes only teachers awarded pension benefits under the Teachers' Pensions Scheme.

Note:
Data are provisional.

Source: Database of Teacher Records (DTR) and Pensioner Statistical System.

Higher Education

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many applicants aged *(a)* 21 to 25 and *(b)* over 25 had applied for courses in higher education institutions in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06 and (iv) 2006-07 in the April before the start of each academic year; and what the percentage change was in each year. [76271]

Bill Rammell: The available figures are shown in the table. They are taken from press releases issued by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) in April each year which summarise applicant numbers as at 24 March, for each of the age bands of under 21 years, 21-24 years, and over 24 years. The figures reinforce our view that the long-term trend of increasing university applications will continue. There

was a larger than expected increase in the number of applicants for entry in 2005 and although the number of applicants for 2006 are down compared to 2005, they are above the numbers for 2004 entry. We experienced a similar dip in applications in 1998 when tuition fees were introduced, but numbers returned to their usual levels the following year and continued upwards thereafter. We expect this to be the trend going forward.

English-domiciled applicants by 24 March of each year, by age

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Under 21				
Number	240,417	243,710	263,856	253,439
Percentage change	—	+1.4	+8.3	-3.9
21-25				
Number	23,295	23,776	26,248	25,317
Percentage change	—	+2.1	+10.4	-3.5
Over 24				
Number	24,683	25,821	29,452	27,868
Percentage change	—	+4.6	+14.1	-5.4
Total				
Number	288,395	293,307	319,556	306,624
Percentage change	—	+1.7	+8.9	-4.0

Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) Press Releases.

Post-16 Learning (Medway Towns)

Paul Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what Government funding has been made available for post-16 learning in the Medway Towns local authority area for each year since 1997, broken down by education provider; and how many young people in the area have attended courses providing key skills for employability. [78273]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) allocated nearly £108 million to providers in the Kent and Medway area for 2005/06, an increase of more than 5 per cent. compared to 2004/05. This does not include the funding for work based learning or Personal Development and Community Learning (formerly Adult and Community Learning). Information on the individual funding allocations for providers dating back to 2001 is available from the LSC website. Since 1997 this funding has increased nationally by around £2.5 billion—equivalent to 48 per cent. in real terms.

Training for key skills is provided through the Key Skills Support Programme and aimed at post-16 learners. Up to September 2004, a total of 940,000 key skills qualifications had been awarded to over 570,000 individual learners.

Research Assessment

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he plans to hold research assessment exercises in 2008. [77908]

Bill Rammell: On 13 June, as part of the launch of the Government's consultation on future arrangements for higher education research assessment and funding, I announced that the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise would proceed as planned. The panels responsible for assessing individual subjects will be able to make greater use of research metrics alongside or instead of academic peer review if they deem this appropriate, provided that this would not place new data collection burdens on institutions.

University Admissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of A-level students from the London borough of Havering secured a place at university in 2004-05. [75453]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not held centrally.

In 2004 there were 1,419 16 to 18-year-old A-level candidates in maintained schools and colleges in Havering local authority.

The latest available figures on participation in higher education by local authority were published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in January 2005. The report, "Young Participation in England", shows participation rates for young people who enter higher education aged 18 or 19, disaggregated by local authority, for the years 1997 to 2000.

The figures for Havering local authority, and the comparable figures for England, are shown in the table. HEFCE have not produced figures beyond 2000.

Young participation rate (YPR (A)) in higher education in the UK

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Year cohort aged 18 in Havering (Number)	2,850	2,970	2,890	2,750
Participation rate for Havering[1] (Percentage)	22	20	21	23
Participation rate for England (Percentage)	29.2	28.8	29.2	29.9

[1] Participation rates for local authorities are reported to the nearest whole number.

Source:
Higher Education Funding Council for England.

The report is available from the HEFCE website at: http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_03/

The total number of entrants from Havering for each year since 2001/02 are given in the table.

Entrants to undergraduate courses at UK HE institutions, from the London borough of Havering

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Aged 18-19	675	690	760	800
All other ages	1,055	1,240	1,270	1,625
Total entrants	1,730	1,930	2,035	2,420

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The Department uses the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) to assess progress on increasing first-time participation of English students aged 18-30 in higher education towards 50 per cent.: the latest provisional figure for 2004/05 is 42 per cent. The HEIPR is not calculated at local authority level.

University Applications

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many university applications have been made by students in the London borough of Havering in each year since the introduction of tuition fees; and if he will make a statement. [75446]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not held centrally.

The available information covers the number of actual entrants to higher education, from the London borough of Havering, and is given in the table.

18-year-olds domiciled in the London borough of Havering entering higher education at UK higher education institutions

Academic year	*Number*
1998/99	440
1999/2000	440
2000/01	450
2001/02	475
2002/03	495
2003/04	540
2004/05	585

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

University Students

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students normally resident in Scotland are attending university in England. [78864]

Bill Rammell: The information is given in the following table:

Scottish domiciled enrolments at English HEIs 2004/05

	Mode of study		
Level of study	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
Postgraduate	1,620	3,620	5,240
Undergraduate	5,705	16,125	21,830
Total	7,325	19,745	27,070

Notes:
1. Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
HESA student record data 2004/05

DEFENCE

African Union

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has made to *(a)* African Union member states, *(b)* the United Nations and *(c)* NATO regarding African Union troops' rules of engagement. [66720]

Mr. Ingram: Her Majesty's Government has made no recent representations to African Union member states, the United Nations or NATO regarding African Union troops' rules of engagement.

Army Continuous Attitude Survey

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors were taken into account when deciding to omit from the Army Continuous Attitude Survey September-December 2005 *(a)* question 61a, *(b)* question 63a and *(c)* question 66 included in the June-September 2004 survey. [78131]

Mr. Watson: Questions 61a and 63a were removed from the survey because they were not providing an accurate measure of the levels of discrimination and bullying in the Army, or of the Army's commitment to issues of equality. They asked whether individuals believed that bullying and discrimination exists rather than whether they had direct experience of such incidents. Responses were therefore likely to be influenced by factors such as anecdotal evidence, media coverage and popular opinion as opposed to personal knowledge. Other questions related to direct experience remain.

Question 66 was replaced by question 39c to give the respondent more opportunity to explain their reasons for not making a formal complaint and to provide a richer source of data for analysis.

Army Recruitment

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications to join the Army were made in each year since 1998; and how many applicants were successful in each year. [78771]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer he was given on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 2110, for figures covering the period 1998-99 to 2004-05. Figures for 2005-06 are detailed in the following table.

	Number
Applications	36,430
Enlisted	11,450

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

BAE (Kuwait Contracts)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* contracts and *(b)* variations of contract his Department has entered into with (i) BAE and (ii) its subsidiaries in respect of work carried out in Kuwait between 1 January 2003 and 30 June 2003. [78235]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 16 June 2006]*: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75105]

Mr. Watson: These issues are dealt with at local level and to obtain this information from each unit would incur disproportionate cost. However, for those staff covered by the MOD main pay deal (around 66,000 staff) this information is captured at the end of the staff reporting year to inform pay rises.

Figures for the last three years for which figures are available are:

	Number
2002-03	[1]40
2003-04	64
2004-05	120

[1] Excluding industrial staff who were not recorded in this year.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77275]

Mr. Watson: The number of staff who are under and over 55 years of age on 1 January and 1 April 2006 are shown as follows.

Headcount strength of staff under/over 55 years of age

	January 2006	*April 2006*
Under 55	70,780	69,690
Over 55	19,000	18,940
Unknown[1]	20	30
Royal Fleet Auxiliaries[1]	2,350	2,340
Locally engaged civilians[1]	16,150	16,790
Departmental total	108,300	107,800

[1] information on the date of births of a small number of records, the Royal Fleet Auxiliaries and locally engaged civilians are not available centrally.

Note:
The values and totals are rounded separately to the nearest 10 and the sum of the rounded data may not equal the rounded sum.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into his Department in each of the last three years. [77276]

Mr. Watson: The number of people over the age of 55 years that have been recruited into the MOD in each of the last three years is shown as follows.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*Headcount 2005-06*
Under 55 when recruited	8,640	6,780	4,410
Over 55 when recruited	940	690	410
Unknown[1]	20	20	10
Departmental total	9,600	7,490	4,830

[1] A small number of staff have no date of birth recorded.

Notes:
1. The values and totals are rounded separately so the sum of the rounded values may not equal the rounded sum.
2. These values exclude Royal Fleet Auxiliary and locally engaged civilians.

Gurkhas

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many casualties were sustained by Gurkhas serving with British forces in each campaign in which Gurkhas served since 1976. [72089]

Mr. Watson: The information is not held centrally. We are consulting potential sources of information and I will write to the hon. Member.

Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in his Department have been enabled to work from home in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [67986]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence does not collect these statistics centrally and they could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Department promotes and supports a wide range of non standard working patterns, including home working, and encourages managers to accommodate staff requests to work differently whenever it is possible.

Met Office Reports (Oxfordshire)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library reports from the Meteorological Office on the weather in Oxfordshire on *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16, *(c)* 17 and *(d)* 18 July 2003. [76407]

Mr. Watson: A summary of the weather in Oxfordshire on the days concerned, together with supporting data, will be placed in the Library of the House.

Parliamentary Questions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons were for the delay in answering parliamentary question *(a)* 69450 tabled on 3 May 2006, *(b)* 68478 tabled on 2 May 2006, *(c)* 67171 tabled on 26 April 2006, *(d)* 65234 tabled on 19 April 2006 and *(e)* 65233 tabled on 19 April 2006 by the hon. Member for Lewes; and when he expects to answer each question. [78238]

Des Browne: Parliamentary questions 69450, 68478, 67171 and 65234 were answered on the 16 June 2006.

I will answer 65233 shortly.

Private Office Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been paid in *(a)* salary, *(b)* travelling expenses, *(c)* subsistence allowance and (d) removal expenses to special advisers in his private office in each of the last five years. [69114]

Mr. Watson: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers, including the number in each pay band. For information relating to the 2004-05 financial year I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 158-61WS. Information on special advisers for the last financial year is currently being collected and will be published in the normal way when it is ready.

Travel and subsistence expenses could be provided only at disproportionate cost. There are no records of removal expenses raised against any special adviser working in the Ministry of Defence during the period in question.

QinetiQ

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost was of the legal and advisory fees incurred in the sale of QinetiQ to Carlyle, broken down by year in which they were incurred; and what proportion of the total cost was incurred by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* QinetiQ and *(c)* Carlyle. [76986]

Mr. Ingram: The sale of a stake in QinetiQ to The Carlyle Group was completed in February 2003. Starting in 1998, the overall PPP process included: options studies and public consultation; the division of DERA into QinetiQ and Dstl; the formation of QinetiQ as a limited company; the conduct of the competition resulting in the selection of Carlyle as MOD's Strategic Partner; and the completion of the legal negotiations and due diligence process necessary to complete the transaction. Work on many of these activities was conducted in parallel and they have not been separately costed.

MOD's total expenditure on advisers throughout these stages of process was approximately £17.5 million over 5 years. This includes a cost of approximately £9.2 million for legal advice, broken down by financial year as shown in the following table.

Cost of external legal advice to the MOD on the QinetiQ PPP prior to the sale to Carlyle

Financial year	*£ million Amount*
1999-2000	0.4
2000-01	0.7
2001-02	2.3
2002-03	4.5
2003-04	1.3

The remaining £8.3 million covered a range of specialist financial, accounting, banking and other technical advice. In order to provide appropriate incentives, a significant proportion of this total was paid on completion of the sale as a success fee, and was calculated as a percentage of the value achieved at sale. Consequently, it is not possible to accurately attribute these costs across individual financial years.

In addition to these fees, Dstl incurred £1.6 million of general advisory costs and £0.25 million of legal costs relating to its formation.

The legal and advisory costs incurred by QinetiQ and The Carlyle Group are a matter for those two organisations.

RAF Menwith Hill

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have been stopped and searched at RAF Menwith Hill by the Ministry of Defence Police Agency in each year since 2000. [76293]

Mr. Ingram: The details of how many people have been stopped and searched at RAF Menwith Hill jointly by the Ministry of Defence Police and North Yorkshire Police (NYP) are set out as follows. Such data is not held prior to September 2001.

	Stops	*Searches*
September 2001 to 22 December 2003	236	210
23 December 2003 to 22 December 2004	571	220
23 December 2004 to 13 December 2005	959	419
14 December 2005 to 14 June 2006	344	92
Grand total	2,110	941

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many working days were lost to his Department and its Executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated total cost to the Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [76893]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The following tables show the rates of worker sickness

absence for non-industrial and industrial civil servants, and the cost of that absence for non-industrials, in the Ministry of Defence since 1997.

	Sickness absence rate[1] working days per FTE	Sickness absence working days	Sickness absence cost (£ million)[2]
1997[3]	8.4	573,000	38.59
1998[3]	8.6	571,000	39.28
1999[4]	8.1	538,700	37.23
2000[4]	7.9	520,100	36.64
2001[5]	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
2002[4]	7.3	465,240	35.11
2003[4]	7.6	480,980	37.99
2004[4]	7.3	469,120	39.39
2005[3]	7.4	475,170	—
Financial year			
2005-06[3]	7.3	464,270	—

[1] Sickness absence rates are based on FTE working days lost. For example, if a part-time employee (working 50 per cent. full-time hours) is sick for seven calendar days, this is five working days lost and 2.5 FTE working days lost.
[2] Sickness absence costs for 1997 to 2004 are based on a Cabinet Office defined average daily salary rate for civilian non-industrial staff multiplied by the number of sickness absence working days lost. Comparable salary rates are not available for 2005 or the financial year 2005-06.
[3] Rates are from the Annual Report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" which is published by the Cabinet Office.
[4] Rates for 1999 to 2004 are from UK Defence Statistics 2005 table 2.36 and are for calendar years (1 January to 31 December). The rates shown have been formed using a standardisation technique which involves adjusting unreasonably long absence lengths and removing obviously incorrect records.
[5] There is no sickness absence information for non-industrial Ministry of Defence staff available for 2001 for data quality reasons.
[6] No reliable data available.
Note:
Excludes non-industrial Ministry of Defence staff in trading funds and Royal Fleet Auxiliaries.

	Sickness absence rate[1] working days per FTE	Sickness absence working days
1997[2]	[3]13.7	337,100
1998[2]	[3]16.3	376,800
1999[4]	12.9	320,900
2000[5]	[6]—	[6]—
2001[4]	14.8	304,900
2002[4]	13.4	259,950
2003[4]	12.5	209,870
2004[4]	13.2	202,780
2005[4]	11.9	176,840
Financial year		
2005-06[4]	11.6	170,740

[1] Sickness absence rates are based on FTE working days lost. For example, is a part-time employee (working 50 per cent. full-time hours) is sick for seven calendar days, this is five working days lost and 2.5 FTE working days lost.
[2] Sickness absence records for industrial staff are not as robust as for non-industrial staff and the early years are marked as provisional.
[3] Provisional.
[4] Rates for 1999 to 2004 are from UK Defence Statistics 2005 table 2.36 and are for calendar years (1 January to 31 December). Rates for calendar year 2005 and the financial year (1 April-31 March) for 2005-06 are calculated on a consistent basis and will appear in UK Defence Statistics 2006. The rates shown have been formed using a standardisation technique which involves adjusting unreasonably long absence lengths and removing obviously incorrect records.
[5] There is no sickness absence information for industrial Ministry of Defence staff available for 2000 for data quality reasons.
[6] No reliable data available.
Notes:
1. Excludes industrial Ministry of Defence staff in trading funds and Royal Fleet Auxiliaries.
2. Consistent salary rate information for industrial staff are not available on a compile basis to non-industrial staff above to allow the calculation of the cost of their sickness absence.

Territorial Army Commission

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of training courses for a Territorial Army Commission have been cancelled during university holidays because of lack of numbers in the last two years. [78217]

Mr. Watson: Between September 2004 and March 2006, three TA officer training modules which coincided or partially overlapped with the university holidays were rescheduled or cancelled due to lack of numbers. This represents 1.8 per cent. of TA officer training modules over the period. A further three modules were cancelled which did not coincide with university holidays.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance is provided by her Department for the training of *(a)* members of the judiciary and *(b)* the police force in Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [75064]

Margaret Beckett: Working with Italy, which retains the international lead on judicial reform in Afghanistan, and other international partners, the UK is helping Afghanistan establish a functional, accessible, equitable and sustainable justice system.

The UK has provided US$500,000 in support of the United Nations Development Programme "Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan" (SJSA). The SJSA programme is helping the Government of Afghanistan restructure the justice

system to bring it into compliance with the constitution; rehabilitate judicial infrastructure; strengthen service delivery capacity of justice institutions and justice professionals; promote rule of law and improve access to justice. This programme supports the Government of Afghanistan's "Justice for All" Action Plan which provides the basis for the reform of the Justice Sector over the next twelve years.

Through the Global Opportunities Fund, the UK has also funded the Bar Human Rights Committee to deliver training to key actors in the legal sector. The training, delivered in April 2006, to staff from the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Afghan National Police and the Lawyers Association of Afghanistan focused on the re-establishment of the rule of law, women's access to justice, and human rights in international and domestic law.

Germany is responsible for co-ordinating international assistance to the Afghan government's police reform programmes. Since 2002, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has administered almost £5 million in support of these programmes through the Department for International Development/Ministry of Defence/FCO funded Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP). In financial year (FY) 2002-03 the GCPP Afghanistan Strategy contributed around £112,000, in 2003-04 £2.5 million, in 2004-05 £1.6 million and in 2005-06 £760,000. This has funded two UK police trainers at the Kabul Police Academy (2002-06), five UK mentors at the Regional Police Training College in Mazar-e-Sharif (2004-06) and the creation of a Crime Scene Investigation team in Kabul (2003-05). In FY 2006-07 the GCPP will continue to support police reform through the appointment of a Senior Police Adviser to the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in Lashkar Gah. The Adviser's role will include the provision of support to local police and justice officials in Helmand as well as identifying ways in which the UK can provide assistance to support the German and US police programmes.

The UK has also allocated £15 million in FY 2006-07 towards counter-narcotics law enforcement in Afghanistan. This funding will help support the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, the lead drugs law enforcement agency, and the Afghan Special Narcotics Force (ASNF) through training, mentoring and equipping personnel. The ASNF has caused significant disruption to the drugs trade, forcing traffickers to move drugs in smaller quantities. The ASNF is playing an important role as part of the wider Afghan law enforcement effort against illegal drugs.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the progress in the training of *(a)* members of the judiciary and *(b)* the police force in Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [75065]

Margaret Beckett: Italy has been leading the international community's effort on judicial reform. Training members of the judiciary has been a central focus and progress has been made. Over the past four years a series of training programmes funded by the international community has seen over 600 Afghan judges, prosecutors and lawyers, of whom 42 were women, undergo specialised legal training. These programmes are set to continue with further projects delivering training in legal aid, criminal and commercial law, technical assistance, financial crime, juvenile crime and gender justice to senior judges, law graduates and government officials.

Despite these efforts Afghanistan's justice system still lacks sufficiently qualified officials, adequate legal education and the necessary administrative tools and physical infrastructure. The UK will continue to support both the Afghan Government and our development partners in reforming Afghanistan's justice sector.

Germany has been leading efforts to train and reform the Afghan national police with assistance from the US. Since August 2002, there have been some considerable achievements. Over 50,000 police of all ranks and branches have been trained at the re-established Police Academy and at five regional training centres. A pay and rank review is under way aiming to reduce the current top-heavy structure and raise police salaries in order to attract the best candidates. An international conference on border management and police was co-hosted by Afghanistan and Germany in Qatar in February. It endorsed the findings that replenishment of the Law and Order Trust Fund, used to partly fund police salaries, was critical to the success of police pay and rank reform. We support this finding and the valuable work that the international community, in particular Germany and the US are putting into police training and reform.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funds her Department has provided to support the training of the police force in Afghanistan in each year since 2002; and if she will make a statement. [75067]

Margaret Beckett: Since 2002, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has administered almost £5 million in support of the Afghan Government's police reform through the Department for International Development/Ministry of Defence/FCO funded Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP). In financial year 2002-03 the GCPP Afghanistan Strategy contributed around £112,000, in 2003-04 £2.5 million, in 2004-05 £1.6 million and in 2005-06 £760,000. This funding has seen two UK police trainers at the Kabul Police Academy (2002-06), five UK mentors at the Regional Police Training College in Mazar-e-Sharif (2004-06) and the creation of a Crime Scene Investigation team in Kabul (2003-05).

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for International Development and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Defence regarding the security situation in Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [75072]

Margaret Beckett: There are regular meetings at ministerial and official level between the three departments on a range of issues relating to UK support to help establish a stable and prosperous Afghanistan. The security situation remains central to these discussions.

Our dialogue ensures the UK's efforts in Afghanistan remain on track. The recent deployment of a fully-integrated multi-disciplinary military/civilian

mission to Helmand Province demonstrates the importance of a continued cross-government approach.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total UK expenditure on reconstruction assistance for Afghanistan has been since 2002; and if she will make a statement. [75073]

Margaret Beckett: Since financial year 2001-02, the UK has committed over £1 billion in development assistance to Afghanistan. This includes the most recent pledge of £500 million in development aid made at the London Conference on Afghanistan in January 2006.

The UK is the second largest bilateral donor to Afghanistan behind the United States. We also remain the largest contributor to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, having committed £295 million between 2002-08.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the reduction in the volume of the poppy harvest which will result from the work of the British and coalition troops in Afghanistan in each of the next four years. [76136]

Dr. Howells: UK forces in Afghanistan are deployed under the international security assistance force (ISAF) and are not there to take direct action against the drugs trade. They will contribute to the broader counter-narcotics effort by providing the secure environment in which the rule of law can be applied, reconstruction can take place and legal rural livelihoods can be developed. ISAF forces will be able to help with the provision of training to Afghan counter-narcotics forces and will, within means and capabilities, provide support to their operations. They will also help the Afghan Government explain their policies to the Afghan people.

Sustainable drug elimination strategies take time. Bringing about a sustainable decrease in poppy cultivation requires a range of activities including arresting and convicting the traffickers who profit from the trade, and putting in place the development programmes which enable farmers to move away from growing poppy. That is why the UK is spending £270 million over a three-year period on supporting the Government of Afghanistan's National Drug Control Strategy.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of *(a)* reports of detainee abuse and *(b)* extra-judicial police actions in Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [78910]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Annual Human Rights Report states that Afghanistan remains a country of concern for human rights reasons. We continue to receive reports of detainee abuse and extra-judicial action throughout Afghanistan. While the Afghan Government have made real progress in improving human rights, they currently lack the resources and capacity to deal with all the challenges they face.

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), established in June 2002, is an autonomous institution within the Afghan Government set up to monitor human rights abuses and implement transitional justice. It continues to work closely with the Government of Afghanistan and international partners to combat the culture of impunity that has existed in Afghanistan and led to past human rights abuses. Since its inception the Commission has closed some 40 private jails; has had 1,600 people, who were being held illegally, released from prison, and managed eight workshops for prison governors on human rights. Its work is helping the country make a full transition to stability and peace based on democracy and human rights. I am pleased to be able to tell the hon. Member that the UK recently committed US$1 million in funding to the AIHRC.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total UK expenditure on *(a)* poppy eradication and interdiction, *(b)* law enforcement and *(c)* support of alternative livelihoods has been in Afghanistan in each year since 2003. [78911]

Dr. Howells: Over financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05, the UK allocated the following amounts to poppy eradication, law enforcement and interdiction, and alternative livelihoods in Afghanistan:

£ million

	Financial year	
	2003-04	*2004-05*
Eradication	1.33	2.25
Law enforcement and interdiction	3.6	8.6
Alternative livelihoods	5.8	10.7

As interdiction and eradication are separate strands of work the figures are not combined; interdiction figures are combined with law enforcement.

A written ministerial statement providing a breakdown of the £87 million spent over 2005-06 will shortly be released. Over 2006-07, £91.7 million will be spent by the UK on counter-narcotics in Afghanistan.

Amazon Deforestation

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has for the funding by the UK Government of the Amazon Deforestation Soya Certification project. [78896]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is providing a total of £239,880 over three years, from its Global Opportunities Fund, for the Amazonian Deforestation Soya Certification project in Brazil. This comprises:

	£
2004-05	82,360
2005-06	78,760
2006-07	78,760

The project is co-funded by 'The Nature Conservancy do Brasil' and aims to help combat deforestation by developing and implementing an independent certification scheme for "forest-friendly" soya, modeled on advances in timber certification in the Amazon, and thematic certification, such as dolphin-friendly tuna.

Burma

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the reported use of forced labour of prisoners in Burma. [78096]

Mr. McCartney: We are aware of reports of the use of forced labour by prisoners in Burma. However, we are unable to confirm the extent of the practice as diplomats and non-governmental organisations are not allowed access to prisons to verify this.

We condemn the use of all forced labour and fully support the efforts of the International Labour Organisation to put a permanent end to the practice.

I raised the use of forced labour and our concerns about the general treatment of prisoners with the Burmese ambassador on 15 June 2006.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the comments made by European Commission staff to MEPs on 21 November 2005 that a UN Security Council Resolution on Burma would not be helpful to *(a)* the UK position and *(b)* the EU common position on Burma. [78142]

Mr. McCartney: The European Commission has taken no position to date on any proposal for a UN Security Council Resolution on Burma. At the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 12 June, the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs proposed that the EU support current US-led efforts to secure a Security Council Resolution. Neither the Commission nor any member state spoke against the proposal, which we fully support.

China

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Chinese Government regarding the treatment of animals in China's animal markets. [78434]

Mr. McCartney: The Government take animal rights in China very seriously. We regularly raise the treatment of animals with the Chinese Government, most recently during my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's visit to China in November 2005, as the then Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We also welcome the work that non-governmental organisations undertake with the Chinese authorities to improve standards of animal welfare and to gradually build support for animal welfare issues there.

Family Planning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions *(a)* the UK has voted against and the US has voted for and *(b)* the UK has voted for and the US has voted against the adoption of measures relating to abortion and family planning related issues by the United Nations since 1997. [77135]

Dr. Howells: Abortion and family planning related issues crop up explicitly and implicitly in a wide range of UN bodies e.g. the General Assembly's Third and Second Committees, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, the United Nations Population Fund Executive Board, the World Health Assembly, General Assembly special sessions on e.g. HIV/AIDS and on Children.

Within those bodies, abortion and family planning related issues arise in a number of resolutions, often unexpected ones.

Generally speaking, most resolutions on family planning related issues in the UN are passed without a vote.

Few UN resolutions explicitly mention "abortion". Much of the debate in New York has centred on the phrase "sexual and reproductive health services". The US often makes an explanation of position after the adoption of such resolutions, to the effect that they do not recognise abortion as a method of family planning or support abortion in their reproductive health assistance.

Given the aforementioned factors, specifying those occasions on which there have been votes, and which way the US and UK have voted, would incur disproportionate costs.

Guantanamo Bay

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the comments by US officials that three prisoners detained by the United States at Guantanamo Bay committed suicide as a public relations gesture. [78926]

Dr. Howells: The President of the United States has expressed serious concern about the deaths of three detainees at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. We would share his sense of concern and await the results of the investigation into those deaths that has been promised by the US Government.

Iraq

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK contribution is to the fund provided by the European Union to the Iraqi Government; and if she will make a statement. [75069]

Margaret Beckett: On 22 May 2006, the European Commission announced its intention to allocate €200 million to Iraq for 2006 to build the capacity of Iraqi Ministries and institutions, to assist the constitutional review process, and to promote good governance and the rule of law. This new contribution comes on top of the €518 million provided between 2003 and 2005. The UK share of these contributions is 17.5 per cent.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her EU counterparts about the setting up of a European Commission presence in Baghdad; and if she will make a statement. [75144]

Margaret Beckett: At the 2 November 2004 General Affairs and External Relations Council, EU Foreign Ministers invited the Commission to enhance as appropriate, and with due regard to security, its presence in Baghdad. The Commission intends to open an office soon, which will be based initially in the British embassy in Baghdad. My officials are in close contact with the Commission to finalise the details.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's role is in restoring the Iraqi oil infrastructure; and if she will make a statement. [78905]

Dr. Howells: UK-sponsored experts and advisers have worked alongside Iraqi, US and World Bank colleagues to help Iraq consider its options to restore its oil infrastructure. UK Trade and Industry has played a role through a UK-Iraq Joint Board on Learning in the Oil Sector. This aims to help repair some of the skill and knowledge gaps in the sector, including the training of English language trainers for the oil industry.

The Government stand ready to further assist the Government of Iraq to restore its energy sector as required.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what technical assistance the UK is giving to the development of the judicial system and the training of judges in Iraq. [78907]

Dr. Howells: The United Kingdom offers a wide range of support to the Iraqi justice system, including:

training over 260 Iraqi judges, prosecutors, lawyers and justice department officials in human rights, international humanitarian law and independence of the judiciary. This has included training Iraqi trainers to implement humanitarian law training in Iraq;

contribution to an international fund that meets the cost of international advisers to the Iraqi High Tribunal, recruited by the tribunal to provide advice on international law in the trial of Saddam Hussein and members of his former regime;

supporting the development of judicial networks, in particular of young lawyers, in association with the Iraqi Bar Association;

offering support and assistance to help ensure the Central Criminal Court of Iraq has the capacity to uphold the Rule of Law.

The United Kingdom also supports the European Union's integrated Rule of Law Mission, training senior officials from Iraq's judicial, police and correctional services in the UK. The courses expose participants to UK working practices, methods of cooperation across the Rule of Law sector, and the importance of an overall approach which integrates respect for human rights.

Israel

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the British Government's policy is on Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank to the 1967 borders and from its settlements within the West Bank; what the Government's policy is on Israel's policy of unilateral withdrawal; and if she will make a statement. [78621]

Dr. Howells: It remains our position that all Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories are illegal and that there should be no expansion of/or construction within settlements, in line with the Roadmap.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear that the priority now is negotiations. These are manifestly the best way to move this process forward. But if negotiations do not take the process forward then other ways to move it forward will have to be found. It is the role of the international community to give negotiations the best chance of success.

We remain committed to the vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, and the establishment of a just and lasting peace.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the shelling of the Beit Lahia beach in the Gaza Strip by Israeli artillery; and what assessment she has made of the effect of the incident on the middle east peace process. [76927]

Dr. Howells: Israel has denied responsibility for the deaths of seven Palestinians on 9 June. However, we remain concerned that Israel's response to rocket fire from the Gaza Strip should be proportional. We call on Israel to ensure that civilians, particularly children, are not harmed. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed this matter with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 12 June. We also continue to call for an end to rocket fire from the Gaza Strip on Israeli targets and for calm in the occupied territories. We support President Abbas's efforts to restore order, using legally constituted security forces.

Laos

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Laos authorities on the case of the 10 North Korea refugees held in Luang Prabang detention centre in Laos, who may be handed over to the Chinese authorities. [78904]

Mr. McCartney: We understand the 10 Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea refugees detained in Laos have been released.

Latin America

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of embassy closures on UK influence in Latin America. [78056]

Mr. Hoon: All decisions on our overseas network have been based on the need to align our resources with our priorities, to maximise efficiency and ensure that the UK has a cost-effective and flexible network of overseas representation. The UK continues to engage actively with Latin American Governments, with Ambassadors and their teams making regular visits where we do not have resident representation. We have also appointed honorary consuls in each of these countries. The UK and Latin America share many values and international concerns and I have no doubt that our strong links will continue.

Palestine

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1808W, on Palestine, what factors are being considered in the review of the EU Police Mission in the Occupied Territories; and if she will make a statement. [75070]

Margaret Beckett: The EU Police Mission in the Occupied Territories is under close review to ensure that it complies with the Quartet's conditions on providing assistance to the Palestinians. The European Commission and member states are in close contact with the Mission, and an EU working group scrutinises the Mission's regular reports. In addition, there will be a formal six-month review in July 2006.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her assessment is of the implications of the recent decision by the European Parliament to proscribe the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam; and if she will make a statement. [73719]

Margaret Beckett: We welcome the EU's decision to list the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as a terrorist organisation. The EU listing procedure is a means by which EU member states work together collectively to fulfil their obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 1373 to freeze the assets of terrorists without delay. The EU has repeatedly urged the LTTE to change their ways, to turn away from violence, return to the negotiation table and pursue peace through political means. It is hoped the listing will help the LTTE to see that they need to change their ways and move away from their path of violence. At the same time, the EU has asked the Government of Sri Lanka to rein in other paramilitary groups from carrying out attacks in Government-controlled areas. The only way forward in the conflict is a negotiated settlement that satisfies the concerns and legitimate aspirations of all Sri Lankans and preserves democracy in Sri Lanka.

Vietnam

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Vietnamese Government to call for the release of imprisoned Hmong Protestant leader Ma Van Bay. [77919]

Mr. McCartney: We, with our EU partners, raise human rights issues with the Vietnamese Government at every suitable opportunity. We raised the case of Ma Van Bay, with our EU partners, in Hanoi in May. The EU expressed subsequently our concerns regarding this case to the Vietnamese Government at the latest meeting of the EU-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue in Hanoi on 14 June. We, with our EU partners, will continue to press the Vietnamese to respond to our concerns regarding this case.

Whaling

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times *(a)* she and *(b)* her predecessor met representatives from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to discuss whaling over the last 12 months. [78034]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* There have been no ministerial discussions between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on this issue. Officials from both the Departments, however, work closely throughout the year to ensure our policy on whaling is communicated to countries that are currently members of the International Whaling Commission and to those who have an interest in cetacean conservation. We will continue to work together on these important issues.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which countries *(a)* she and *(b)* her predecessor has discussed whaling over the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [78035]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed whaling with any country in the last 12 months. Every year, in advance of the annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office issues lobbying instructions to its missions to seek support from their host countries for the UK's position on whaling. The prominent role we play within the IWC ensures no country can be in any doubt as to the importance we attach to whale conservation.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Commission Staff

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many *(a)* public relations and *(b)* marketing staff the Electoral Commission employs; what the annual wage costs were for staff in each category in the last year for which figures are available; and what the (i) job titles and (ii) functions are of each of these staff. [78294]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not categorise its staff in this way. However, it employs 10 staff whose duties it considers to fall, in whole or in part, within the two areas referred to. They consist of four press officers, two staff dealing with parliamentary affairs, and four staff working on voter information campaigns. Their total annual wage costs in 2005-06 were £116,404, £62,892 and £108,129 respectively.

I have asked the Electoral Commission to write to my hon. Friend with the full details of the job titles and functions of these staff, and to place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Broadcast Proceedings

David Lepper: To ask the Chairman of the Administration Committee if he will make a statement on the changes recommended by the Committee to the rules on broadcasting proceedings of the House and on filming and photography within the precincts. [79009]

Mr. Doran: The Committee has recently made a number of recommendations on changes to the rules on broadcasting proceedings of the House and on filming and photography within the precincts. Mr. Speaker has agreed to these changes being made on a trial basis. The Committee will consider in December whether to recommend that they be made permanent.

From the return of the House in October, and for a trial period, a greater variety of shots of proceedings in the Chamber will be allowed than is the case at present, including a greater use of reaction shots in order to illustrate the mood of the House, and the provision of a low-level atmospheric sound-feed during divisions rather than the current complete silence.

From the same time, BBC Parliament will be released on a trial basis from the undertaking previously given to the Broadcasting Committee, to carry live Commons Chamber coverage regardless of proceedings at the same time in the House of Lords, on condition that the freedom to select proceedings in the Lords should be used only sparingly, and that Mr. Speaker should be consulted in such cases. A reporter voice-over will also now be permitted during divisions.

Two new interview points have been identified within the precincts: in the south west corner of Westminster Hall once the current works there have been completed, and on the Green in New Palace Yard, subject in the latter case to a permit from the Serjeant at Arms. Filming pieces to camera of a presenter walking across Central Lobby will also be permitted before 9 am on non-sitting days, similarly subject to a permit from the Serjeant at Arms.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Select Committee Recommendations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House what actions have been taken by his Department to implement *(a)* Procedure and *(b)* Modernisation of the House of Commons Select Committee recommendations since the 2001-02 Session; and if he will make a statement. [77843]

Mr. Straw: The actions being taken by the Government in response to the reports of the Procedure and Modernisation Committees, so far as they are matters for Government, have been set out in written responses to those reports and subsequent debates on the floor of the House. The following tables give details in relation to each report.

(a) Procedure Committee

Report	*Government reply and any subsequent debate*
1st Report 2001-02: Making remedial orders: recommendations of the JCHR	Letter to JCHR published in HC 112 of session 2004-05
2nd Report 2001-02: Appointment of Deputy Speakers	HC 1121 of session 2001-02
3rd Report 2001-02: Parliamentary Questions	Cm 5628 Motion and related Standing Order changes debated by the House on 29 October 2002
1st (and 2nd) Reports 2002-03: Delegated Legislation: proposals for a sifting committee	HC 684 of session 2002-03
3rd Report 2002-03: Sessional Orders	HC 613 of session 2003-04 Motion debated by the House on 3 November 2004
4th report 2002-03: Procedures for Debates, Private Members' Bills and the Powers of the Speaker	HC 610 of session 2003-04 Motion and related Standing Order changes debated by the House on 26 October 2004
1st Report 2003-04: Estimates and appropriation procedure	HC 576 of session 2003-04 Motion and related Standing Order changes debated by the House on 12 May 2004
2nd Report 2003-04: Results of sitting hours questionnaire	No response required
3rd Report 2003-04: Joint activities with the National Assembly for Wales	HC 681 of session 2003-04 Related Standing Order changes debated 7 June 2004
4th Report 2003-04: Programming of Legislation	HC 1169 of session 2003-04 Motion and related Standing Order changes debated by the House on 26 October 2004

Report	Government reply and any subsequent debate
1st Report 2004-05: The Sub Judice rule of the House of Commons	No response yet required (further work being done by Committee)
1st Report 2005-06: Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill	Letter to Chairman of Committee Recommendations being further considered during passage of the Bill

(b) Modernisation Committee

Report	Government reply and any subsequent debate
1st Report 2001-02: Select committees	Motion and related Standing Order changes debated by the House 14 May 2002
2nd Report 2001-02: House of Commons Reform programme	Motion and related Standing Order changes debated by the House 29 October 2002
1st Report (2002-03): Programming of Bills	Related Standing Order changes debated by the House 6 November 2003
1st Report (2003-04): Connecting Parliament with the Public	Related Standing Order changes and Motion debated by the House on 26 November 2004 and 26 January 2005
1st Report (2004-05): Sitting Hours	Related Standing Order changes debated by the House 26 January 2005
2nd Report (2004-05): Scrutiny of European Business	Under consideration

TRANSPORT

Antisocial Behaviour (Trains)

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many antisocial behaviour orders have been applied for by the British Transport police in the last 12 months, broken down by *(a)* Government office region and *(b)* constituency. [77786]

Derek Twigg: The British Transport police (BTP) have provided the following information on the number of antisocial behaviour order applications recorded by BTP Area; data is not collected by Government office region or by parliamentary constituency.

Between 31 May 2005 and 1 June 2006 the following number of antisocial behaviour order applications were made by the BTP:

BTP area	Applications
London North	7
London South	32
London Underground	32
North East	8
North West	1
Scotland	0
Wales and Western	0

Car Sharing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what help the Department is giving to car-sharing schemes. [77812]

Gillian Merron: Through the local transport planning system and other initiatives, the Department encourages local authorities to set up authority-wide car share schemes and to promote car sharing as part of site specific workplace travel plans.

The Highways Agency is implementing workplace travel plans on the strategic road network and piloting the use of dedicated car share lanes.

Crossrail

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on the cost of the Crossrail project of re-using *(a)* the Farringdon to Moorgate section of Thameslink and *(b)* the disused Moorgate to Liverpool Street mainline station link. [78613]

Derek Twigg: I understand from Crossrail London Rail Links Ltd (CLRL) that reusing the section of Thameslink running from Farringdon to Moorgate for operational purposes would involve bringing the tunnel up to the surface near Farringdon and returning below ground near Moorgate. This is considered impractical, given that there is not sufficient space for tunnel portals in these areas. Therefore, CLRL has not carried out a cost assessment of this option.

CLRL have informed me that they are not aware of a disused mainline station link running from Moorgate to Liverpool Street.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps will be taken to ensure that listed buildings located at the sites of proposed Crossrail stations are not *(a)* damaged and *(b)* demolished. [78614]

Derek Twigg: We have sought to avoid adverse effects on listed buildings wherever practicable. However, the construction of Crossrail would result in the demolition of two listed buildings and the modification of a further thirteen.

We are in the process of negotiating agreements with English Heritage and the relevant local authority, as appropriate, for those listed buildings that are affected by Crossrail works. These agreements will describe the mitigation required at each location. Impacts from construction works on any listed buildings which are not covered by a separate agreement would be controlled via mechanisms set out in the environmental minimum requirements that will be set for the project. Potential settlement impacts are dealt with in Crossrail's settlement policy.

For further information please see information paper 'D18–Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas' at:

http://bilddocuments.crossrail.co.uk/80256FA10055060F/pages/informationpapers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost of the Crossrail project is in each year to completion. [78620]

Derek Twigg: The Parliamentary Estimate of Expense, submitted with the Crossrail hybrid Bill, estimates the total cost of Crossrail at £10.292 billion in Q1 2002 prices. It is not possible at this stage to make reliable estimates of the likely annual cost.

Debt Collectors

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its (i) executive agencies and (ii) non-departmental public bodies use the services of private debt collectors. [71076]

Gillian Merron: The services of private debt collectors are not used by the Department, its executive agencies nor its non-departmental bodies. However, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is to launch a nine-month trial from 26 June 2006 for the use of private debt collectors to recover unpaid continuous registration penalties.

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the Chief Accounting Officer of his Department. [76840]

Gillian Merron: The Principal Accounting Officer for the Department for Transport is its Permanent Secretary, Sir David Rowlands KCB, who has a BA (Hons) Philosophy Politics and Economics (Oxon).

Principal Accounting Officer is a role that the permanent secretary combines with his personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the department and for Department-wide procedures in financial and other matters. The Principal Accounting Officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by suitably qualified staff and experienced senior managers such as the finance director.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by his Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77418]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport does not keep a separate record of the amount spent annually on alcohol for hospitality purposes. Expenditure in the Department is conducted in accordance with the principles of Government accounting. The Department's policy on hospitality is set out in its staff handbook, which advises that, on each occasion, careful consideration should be given to the need, form and extent of hospitality and whether if it can be justified. Staff are prohibited from claiming alcohol under the Department's travel and subsistence arrangements.

First Capital Connect

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations his Department has received from First Capital Connect regarding fares on its services. [78624]

Derek Twigg: The Department has received no recent representations from First Capital Connect on fares.

Flag Flying

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure the Union Flag is flown from his Department's buildings on every day the offices are open. [77738]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport follows the rules and guidance on flag flying issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. These rules are approved by the Queen on advice from the Department. There are no plans at present to change the number of days flags can be flown from Government buildings.

Government Vehicles

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Government *(a)* have agreed and *(b)* plan to introduce a procurement policy aimed at ensuring that from 2008 the average level of carbon emissions from motor cars it purchases or leases will not exceed 140g per kilometre. [75619]

Dr. Ladyman: On 12 June 2006 Government launched new targets for sustainable operations on the Government estate, alongside the Sustainable Procurement Task Force Action Plan. The target for reducing carbon emissions from road vehicles used for Government administrative operations is 15 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 2005-06 levels.

Great Western Route

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will investigate the reasons for *(a)* recent delays on the Great Western route and *(b)* track performance problems in hot weather. [78031]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* I have held meetings with First Great Western and Network Rail to assess performance. Joint action plans are in place between Network Rail and FGW to address performance issues. These are monitored monthly.

Whether to impose temporary speed restrictions during spells of hot weather is a matter for Network Rail to judge in line with its normal operating procedures.

Industrial Action (Railways)

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many working days on the rail network were lost to industrial action in the last 12 months, broken down by region. [77781]

Derek Twigg: The Department does not keep a record of days lost to industrial action as industrial relations are a matter between individual employers and employees.

Invalid Carriages

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many recommendations of the Final Report for the Review of Class Two and Class Three Powered Wheelchairs and Powered Scooters (invalid carriages) published in July 2005 have been implemented; and if he will make a statement. [76464]

Gillian Merron: We are considering the recommendations made in the report from Transport and Travel Research Ltd. fully before taking any action on the recommendations.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which Government Bills sponsored by his Department remain to be introduced during the 2005-06 Session; [77845]

(2) which Government Bills sponsored by his Department he has bid for in the next Session of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [77846]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Leader of the House of Commons (Mr. Straw) on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1431W.

Leominster Station

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria he used in deciding not to include Leominster train station on the Access for All station list. [77672]

Derek Twigg: The criteria used for prioritising stations to receive accessibility improvements as part of the Access for All programme were published in the Railways for All Strategy; a copy of which is available in the House Library.

M25

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the merits of charging for use of the M25. [78860]

Dr. Ladyman: No specific assessment has been made of the merits of charging for use of the M25. The Road Pricing Feasibility Study, published in 2004, considered the merits of a possible future national road pricing system for all roads including the motorway network.

Passenger Focus

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to restructure Passenger Focus. [78431]

Derek Twigg: We have no plans to restructure Passenger Focus.

Reduced Fare Tickets

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is towards train operators who intend to limit the use of *(a)* cheap day and *(b)* other reduced fare tickets between 1630 and 1900 to and from London; and if he will make a statement. [77468]

Derek Twigg: Off-peak fares are unregulated, which means operators are free to create fares, withdraw fares, set prices and any time restrictions on a commercial basis, to fill spare off-peak capacity.

Roads

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work is scheduled to improve the condition of the *(a)* A12 and *(b)* A127. [78623]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the carbon dioxide impact of each road scheme which he has approved since 2000 through the local transport plans. [75929]

Gillian Merron: The Department considers carbon dioxide impacts of road schemes as part of the normal major scheme approval processes. However, information on the carbon dioxide impact of each road scheme approved since 2000 through local transport plans could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has held with ministerial colleagues on the removal of roadside distractions. [77939]

Dr. Ladyman: No recent discussions at ministerial level have been held on this subject.

Rochdale/Oldham Loop Line

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to claw back funding from the operators of the Rochdale/Oldham Loop Line following reductions in services over the last four years. [76668]

Derek Twigg: Northern Rail operates services between Manchester and Oldham/Rochdale. The level of service which Northern Rail operates between these locations is in line with that required by its franchise agreement.

Rural Transport Services

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rural bus services have *(a)* stopped and *(b)* been suspended indefinitely in each year since 1997. [78204]

Gillian Merron: The total numbers of local bus service cancellations is given in the following table. It is not possible to identify which of the services cancelled were rural bus services.

	Total number of bus service cancellations	*Total number of new services introduced*
1997-98	4,283	5,081
1998-99	4,385	5,813
1999-2000	6,224	4,718
2000-01	4,533	4,746
2001-02	3,947	5,108
2002-03	3,420	4,537
2003-04	3,271	4,581
2004-05	3,190	4,562
Total	33,253	39,146

Note
GB figures, taken from Traffic Commissioner annual reports

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bus passenger miles in rural areas were undertaken in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2005; and how many of these were supported by public funds. [78205]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not hold information on passenger miles for all rural areas in the form requested, and it is not possible to identify total local authority support for rural services. However, in 1998, in recognition of the particular needs of rural areas, we introduced specific funding for the support of rural bus services through the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant (RBSG). The grant is distributed to local authorities on the basis of their rural population. Total grant for England has risen from £32.5 million in 1998 to £54.3 million in 2006. The grant has provided for over 2,000 new and enhanced services.

Sex Offenders Register

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether provisions exist to prevent people on the Sex Offenders Register from being allowed on to the Register of Approved Driving Instructors. [79112]

Dr. Ladyman: We currently do not check the Sex Offenders Register for Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) applications. Later this year, the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) will introduce enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks for all applicants and those already on the register.

In the meantime, one of the conditions for registration is that the applicant is a 'fit and proper' person to have his name entered in the ADI register. As part of that assessment each applicant is required to declare any unspent convictions. The ADI registrar, in considering whether the applicant is 'fit and proper' takes account of character references and any declared convictions. Extracts of relevant court proceedings are considered where appropriate.

Should the registrar become aware of anything, including convictions, that would call into doubt a registered ADI's fitness then he can initiate proceedings to remove them from the register.

Special Advisers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1957W, on special advisers, how much was spent on travel and subsistence for special advisers between *(a)* July and December and *(b)* December 2005 and the end of the financial year. [77417]

Gillian Merron: The total amount spent on travel and subsistence for special advisers between *(a)* July to end December 2005 and *(b)* January 2006 to the end of the financial year are as follows:

Period	*Travel and subsistence costs (£)*
(a) July to end December 2005	3,682.48
(b) January to end March 2006	529.68

All official travel by special advisers is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Swindon-Cheltenham Railway Line

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to re-signal the railway line from Swindon to Cheltenham. [77811]

Derek Twigg: Any plan to re-signal this route is an operational matter for Network Rail and their recently published business plan included £118 million to be spent on signalling on the Great Western Mainline as a whole over the next 3 years.

Weymouth Relief Road

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he has approved the building of the Weymouth Relief Road; [77774]

(2) what funding has been allocated for building the Weymouth Relief Road in each of the next 10 years. [77776]

Gillian Merron: The Weymouth Relief Road was provisionally accepted for funding through the Local Transport Programme with an agreed contribution of £54.567 million in December 2003, subject to Dorset

county council completing the relevant statutory processes and complying with the conditions in our offer of funding.

In July 2005 we invited the South West region to provide advice on the priority it attaches to major transport schemes in the South West, including the Weymouth Relief Road, within an indicative Regional Funding Allocation up to 2015-16. We hope to announce our response to this advice before the summer recess.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans the building of the Weymouth Relief Road to start; and when it is scheduled to be completed. [77775]

Gillian Merron: Dorset county council, as the promoting authority for this scheme, is responsible for its delivery including completion of the necessary statutory procedures and compliance with the Department's major scheme requirements. We hope to respond before the summer recess to the region's advice on their priorities and suggested funding timescales for this and other schemes within the indicative Regional Funding Allocation for the South West.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the management of the BBC as part of the charter renewal process regarding the proposed re-location of BBC departments to Manchester. [78147]

Mr. Woodward: The Department has held numerous discussions with the management of the BBC on a wide range of issues as part of charter review, including on the BBC's proposals to move a significant amount of production outside London, particularly to the north west of England. The Government welcome the BBC's proposals in principle, subject to proper consideration of value for money.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she will announce the new BBC licence fee settlement; and if she will make a statement. [77534]

Mr. Woodward: The BBC's current licence fee settlement runs until the end of financial year 2006-07. The Government are currently conducting a funding review to determine the level of the television licence fee to apply from April 2007. It will announce the outcome later this year.

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what account she will take of HM Treasury's forecast rate of growth of household income in determining the BBC's request for a licence fee increase of 2.3 per cent. above inflation; [78112]

(2) what account she will take of the licence fee increase agreed in 2001 in determining the appropriate level of the BBC licence fee in the future; [78113]

(3) how she plans to determine affordability in setting the appropriate future level of the BBC licence fee; [78114]

(4) what account she will take of commitments to ensure *(a)* efficiency savings and *(b)* the prevention of inflation of staff and talent costs at the BBC in determining the future level of the BBC licence fee. [78232]

Mr. Woodward: The Government are currently conducting a funding review to determine the level of the licence fee to apply from April 2007. All relevant factors will be considered as part of the review.

Commonwealth Institute Building

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department has plans to bring forward legislation relating to the Commonwealth Institute building; what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had to discuss delisting of the Commonwealth Institute; and who attended each meeting. [78379]

Mr. Lammy: Given the Commonwealth Institute's unique role as an international and inter-governmental organisation, whose future is of concern to all 53 Commonwealth countries, Government are considering whether special measures are appropriate in relation to the Commonwealth Institute building. No decisions have yet been taken.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had two meetings with representatives of the Commonwealth Institute. A cross-government working group, which included representatives from the Commonwealth Institute, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development, Department for Education and Skills, and No. 10 met on a number of occasions to discuss Government support for the Commonwealth Institute. The group received advice on the planning process from the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which Minister in her Department is responsible for monitoring her Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if she will make a statement. [73947]

Mr. Woodward: Under Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Ministers and Government Departments have a duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity. This has been replaced by a similar provision under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural

Communities Act which comes into effect on the 1 October 2006. There is no statutory duty to monitor compliance with this duty.

I have responsibility within the Department for sustainable development issues. We have taken a number of steps to benefit biodiversity including:

Signing up to the biodiversity target under the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate.

Continuing to support the work of the Royal Parks Agency, delivered through their biodiversity management plans for each of the eight royal parks.

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the chief accounting officer of her Department. [76823]

Mr. Lammy: The permanent secretary, Dame Sue Street, is the accounting officer for DCMS, has an MA degree and her professional career spans over 30 years in the public and private sector. The accounting officer is a role that the permanent secretary combines with her personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the Department and for Department-wide procedures in financial and other matters. The accounting officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by suitably qualified and experienced senior managers including the chief operating officer who has a degree in economics and is an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by her Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77197]

Mr. Lammy: Expenditure in the Department is conducted in accordance with the principles of Government accounting as well as the Department's internal guidance, including that on hospitality.

In line with this, the Department maintains records of expenditure on overall hospitality. The costs associated with expenditure on alcohol are met from within constraints of delegated divisional hospitality and are not separately identified. I have no plans to record these separately.

Diamond Jubilee

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what preparations are being made to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [78586]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is not currently involved in preparations to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Any announcement of plans will be made closer to the time.

Film Licensing Certificates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance the Government have issued to licensing authorities on their powers to regulate film licensing certificates following the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003. [78300]

Mr. Woodward: Guidance to local licensing authorities on this matter was issued as part of the guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, published in July 2004.

Goodison Report

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of the recommendations of the Goodison report she has implemented; which recommendations relating to direct taxation she has implemented; and what plans she has to implement the recommendations not implemented to date. [78308]

Mr. Lammy: The Goodison report contains a total of 45 recommendations. Of these, 29 recommendations are directed at a range of bodies, including: my own Department; the various funding bodies; the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA—formerly Resource); the Arts and Humanities Research Council (formerly—Arts and Humanities Research Board); the Trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund/ Heritage Lottery Fund; HM Revenue and Customs; and 16 recommendations relate to taxation and so are a matter for the Treasury.

The key areas in which the Goodison Report has been implemented are as follows:

my Department's administrative responsibilities for export licensing, the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, the Government indemnity scheme and the acceptance in lieu scheme have all been transferred to the MLA;

the Renaissance in the Regions programme for regional museums has been extended to all nine English regions;

annual funding for the National Heritage Memorial Fund will increase to £10 million in 2007-08; and

the VAT refund scheme has been extended to university museums and galleries.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) which Government Bills sponsored by her Department remain to be introduced during the 2005-06 session; [77833]

(2) which Government Bills sponsored by her Department she has bid for in the next session of Parliament; and if she will make a statement. [77834]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the

House of Commons (Mr. Straw) on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1431W.

Licensing Act

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will issue guidance on the licensing requirements for garden fetes and similar events held solely for the purpose of raising money for good causes which include an element of live music and charge a fee for entrance, but at which no alcohol is provided and there is no element of private gain. [77658]

Mr. Woodward: I see no requirement for guidance to licensing authorities covering the circumstances described, since the provision of entertainment at a garden fete or similar event held for charitable purposes is not 'regulated entertainment' for the purposes of the Licensing Act 2003. Such an event would therefore be exempt from the requirement for a licence, unless the intention was to apply some or all of its proceeds for the purposes of private gain or to undertake the sale or supply of alcohol.

London Bombings (Assembly Report)

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what response she has made to the recommendations aimed at her Department in the London Assembly's report on the 7 July bombings. [77535]

Tessa Jowell: The Assembly report puts forward one recommendation for my Department. We will provide a full response to the 7 July Review Committee in due course.

National Lottery

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to which organisations New Opportunities funding has been distributed in each Westminster constituency; and which projects were funded. [78548]

Mr. Caborn: The New Opportunities Fund (NOF) has made 1,831 lottery grants, with a total value of over £110 million, in Northern Ireland. It is not possible to list all the recipient organisations and projects, but details of each project can be viewed on my Department's website, searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk, which uses information supplied by the lottery distributors.

The following table gives the number and value of NOF awards in each Westminster constituency in Northern Ireland.

Constituency	*Number of awards*	*Total value of awards (£)*
Belfast East	56	1,953,046
Belfast North	114	16,448,626
Belfast South	107	16,190, 263
Belfast West	119	4,854,711
East Antrim	58	746,982
East Londonderry	102	1,661,302
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	144	4,065,440
Foyle	168	8,271,792
Lagan Valley	66	1,644,067
Mid Ulster	141	7,610,417
Newry and Armagh	139	10,320,619
North Antrim	106	12,633,210
North Down	48	1,212,856
South Antrim	84	2,081,065
South Down	90	1,777,694
Strangford	85	9,308,154
Upper Bann	72	2,124,799
West Tyrone	132	7,447,990

Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of gross domestic product was accounted for by tourism in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the rest of the United Kingdom in the last year for which figures are available. [78870]

Mr. Woodward: Industry-specific data are only available for Gross Value Added (GVA), not Gross Domestic Product.

In direct terms, tourism contributes approximately 3.7 per cent. of whole-economy value added in Wales. For the UK in total, tourism contributed an estimated 3.4 per cent. of GVA in 2003 (it is not possible to provide a figure for the UK excluding Wales).

These figures were both calculated using tourism satellite account methodology but were derived separately and so are not directly comparable.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which 10 tourist attractions in *(a)* Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Peterborough constituency and *(c)* Peterborough city council area attracted the largest number of visitors in each year since 1997. [77912]

Mr. Woodward: My Department does not maintain central records of visitors to tourist attractions. However VisitBritain and its predecessor have previously carried out periodical surveys of regional attractions. The data available from the surveys covering Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the estimated visitor numbers for the most popular attractions in these areas is set out in the following tables.

(a) Cambridgeshire

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Imperial War Museum, Duxford	391,388	403,928	399,824	390,611	434,322	382,255	442,772	444,478
King's College Chapel, Cambridge	300,674	285,602	264,565	245,926	209,736	212,244	201,887	21,510
Cambridge American Cemetery	289,845	171,025	84,800	171,109	159,719	175,000	175,00	160,000
Anglesey Abbey, Lode	108,886	118,824	124,526	124,050	132,238	141,651	165,882	160,449
Ely Cathedral	250,000	250,000	91,918	86,707	90,052	86,034	79,221	78,183
University Botanic Garden, Cambridge	100,000	110,000	110,000	100,000	110,000	103,500	127,336	124,885
Peterborough Cathedral	90,000	90,000	80,000	48,700	46,706	48,291	54,153	60,563
Nene Valley Railway, Stibbington	59,363	66,210	66,493	63,278	64,606	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery	39,000	34,045	31,432	[1]—	[1]—	33,183	31,003	31,088
Sedgwick Museum	23,760	22,437	21,042	21,364	21,014	22,454	[1]—	[1]—

[1] No data.

(b) Peterborough

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Big Sky Adventure Play, Peterborough	105,000	110,391	140,334	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Peterborough Cathedral	90,000	90,000	80,000	48,700	46,706	48,291	54,153	60,563
Nene Valley Railway, Stibbington	59,363	66,210	66,493	63,278	64,606	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery	39,000	34,045	31,432	[1]—	[1]—	33,183	31,003	31,088
Activity World, Peterborough	80,000	82,000	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	15,490	[1]—	[1]—
Railworld	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	3,466	[1]—	[1]—
Thorney Abbey Church	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	800	[1]—	[1]—
Thorney Heritage Museum	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	743	[1]—	[1]—
Longthorpe Tower	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	459	[1]—	[1]—

[1] No data.

Trooping the Colour

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how the Government will be represented at this year's Trooping the Colour. [78861]

Mr. Watson: Trooping the Colour at the Queen's birthday parade is organised by Headquarters The Household Division. They do not allocate tickets to individual Members of the Government, but blocks of seats are allocated to the Prime Minister's Office and to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Ministry of Defence was represented by the Armed Forces Minister.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the *(a)* flag of the Commonwealth and *(b)* personal Commonwealth flag of Her Majesty the Queen will be displayed at this year's Trooping the Colour. [78862]

Mr. Lammy: For Trooping of the Colour, the flags of all 53 countries currently in the Commonwealth are flown in Horseguards Road. The flag of the Commonwealth and the personal Commonwealth flag of Her Majesty are not flown.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

People Trafficking

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with the Home Office on border controls to prevent the trafficking of young women into the United Kingdom. [75356]

Meg Munn: As a Member of the Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking, I work closely with Home Office colleagues to ensure that provision for victims is sensitive to the needs of young women trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation. All UK immigration officers have been made aware of a best practice toolkit to enable prompt and accurate identification of victims. In addition, immigration officers receive regular intelligence briefings and inter-agency briefings that highlight issues and trends in respect of trafficking.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Brownfield Development

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the

answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1387-88W, on Brownfield development, if she will break down the 2004 figures in each column by region. [74283]

Yvette Cooper: The information available is from Land Use Change Statistics, shown in the following tables.

New dwellings on previously developed land as a proportion of all new dwellings (excluding conversions), by GOR

Percentage

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	England
1986	39	53	45	38	51	52	76	75	37	51
1987	35	48	39	46	45	46	91	47	37	48
1988	41	51	42	36	46	52	85	54	38	50
1989	45	50	43	41	46	52	87	56	45	52
1990	42	55	44	41	50	53	84	54	42	51
1991	47	55	43	38	49	47	83	55	35	50
1992	56	62	47	37	53	48	89	51	40	53
1993	42	62	51	35	56	52	87	53	36	53
1994	52	57	50	37	49	56	83	48	35	51
1995	50	60	49	38	53	56	84	54	37	54
1996	53	65	51	37	50	53	82	57	35	54
1997	46	58	49	37	56	53	89	54	34	53
1998	50	62	51	35	54	54	92	56	38	55
1999	40	60	50	37	54	58	89	62	40	56
2000	47	68	57	43	55	54	89	62	45	59
2001	45	70	55	48	60	59	90	66	49	60
2002	57	72	63	54	67	58	90	66	48	64
2003	52	72	65	54	70	59	95	65	58	66
2004	61	78	68	54	73	62	95	72	54	69

Source:
Land Use Change in England: Residential development to 2005 (LUCS-21)

New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings, by GOR

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	England
1986	20	6	10	25	35	37	27	32	24	26
1987	25	20	16	20	21	25	28	24	19	22
1988	13	10	15	15	15	20	22	28	19	19
1989	6	10	13	14	12	22	25	27	18	18
1990	7	11	15	15	15	25	29	30	21	20
1991	5	10	13	11	11	18	22	24	16	16
1992	6	8	16	13	11	20	12	24	19	16
1993	4	7	12	10	10	16	10	19	15	12
1994	9	6	10	7	8	15	10	16	11	11
1995	10	7	9	10	11	15	9	17	14	12
1996	11	8	10	8	9	13	10	16	15	11
1997	6	7	7	8	11	13	13	16	13	11
1998	3	7	11	8	10	14	13	17	14	12
1999	4	9	9	8	9	17	12	17	15	12
2000	6	13	10	8	11	16	17	19	18	14
2001	6	9	12	10	11	17	17	21	17	14
2002	6	9	12	10	13	15	17	22	18	15
2003	4	9	15	11	14	14	16	22	20	15
2004	10	10	14	9	12	16	13	26	18	15

Source:
Land Use Change in England: Residential development to 2005 (LUCS-21)

Building Regulations

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what inspection is made of enforcement of building regulation by private sector providers. [75667]

Angela E. Smith: Private sector approved inspectors do not have enforcement powers for breaches of the Building Regulations. No formal inspection is made of the work of either the public or private sector as, under the Building Act 1984, building control is a fully devolved service. However, my officials meet with representatives of both sectors to discuss operational and delivery issues, and have helped to develop Performance Indicators and a revised Performance Standards Handbook, both due to be published soon.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the extent to which private sector providers are used by local authorities to enforce building regulations. [76938]

Angela E. Smith: We have made no such assessment. The statutory function of enforcing the building regulations rests with local authorities. Local authorities may engage private sector professional assistance to help them discharge their day-to-day building control responsibilities, e.g. assisting with plan checking.

Bullying

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints of bullying were made in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005-06; and how many cases were upheld. [78336]

Angela E. Smith: Staff are encouraged to seek an informal resolution of all matters in dispute with the individual and their line manager. Where it is not possible to resolve informally, complaints of bullying are dealt with under the Department's complaints and grievances procedures. Information on the number of cases dealt with is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Castle Point Borough Council

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the performance of Castle Point borough council; what steps she is taking to improve the performance of the council; and if she will make a statement. [78176]

Angela E. Smith: A lead official from the Department for Communities and Local Government is working with Castle Point borough council following the council's assessment as 'poor' under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment in June 2004. The lead official advises Ministers regularly on the capability and capacity of the council and following significant improvements over the last year, particularly in the strength of officer and political management, we have recently agreed that formal monitoring meetings will be held on a two monthly rather than a monthly basis.

In December last year the Audit Commission reported that the council were making 'good progress'.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department organises *(a)* adult learning courses and *(b)* occupational and professional development courses for its staff. [78322]

Angela E. Smith: Skills for Life support is offered to new entrants and is also highlighted to managers, as part of the induction process. The Department for Communities and Local Government intranet has a Skills for Life page providing information and web links to a variety of resources.

English classes with Westminster Adult Education Service have been set up for Mitie catering staff.

All other learning and development is commissioned through the Department's Training Framework Agreement covering 18 different suppliers.

Fire Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Department and its predecessors have spent on external consultants on fire service related projects in each year since 2000, broken down by project. [73400]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 9 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 218W.

The Department of Communities and Local Government was formed in May 2006 (formerly ODPM formed in May 2002) and expenditure prior to May 2002 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. For the period May 2002 to March 2006 the figures are detailed in the following table.

	£ million
	Cost
2002-03	3.38
2003-04	5.29
2004-05	13.27
2005-06	15.35

The increase in expenditure since 2002-03 can be explained by the three large projects known as New Dimension, Firelink and FireControl.

These projects constitute:

(i) an important part of the Government's response to the events of 11 September 2001;

(ii) a reflection of the need to serve the interests of public safety and security by enhancing the ability of the fire and rescue service to respond to major incidents; and

(iii) support the modernisation of the fire and rescue service following Professor Bain's Independent Review of the Fire Service, published in December 2002.

The use of consultants enables a range of professional expertise to be deployed on these projects.

Flags

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will ensure the Union Flag is flown from her Department's buildings on every day the offices are open. [77747]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government follows the rules and guidance on flag flying issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. These rules are approved by the Queen on advice from the Department. There are no

plans at present to change the number of days flags can be flown from Government buildings.

Licensing Act

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will meet the hon. Member for Castle Point to discuss the extent to which the Licensing Act 2003 is being applied consistently by local authorities. [78172]

Mr. Woodward: I have been asked to reply.

While I would be happy to meet the hon. Member, interpretation of the Licensing Act 2003 is a matter for licensing authorities in the first instance and the Courts in the case of a dispute. Ministers cannot tell licensing authorities how to interpret the legislation, although we are currently reviewing the guidance issued under s.182 of the Licensing Act 2003 which aims to help licensing authorities operate the regime. If the hon. Member would like to write to me to outline any specific concerns, I would be happy to consider them as part of the review of the guidance.

Ordnance Survey

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment Ordnance Survey has made of its potential use of the TerraSAR-X satellite once it is operational. [78323]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is as follows:

"Ordnance Survey continuously monitors developments in the field of satellite and remote sensing technology. It is interested in new satellite technologies and is reviewing the capabilities of a range of new satellite sensors and platforms to augment its activity and improve operational efficiency in its ability to monitor change in Great Britain."

Regional Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1816W, on regional government, how much funding is being allocated to the regional round tables in each of the two years. [78241]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA will contribute up to £46,000 in 2006-07 and up to £72,000 in 2007-08 towards a programme of activities put forward by each regional sustainable development round table and agreed by DEFRA.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Delegated Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the operation of *(a)* the Electricity and Gas (Energy Efficiency Obligation) Order 2001 and *(b)* the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998; and what recent representations he has received about the operation of each instrument. [77803]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Electricity and Gas (Energy Efficiency Obligations) Order 2001 enabled the Government to effectively implement the first phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC), an obligation on electricity and gas suppliers to promote improvements in household energy efficiency. It is administered by Ofgem on behalf of Government. The first phase of the EEC is expected to lead to 0.4 million tonnes of carbon being saved annually by 2010. All energy suppliers met their targets under EEC phase 1, allowing 10 million householders to benefit from energy saving measures. The second phase of the EEC came into force on 1 April 2005 under Electricity and Gas (Energy Efficiency Obligations) Order 2004, and we have not received any recent representations about the operation of the 2001 Order. We routinely meet with energy efficiency industry stakeholders on the operation of the 2004 Order and our commitment to extend the scheme to a third three-year phase.

The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 deal with the safety of gas systems and appliances in domestic and some commercial premises. The regime arising from the Regulations is under review and representations are continuing to be received.

Rural Post Office Network

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the public consultation on the future of the rural post office network is expected to commence; what the nature will be of this consultation; when it is expected to be concluded; and if he will make a statement. [78806]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are carefully considering options for the network post 2008 and are not working to a specific timetable. There has already been informal consultation with key stakeholders and we expect to consult more widely in due course.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Benefits (Appeals)

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many appeal cases for *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* disability living allowance and *(c)* jobseeker's allowance were lodged in each of the last five years; and how many were successful. [75387]

Vera Baird: The information is set out in the following tables.

Table 1: Number of lodged and successful jobseeker allowance benefits appeals

	Total claims lodged for JSA	*Total claims for JSA cleared in favour of appellants*
2001	19,110	2,310
2002	18,550	2,120
2003	16,390	2,130
2004	14,970	1,880
2005	14,630	1,850

Table 2: Number of lodged and successful incapacity benefits appeals

	Total claims:			
	Lodged for IB (PCA)	*For IB (PCA) cleared in favour of appellants*	*Lodged for IB (not PCA)*	*For IB (not PCA) cleared in favour of appellants*
2001	44,740	12,800	8,050	1,390
2002	52,870	16,520	8,180	1,630
2003	55,760	20,260	8,600	1,790
2004	55,130	19,880	8,530	1,700
2005	54,830	21,240	7,950	1,730

Table 3: Number of lodged and successful disability living allowance benefits appeals

	Total claims lodged for DLA	*Total claims for DLA cleared in favour of appellants*
2001	86,420	45,160
2002	82,540	39,490
2003	87,620	36,850
2004	90,220	38,170
2005	84,040	35,900

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are for each calendar year (January to December).
3. All figures are subject to change as more up to date data become available.
4. Figures for the latest months will rise substantially as information feeds through to the Appeals Service.
5. 'Cleared in favour' indicates that the appeal was cleared in favour of the appellant.
6. "Lodged" denotes when an appeal is submitted to the first tier agency. Lodged data only enters the GAPS database when the appeal reaches the Appeals Service.
7. PCA = Personal Capability Assessment.

Source:
100 per cent. download of the Generic Appeals Processing System.

Capita Group

Chris Grayling: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have held with directors and senior executives of (i) Capita Group plc and (ii) its subsidiaries since 1 January 2004; and whether (A) Capita Group plc and (B) its subsidiaries have provided input (1) in writing and (2) in person to policy discussions in her Department since 1 January 2004. [61084]

Ms Harman: Capita Group plc has a large number of trading subsidiaries and I am unable to provide the requested information without incurring disproportionate costs.

Cohabiting Couples

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what representations she has received on the Law Commission proposals that cohabiting couples have the same rights on separation as married couples on divorce. [77332]

Ms Harman: I have received no representations. The Law Commission published a consultation paper on 31 May entitled "Cohabitation: the Financial Consequences of Relationship Breakdown". The consultation period will run until 30 September. The Law Commission has not proposed giving cohabiting couples the same rights on separation as married couples on divorce. An overview document of the consultation paper is available on the Law Commission's website at www.lawcom.gov.uk/cohabitation.htm. The Government look forward to the outcome of the consultation and will consider any recommendations that the Commission makes in its final report due next year.

Compensation Bill

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the number of personal injury cases that are likely *(a)* to succeed and *(b)* to fail as a result of the use of defences proposed under Clause 1 of the Compensation Bill [Lords]; and if she will make a statement. [76544]

Vera Baird: Clause 1 does not provide a new defence against liability for negligence or breach of statutory duty, and the success or failure of a claim will not depend on it. It simply identifies a factor which the courts can already take into account in determining a claim. The court will also take all the other circumstances of the case into account.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the likely change in the total amount of compensation paid out by insurers as a consequence of defences using proposed provisions in Clause 1 of the Compensation Bill [Lords]. [76546]

Bridget Prentice: Clause 1 does not provide a new defence against liability for negligence or breach of statutory duty, and the success or failure of a claim will not depend on it. It will therefore not affect the amount of compensation paid by insurers.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of likely cases involving the use of the new defences under Clause 1 of the Compensation Bill [Lords]. [76547]

Bridget Prentice: Clause 1 does not provide a new defence against liability for negligence or breach of statutory duty, and the success or failure of a claim will not depend on it. The courts will be able to consider the factor embodied in clause 1 wherever they consider it to be relevant, as is the case now.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will bring forward a Government new clause to the Compensation Bill [Lords] to define 'desirable activity'; and if she will make a statement. [77723]

Bridget Prentice: The Government do not intend to introduce a new clause to define desirable activity. The

provision in Clause 1 of the Bill gives the court the flexibility to consider all the relevant circumstances of the case to reach a fair and just decision. Including a definition of 'desirable activity' could imply that certain types of desirable activity would have more weight than others, and would not reflect the existing law.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will bring forward a Government new clause to the Compensation Bill [Lords] to overturn the House of Lords judgment in the case of Barker; and if she will make a statement. [77724]

Bridget Prentice: The Government fully understands the concerns that have been expressed about the judgment and are determined to find the best way to address the resulting issues for the claimants involved. As the Prime Minister has indicated, we are looking at this very carefully and hope to be in a position to make an announcement in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will provide an explanatory note to define the phrase 'desirable activity' in the context of clause 1 of the Compensation Bill [Lords]. [77725]

Bridget Prentice: Defining the phrase desirable activity is not necessary or appropriate. The concept which it embodies is the very well-established one of taking the wider social value of activities into account. This reflects the existing law and the courts are already able to—and do—take these matters into account when considering all the circumstances of an individual case.

Constitutional Affairs Select Committee

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what Constitutional Affairs Select Committee recommendations her Department has *(a)* accepted and *(b)* implemented since 2001-02; and if she will make a statement. [77512]

Ms Harman: The Constitutional Affairs Select Committee (previously called the Committee on the Lord Chancellor's Department) was established in January 2003.

The Committee have since produced a number of reports. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, my Department has made it clear, in the Government responses to Select Committee reports, whether or not we accept Committee recommendations. Where accepted, we aim to implement within an appropriate time scale.

CORE

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the set-up costs were of the co-ordinated online record of electors (CORE); and what she estimates the running costs of CORE will be in the next three financial years. [78221]

Bridget Prentice: Since its inception in late 2003, expenditure of £1,726,631 has been incurred by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department of Constitutional Affairs on Phase I of the CORE project-supporting in house system providers and third party vendors so that their electoral registration systems can output electoral register data in an agreed EML format standard.

A further £23,111.38 has been incurred by the Department of Constitutional Affairs in relation to Phase II of CORE, the implementation of national access arrangements.

At this stage of the project, estimates are not available for the cost of procuring a CORE information system or associated annual running costs. These will be identified shortly as part of the CORE Phase II development process.

County Court Records

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 732W, on county court records, whether she has received representations on *(a)* the Department's contract with Registry Trust and *(b)* the appropriateness of the contract in the context of European legislation on the re-use of public sector information. [76738]

Ms Harman: No representations have been received by the Department on its contract with Registry Trust Ltd., nor its appropriateness in the context of European legislation on the re-use of public sector information.

Registry Trust Ltd., in its role as Registrar of the Register of Judgments, Orders and Fines, carry out a statutory function on behalf of the Lord Chancellor. Therefore, the provisions of Directive 2003/98/EC, requiring public sector bodies to avoid as far as possible exclusive agreements between themselves and private partners when establishing the principles for re-use of documents, do not apply to its contract with Registry Trust Ltd.

Court Transcripts

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which groups receive transcripts of court proceedings as a matter of course; and if she will make a statement. [76780]

Ms Harman: No group receives transcripts of court proceedings as a matter of course. However, transcripts are provided on request subject to payment of the appropriate transcription fees and, where necessary, subject to the necessary permission being granted by the court. In addition, transcripts are provided to the Court of Appeal in any case where appeal proceedings have been initiated.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether judges have the power to order that transcripts of court proceedings be

given, free of charge, to parties other than those that normally receive them as a matter of course. [76876]

Ms Harman: There is no statutory provision that empowers judges in the Crown court to make such an order. However, transcripts are provided on request subject to payment of the appropriate transcription fees and, where necessary, subject to permission being granted by the court. Transcripts of proceedings in the Crown court are provided free of charge to any party that has been granted a right to representation by the Criminal Defence Service for the purposes of appeal proceedings. In civil proceedings, if a party to the action requires a transcript then one will be provided upon payment of the appropriate transcription charges. Under provisions in the Civil Procedure Rules an unrepresented appellant who is in difficult financial circumstances may make a request to the judge that the cost of a transcript be borne at public expense. Parties other than those to the proceedings are required to make an application to the judge for a transcript and pay the appropriate transcription fees.

Criminal Offences Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the criminal offences created in legislation sponsored by her Department since April 2005, broken down by Act. [76904]

Ms Harman: Section 44 of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 creates an offence of ill-treatment or neglect. Section 35 of the Inquiries Act 2005 creates summary offences for failure to comply with orders from an inquiry chairman.

Data Protection

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will take an early legislative opportunity to bring forward amendments to the Data Protection Act 1998 to provide that the name and identity of the author of personal data are disclosed to anyone who has sought disclosure of personal data about themselves under the provisions of the Act. [76370]

Vera Baird: We have no plans to do so. The Data Protection Act 1998 does not necessarily prevent the disclosure of such information to individuals making subject access requests to organisations for data about themselves. However, the name and identity of those who are the authors of, or who have otherwise processed that data are, themselves, personal data. Any decision on whether or not that information should be disclosed would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will issue guidance on the Data Protection Act 1998 that the provisions of that Act should not prevent the exchange of relevant data between police and the owners of post box addresses at which vehicles involved in road traffic accidents are registered. [76693]

Vera Baird: We have no plans to do so. The Data Protection Act 1998 is administered and enforced independently of the Government by the Information Commissioner and it is his role to produce advice and guidance on the proper application of the Act.

The Act does not prevent the exchange of personal data, where there is a legitimate need to do so, but decisions need to be made on a case-by-case basis.

Departmental Annual Report

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many copies of her Department's annual report (Cm 6820) were produced; at what cost; who was sent copies; at what cost; who was consulted on the text prior to publication; on what criteria the retail price was decided; and if she will make a statement. [77527]

Bridget Prentice: My Department received 500 copies of the DCA departmental annual report under the terms of its contract with TSO, at a cost of £25,134 (including VAT). These were distributed free-of-charge to key stakeholders such as the judiciary, other Government Departments, magistrates, MPs and Lords, the legal profession, DCA Agencies and DCA staff. Approximately 300 of the copies were sent to external recipients via second-class post, at a total postage cost in the region of £588.

Key policy officials within DCA consulted with cross-criminal justice system partners (Home Office, CPS, Office for Criminal Justice Reform) and HM Treasury on the text and the final version approved by Ministers. The Stationery Office set the retail price of £20.50 for the report based upon their production costs for the report.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which official has lead responsibility for progress on each of the targets set out on pages 37 to 45 of the departmental annual report (Cm 6820); to whom each such official reports; what recent discussions she has had on implementation of each target; and if she will make a statement. [77528]

Vera Baird: Ministers have regular meetings with officials to discuss progress in delivering key initiatives and targets. The structure of the Department for Constitutional Affairs is available on the Department's website at www.dca.gov.uk and this site also outlines ministerial responsibilities and names senior officials. There is also an organisational chart on pages 138-39 of the departmental annual report.

Departmental Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has for legislation in the next Session of Parliament; and if she will make a statement. [77511]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to the response from the Leader of the House of Commons dated 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1431W.

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the Chief Accounting Officer of her Department. [76821]

Vera Baird: Alex Allan is the Principal Accounting Officer at the Department for Constitutional Affairs. He holds an MA in Mathematics (Cantab), and an MSc in Statistics (Lond). Among his extensive experience in Whitehall Departments, 14 years of his career were spent at Her Majesty's Treasury.

Accounting Officer is a role that the Permanent Secretary combines with his personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the department and for department-wide procedures in financial and other matters. The Accounting Officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by suitably qualified and experienced senior managers including the Director General of Finance.

Departmental Documents

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations received an embargoed copy of each (i) consultation document and (ii) White Paper produced by her Department in (A) 2005 and (B) 2006; and if she will make a statement. [77569]

Vera Baird: Embargoed copies of the Legal Services White Paper in 2005 and the draft Coroners Bill produced by DCA in 2006 were received by a range of individuals and organisations. One organisation received embargoed copies of the Draft Inquiry Procedure (UK Inquiries) Rules consultation document from my Department in 2006. The majority of DCA consultations are not embargoed.

Embargoed copies of the White Paper published on 17 October 2005 called "The Future of Legal Services: Putting Consumers First" was received by:

Chairman of the Bar Council
President of the Law Society
President of the Chartered Institute for Patent Agents
President of the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys
Dean of the Arches and Auditor, Master of the Faculties
Chair of the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee (CASC)
Opposition spokesmen Oliver Heald MP, Simon Hughes MP, Lord Goodhart QC and The Right Honourable Lord Kingsland QC, The Lord Chief Justice
Chairman, Office of Fair Trading (OFT)
Chief Executive of Citizens Advice
Chief Executive of Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)
Chairman of National Consumer Council (NCC)
Chairman of Prudential PLC
Chairman of Which?
The Immigration Services Commission

At a press briefing held on the morning of publication, but before publication time, embargoed copies were made available. The press, legal professions and members of the Consumer Panel (Which?, NCC, EOC, OFT, Citizens Advice, Federation of Small Businesses) were invited.

Embargoed copies of the draft Coroners Bill were received by the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee and five senior coroners ahead of publication on 12 June 2006.

The Draft Inquiry Procedure (UK Inquiries) Rules consultation document was received from DCA by ARACS Conference Services (conference organisers) ahead of publication on 1 March 2006. ARACS gave the copies out at a public seminar on public inquiries held after publication. The seminar was attended by around 40 people with knowledge or experience of inquiries, for example, solicitors.

Election Candidates

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what checks electoral returning officers are required to undertake to establish eligibility of candidates standing in UK elections. [77109]

Bridget Prentice: At UK elections, it is for candidates themselves to determine whether or not they are eligible to stand for election. The Returning Officer's role is to ensure compliance with the procedural requirements relating to the information to be provided in the nomination papers.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what penalties are in place for candidates in UK elections who falsely claim *(a)* residential and *(b)* business status in order to stand in such elections. [77110]

Bridget Prentice: Mechanisms exist for the removal from office of candidates in UK elections who falsely claim eligibility to stand and are elected, but are subsequently found to be ineligible to hold that elected office.

There are currently no penalties that attach to the candidate other than their removal from office. However, the Electoral Administration Bill will make it an offence of corrupt practice for a candidate to knowingly give a false declaration in a nomination paper as to their qualification to stand.

Election Maladministration

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how maladministration in the conduct of an election is *(a)* investigated and *(b)* redressed; and if she will make a statement. [76536]

Bridget Prentice: The outcome of an election, and any maladministration complained of, may only be challenged by the issue of an election petition. A special election court is constituted to hear the petition.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what redress is available to a person who believes that an electoral Returning Officer has acted improperly in conducting an election and has caused that person to suffer harm and loss. [76537]

Bridget Prentice: A person who believes that the Returning Officer has acted improperly in conducting an election has the option as part of an election petition to request such further relief or remedy as the court may deem to be just.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many complaints have been received regarding the conduct of an electoral returning officer in each of the last five years. [76538]

Bridget Prentice: Formal challenges to the conduct of an electoral returning officer are by way of election petition. The number of election petitions logged and heard, or to be heard, for England and Wales in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Number
2006	8
2005	3
2004	6
2003	7
2002	5

Electoral Registration

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what guidance her Department gives to local authority electoral registration departments to ensure that *(a)* illegal immigrants and *(b)* failed asylum seekers are not on the electoral register. [74085]

Bridget Prentice: The Department for Constitutional Affairs does not issue guidance to ERO's. The independent Electoral Commission has within its remit a general duty to issue advice and guidance to electoral administrators.

Electoral Returning Officers

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what options are available to investigate and deal with errors, maladministration and corrupt practice by an electoral returning officer. [78607]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Bill provides for a returning officer to take such steps as he thinks appropriate to remedy any procedural error on the part of himself or his staff relating to the conduct of an election, although he may not re-count the votes once the result is declared.

Maladministration or corrupt practice by a returning officer that is considered to have materially affected the result of an election may be challenged by means of an election petition.

In addition, there are various offences of corrupt practice at an election, so allegations of corrupt practice by a returning officer may be referred to the police for investigation and any further action.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many complaints have been made against an electoral returning officer in respect of the conduct of elections in each of the last five years. [78608]

Bridget Prentice: Formal complaints against the actions of a returning officer that are considered to have materially affected the result of an election are made by election petition. Although not all election petitions allege any error or wrongdoing on the part of a returning officer, they are all required to name the returning officer as respondent to the petition.

In the last five years, the number of election petitions that have included specific complaints about the returning officer are as follows:

	Number
2002	5
2003	6
2004	4
2005	1
2006	4

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether it is a duty of an electoral returning officer to report to the police *(a)* the fake witnessing of a candidate's nomination papers and *(b)* other incidents of possible fraud during the course of an election when such incidents became known to the returning officer; and if she will make a statement. [78890]

Bridget Prentice: Returning officers are responsible for running elections and for ensuring they are conducted in accordance with the relevant rules. It is for individual returning officers to reach their own conclusions on any possible incidents of electoral malpractice or fraud, and to decide whether they should report such matters to the police.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make it her policy to enable the police to investigate possible incidents of electoral fraud or other irregularities during or after an election other than exclusively on the instructions of a returning officer; and if she will make a statement. [78891]

Bridget Prentice: It is open to any person to report possible incidents of fraud to the police at any time. It will be for the police to decide what action to take in relation to any such reported incidents, and the nature and timing of any investigation that may take place into them.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what duties are placed upon returning officers in respect of following advice from the Electoral Commission. [78932]

Bridget Prentice: None. The Electoral Commission issues general advice to returning officers on a range of issues relating to the conduct of elections. Returning officers are ultimately responsible for the running of elections and for deciding what action to take in any particular case to ensure they are conducted in accordance with the rules.

Freedom of Information Users Group

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs who the members are of the Freedom of Information Users Group; and what their political affiliations are. [75379]

Vera Baird: Members of the Information Rights User Group are as follows:

Ian Readhead, Deputy Chief Constable of Hampshire
Peter Bottomley, MP
Adrian Pollitt
Paul Bettison
Steve Bailey
Lord Lester of Herne Hill
John Hipwood
Professor Robert Hazell
Rosemary Jay
Maurice Frankel
Anthony Kenny
Bob Satchwell
Judith Cullen
Richard Thomas, the Information Commissioner (observer)

Lord Lester is a Liberal Democrat peer. Paul Bettison is leader of Bracknell Forest borough council (Conservative) and Peter Bottomley is a Conservative MP.

Information about the political affiliations of the other members is not held. The membership has been drawn solely on the ability of the group to assist Government in ensuring that public authorities are responsive to the needs of the users of both the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Acts and the Environmental Information Regulations. Political affiliation was not used as criteria for the selection of the User Group members.

Hutton Inquiry

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to her answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1666W, on the Hutton Inquiry, who the Lords of Appeal in Ordinary were at 18 July 2003; and what public inquiries each had chaired before that date. [76337]

Ms Harman: The Lords of Appeal in Ordinary in July 2003 were as follows:

Lord Bingham of Cornhill
Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead
Lord Steyn
Lord Hoffmann
Lord Hope of Craighead
Lord Hutton
Lord Saville of Newdigate
Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough
Lord Millett
Lord Scott of Foscote
Lord Rodger of Earlsferry
Lord Walker of Gestingthorpe.

Public inquiries chaired by each before that date are as follows:

Lord Bingham of Cornhill

Investigation into the supply of petroleum and petroleum products to Rhodesia—Published 1977-78. Bingham Inquiry (Bank of Credit and Commerce International)—Published October 1992.

Lord Scott of Foscote

Scott Inquiry (Inquiry into Exports of Defence Equipment and Dual Use Goods to Iraq)—Published February 1996.

Lord Saville of Newdigate

Bloody Sunday Inquiry: Commenced January 1998.

Lord Hutton

Hutton Inquiry—Published January 2004.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by her Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature was of the charges brought against them. [73958]

Ms Harman: In the last five years, of those employed in my Department, (excluding agency workers, contractors and consultants) one individual was found, in 2005, to be an illegal immigrant. This individual was employed in a full-time post. He was discovered as the result of an Immigration Officer's investigation into his status. He had provided the correct documentation in obtaining his employment with the Department, but was subsequently found to have made a false statement in order to obtain those documents. He was dismissed immediately.

Immigration Appeals

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many immigration appeals from appellants in Leeds were heard in South Shields in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005. [76600]

Bridget Prentice: The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) operates a hearing centre at North Shields. Of the appeals heard at North Shields, in the period April to December 2005, 12 substantive appeals were from appellants with a home address in the Leeds postal area.

It is not possible to break down the substantive appeals by location of the appellant for any period prior to April 2005 without incurring disproportionate cost.

National Identity Card database

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the merits of allowing the National Identity Card database to be used for electoral registration; and if she will make a statement. [78251]

Bridget Prentice: The Home Office set out the possible role of the National Identity Register and the National Identity Scheme in relation to electoral registration and voting in its evidence to the House of Commons Constitutional Affairs and ODPM: Housing, Planning, Local Government and the Regions Committees published by the Committees on 16 March 2005.

Identity cards cannot become compulsory without further primary legislation. Unless, and until, that occurs, the National Identity Register (NIR) could not replace the existing electoral registration process where an annual canvass is used to establish electoral registers.

Any future proposal to use the NIR to replace the existing electoral registration process would need detailed exploration with the Home Office, and with stakeholders, including electoral registration officers and political parties.

While the NIR could have a role in improving the quality of the information held on the electoral register and could potentially support the electoral registration process if and when identity cards become mandatory, separate registers could still be required as there are likely to be indiyiduals, such as citizens residing overseas, who may be entitled to vote but may not be on the NIR.

Parliamentary Boundaries

Mr. Steen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1472W, on parliamentary boundaries, when she expects the Committee on Standards in Public Life to publish its review of the functions of the Electoral Commission; and how long after the review is published she expects the Government to decide the timing for transferring responsibility for parliamentary boundaries to the Electoral Commission. [77392]

Bridget Prentice: The Committee on Standards in Public Life is independent of the Government and therefore the timing is not a matter for the Government to decide. However, we understand that the Committee aims to complete the review by the "turn of the year". The Government will then consider the recommendations and make a decision as to the timing of the Boundary Commission transfers as soon as possible following publication of the Committee's final report.

Parliamentary Ombudsman

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list those occasions when the recommendations of a report from the Parliamentary Ombudsman have been *(a)* rejected and *(b)* partly rejected by her Department since 1997. [76262]

Bridget Prentice: Since 1997 the DCA and its predecessors, including its executive agencies and NDPBs, have declined to give full effect on two occasions to recommendations made by the Parliamentary Ombudsman. These were both in relation to complaints made under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. The Ombudsman's reports on these two cases are in the Library.

Rape/Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) how many rape cases were abandoned by the Crown Prosecution Service because of failure of the *(a)* victim and *(b)* accused to attend court proceedings in the last period for which figures are available; [76733]

(2) how many rape cases in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Bedfordshire were dropped because of witness non-attendance at court proceedings in the last period for which figures are available. [76759]

Ms Harman: In cases listed for trial in the Crown court during the period October 2005 to March 2006 there were eight rape cases where the prosecution ended the case because a witness was absent or withdrawn. There were a further five cases which were adjourned to a later date because a prosecution witness, other than a police officer or expert witness, was absent and an additional 21 cases adjourned because the defendant failed to attend court.

In England and Wales there were 18 rape cases listed for trial where the trial did not take place through witness non-attendance on the day. Of these eight cases were ended by the prosecution and 10 cases were adjourned and listed for another date. There were no such instances recorded at Luton Crown court in Bedfordshire during this period.

Figures relating to magistrates court proceedings are not collected centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost to the Department.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the maximum number of court appearances was in *(a)* domestic violence and *(b)* rape cases after which the case failed to be heard in (i) England and Wales, (ii) Luton and (iii) Bedfordshire over the last five years. [76734]

Ms Harman: This information is not collected centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost to the Department.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will bring forward legislation preventing the provision of UK public

funding to any organisation or programme which supports or participates in the management of a programme of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilisation; and if he will make a statement. [77570]

Mr. Thomas: We do not intend to bring forward legislation on this issue. The UK does not provide funds to organisations that support or participate in coercive abortion or involuntary sterilisation.

Burma

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department funds in Burma to support *(a)* the Shan ethnic minority and *(b)* the Pa-o ethnic minority in Shan state. [77800]

Mr. Thomas: DFID funds a number of projects in Shan state: the Fund for HIV/AIDS in Myanmar, to which DFID has committed £10 million over five years, provides anti-retroviral treatment in almost every township; a project to strengthen the capacity of doctors to provide affordable TB and malaria services to low-income people (£393,275 over three years) operates in the north and west of the state; and a programme with Save the Children to provide early childhood care and education (£2.7 million over three years) in the most northern townships. These projects have been designed with the primary purpose of reducing poverty, rather than to support specific ethnic minority groups, any of which are able to access all of these projects.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what cross-border aid has been provided to Karen refugees following the Burmese Government's recent military offensive against civilians. [78099]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not provided funds for cross border aid from Thailand for internally displaced people in Burma. We are, however, supporting efforts to provide limited emergency assistance to displaced people from inside Burma and we are providing funding to help support refugees in Thailand.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to what reforms the regime in Burma has agreed to facilitate the new three diseases fund for Burma. [78487]

Hilary Benn: The concept of DFID involvement in the new multi-donor fund to tackle HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Burma was agreed by Ministers in March 2006, but the detail of the project has yet to be finally approved. In the process of preparing for a decision, DFID is, with the other donor partners, involved in a process of consultation with the regime in Burma to ensure that they do not seek to apply restrictions which would prevent the effective operation of the Three Diseases Fund.

Congo

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [78083]

Hilary Benn: The humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is very serious across the country, especially in the eastern provinces of Katanga (particularly North Katanga), North and South Kivu and Province Orientale (especially Ituri district). The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that approximately
1.6 million people are internally displaced and over 300,000 are refugees in neighbouring countries.

Increased conflict in North Katanga since November last year has led to a rise in displacement and this has contributed to a much higher monthly average of new displacements in 2006 compared to 2005, at over 100,000 newly displaced per month compared to 35,000 per month last year. It is hoped that the recent surrender of a Mayi-Mayi commander from that region may lead to greater stability.

Elsewhere in the East, external armed groups such as the Forces Democratiques de Liberation du Rwanda (FDLR) in the Kivus and other rebels groups operating in Ituri, as well as ill-disciplined brigades of the DRC army, are committing abuses such as theft and violence, including high levels of sexual violence, against the civilian population. Operations by the Congolese army against the armed groups, often carried out jointly with MONUC (UN Peacekeeping force in the DRC), are frequently the cause of civilian displacement.

Mechanisms are in place to get assistance to those who need it quickly, but lack of access due to insecurity and logistical difficulties can lead to delays.

The UK has strongly supported efforts by the UN to mobilise greater international funding to meet humanitarian needs. DFID has increased UK humanitarian support to the DRC to £60 million over two years. Some other countries have also increased funding, but overall support remains far too low to meet all the needs. The DRC remains a neglected crisis. I have called on my donor counterparts to do more and will continue to keep up the pressure to ensure that funding is forthcoming to meet all the desperate needs in the DRC.

Foreign Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent on foreign travel by his Department in each of the last eight years. [76063]

Mr. Thomas: Figures for travel costs within administration cost budgets for years which information is readily available are shown in the following table:

	£000
2001-02	2,358
2002-03	2,645
2003-04	10,677
2004-05	13,337
2005-06	12,646

The figures for travel reflect all domestic and overseas travel for Ministers, Advisers and Officials and include costs for all travel, accommodation and subsistence. It is not possible to disaggregate costs for Officials' travel overseas without incurring a disproportionate cost. Information for earlier years is not readily available and in some cases will no longer be held.

In 2003-04, DFID introduced new procedures to draw together administration costs, including those travel costs which had previously been recorded on the programme budget. These changes have increased transparency and have enabled DFID to manage administration costs more effectively. Figures for 2003-04 onwards now include travel costs that were previously funded by country programmes and as a result are not comparable with earlier years.

Since 1999, the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. This information is available in the Library. Information for the financial year 2004-05 was published on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 158WS. Information for the financial year 2005-06 is in the process of being collated and will be published shortly.

All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules contained in DFID's Staff Handbook and complies with the Civil Service Management Code.

Indonesia

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for how long the UK will provide assistance to the area affected by the recent Indonesian earthquake. [77932]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's £5 million contribution towards humanitarian relief is for immediate use (£1 million to the International Federation of the Red Cross/Crescent, £3 million to the UN and £1 million to NGOs).

We will consider further financial support covering the next two years, based upon requests from the Indonesian Government.

Sierra Leone

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone. [78084]

Hilary Benn: The situation in Sierra Leone is stable and the country has made considerable progress since the end of the civil war in 2002. This was confirmed by the withdrawal of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force, UNAMSIL in December 2005. However, considerable challenges remain and the state is fragile. Current threats to continued stability include frustration resulting from large-scale unemployment, particularly among young men, and the weak capacity of government to deliver basic services. Poverty is high, with 70 per cent. estimated to be living below the poverty line. The run-up to the 2007 elections is likely to be a period of increased tension within the country and insecurity in other countries in the region may also present challenges to continued stability.

Sierra Leone is currently ranked 176 out of 177 on the Human Development Index and continues to have some of the worst health indicators in the world, particularly in terms of maternal and child mortality. Malaria is a major cause of death. There are occasional epidemics of cholera and Lassa fever poses a regional threat in the east of the country.

There are currently approximately 40,000 refugees in Sierra Leone principally from Liberia. With improved stability in Liberia, many of these have started, or are preparing to go home. Since January 2006, some 9,000 have returned. DFID has supported the care and maintenance of Liberian refugees in camps across the region for some years, and more recently has financed their repatriation from Sierra Leone and other countries. In 2005, £1.1 million was committed for these objectives, and this year, a further £700,000 has been allocated. In addition, DFID has spent over £3.5 million per year for the last three years to help rebuild Liberia and thereby encourage refugees from Sierra Leone and other countries to return home.

DFID's programme since the end of the war has concentrated on security and rebuilding government institutions and these will remain an important component of the country programme. The programme is currently developing its strategy for the next three years, and as part of this is exploring options for expanding its work in the areas of basic services, economic development and job creation. Through our country-office in Freetown, and from Africa Division's Conflict and Humanitarian Unit in London, we are monitoring the humanitarian situation closely.

South America

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what academic research is *(a)* being undertaken and *(b)* planned on the Department's South America policy. [78053]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's central policy in the region is to deliver its assistance to Latin America (including both Central and South America) through its Regional Assistance Plan 2004-2007; copies of this document are available in the Libraries of the House.

Within the framework of this Plan, programmes are tackling regional issues such as HIV-AIDS; improving the impact of the Inter-American Development Bank and World Bank on poverty and inequality; strengthening national development strategies and donor alignment; and improving understanding of the impact of trade on poverty in Latin America. Analytical and research work is supported as part of

these programmes. DFID's Regional Assistance Plan and policy for Latin America is scheduled to be reviewed in early 2007.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make an urgent assessment of the impact of disease outbreaks in internally displaced persons camps in Darfur. [78929]

Hilary Benn: The only significant disease outbreak currently affecting Darfur is that of the 75 cases of acute watery diarrhoea in South Darfur. The outbreak has so far claimed four lives in the state, with cases concentrated in Nyala, Kass and El-Daein towns. The first report of the outbreak was on 24 May 2006 and all four deaths to date occurred on 24-25 May 2006. This reflects the effective planning and response by the Government and humanitarian agencies. Although, the vast majority of cases have been amongst town residents rather than in the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, the unconfirmed reports of a case in Gereida, where 100,000 IDPs have sought shelter, is of concern.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health have established a task force to co-ordinate the response. In accordance with their contingency plans, a public health campaign has been launched, broadcasting hygiene promotion messages on local TV and radio. The immediate response has also included the mapping of cases, identifying high risk areas for chlorination of water supplies and testing. In preparation for an outbreak, the WHO stockpiled cholera treatment kits across Darfur. These have proved invaluable in enabling the immediate response. In addition, a Cholera Treatment Centre has been set up in Nyala with the capacity to handle 50 patients a day.

Water Access

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to support public-public partnerships as a means of improving access to clean water and sanitation in the developing world. [78892]

Hilary Benn: I attach great importance to ensuring increased access to safe water supply and sanitation in the developing world and have recently committed to doubling DFID's expenditure on the provision of these basic services in Africa to £95 million by 2007-08. However, while we recognise the importance of 'public-public' partnerships, our focus is on a pragmatic approach led by our partner countries, to ensure we are doing what works, and recognising that there can be failures of both private and public models.

In practice, the majority of our work on rural, urban and humanitarian water supply and sanitation services is spent through Governments, not-for-profit or humanitarian agencies (this was around 95 per cent. of our bilateral spend in 2003-04). We are currently actively involved in seven African countries (Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia). In these countries our effort is focused on helping Government and donors deliver more effective water services. We are engaged in sector working groups which aim to promote partnerships (including within the public sector and civil society) that will deliver effective services on the ground and increase access for poor people through better co-ordination at both national and local level.

I am closely monitoring our progress in water and sanitation and DFID publishes regular updates on our website. The latest update is available on DFID's website at www.dfid.gov.uk

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to assist poorer countries in improving their water supplies. [78893]

Hilary Benn: DFID is committed to helping achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target of halving the proportion of people without access to safe water by 2015. Our programmes are focused on sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia, where achieving the target will be most difficult.

DFID's Water and Sanitation strategy was set out in the 2004 Water Action plan. The Secretary of State has reinforced DFID's commitment to doing more in his speeches on World Water day in March 2005, and at DFID's External Water Forum in February 2006.

DFID is committed to doubling spending on water in Africa to £95 million by 2008. We are currently actively involved in seven African countries (Ethiopia, DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia), up from only two years ago; and through our funding of other agencies' programmes, we reach many other countries. We are also committed to creating an international system that works more effectively than it does now. We work closely with the World Bank, which is now more focused on water, and with UN Water, to improve co-ordination of the UN agencies operating water and sanitation programmes.

DFID closely monitors progress in water and sanitation and publishes regular updates on the DFID website. The latest update is available on DFID's website at www.dfid.gov.uk

World Bank

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what key proposals he made to the World Bank Spring Meeting; what decisions the Bank took on *(a)* these proposals and *(b)* other matters; and if he will make a statement. [77763]

Hilary Benn: Major UK objectives for the World Bank 2006 Spring Meeting were delivery on 2005 commitments, governance and corruption, climate change and clean energy, and the Investment Climate Facility (ICF) for Africa. The Development Committee focused its discussion on two World Bank documents: (i) The Global Monitoring Report (GMR) 2006: Strengthening Mutual Accountability—Aid, Trade and

Governance and (ii) Clean Energy and Development: Towards an Investment Framework.

The GMR sets out clearly the progress that has been made on tackling poverty, and the challenges that remain. We noted that almost all developing countries are off-track to meet at least some of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the lack of progress in Africa is especially worrying. More aid is clearly essential, and it must be delivered more effectively. We called on the World Bank, other bilateral and multilateral agencies to take action, and ensure that we live up to the commitments made in Paris on aid effectiveness last year, including a country-based approach. The Results and Resources Frameworks, first suggested in the Bank's Africa Action Plan, are a good vehicle for improving mutual accountability and we urged the Bank to develop and implement them quickly. We also called on donors to give more emphasis to assisting the poorest countries, including fragile states and make commitments to increased and long-term resources for education so that developing countries can fully finance their education plans over the long-term.

The Development Committee agreed that donors should fully implement the commitments they have made for substantial increases in aid volumes, and that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have a key role in helping countries ensure that increases in aid volumes can be absorbed effectively, consistent with macro-economic stability and growth objectives. Rapid progress was required to implement the framework agreed in the Paris Declaration for enhancing aid effectiveness through a stronger focus on results. Donors need to improve the quality of aid, modalities of aid delivery to reduce volatility, achieve greater predictability, and provide stronger alignment with national poverty reduction strategies. They were encouraged where possible to move towards multi-year plans and commitments, and be ready to finance recurrent costs where sector policies are sound and fiduciary conditions are adequate. The Committee agreed that the World Bank and other partners should improve their coordination at the country level, particularly in strengthening health services and improving access to good quality education, to reduce transaction costs and help increase absorptive capacity. Donors should fill the Education Fast Track Initiative current financing gap and a progress report on Education for All should be submitted to the Annual Meeting in Singapore. The Committee urged the Bank to implement the annual Results and Resources Frameworks.

The focus of this year's GMR was governance. Prior to the Development Committee, I wrote an article on corruption and participated in a forum on governance and corruption at the Center for Global Development in Washington. At the Committee, I underlined that governance was critical for development and achieving the MDGs, and an essential element of the compact between developing countries, developed countries and international institutions. Only countries themselves can make the decisive changes that are needed. However, donors can help the process of creating more effective states and it is vital that we assist. The proposed Bank framework for monitoring provided a practical and useful starting point, and should be developed further to include aspects such as the extent to which the state responds to the wishes of the people, particularly the poor. We strongly supported the message in the report that corruption is an outcome of poor governance, and caused by a number of failures of national and global systems. It should not be tolerated; but we made clear that our work on tackling corruption needs to get better at addressing the failures, and connect better with the people who have the power and motivation to do something about it. The international community must work collaboratively and take a firm line on the need to tackle and prevent corruption. It must not equate to doing nothing in poor countries where corruption is an issue. Instead, we must find more effective ways of engaging.

I called on the World Bank to develop a framework for assisting developing countries with their long-term efforts to improve governance, and tackle corruption where it needs addressing. The framework will need to include how we can best ensure that aid is used for the purpose for which it was intended. This will include strong, independent units to detect and investigate fraud; strengthening national financial and accountability systems more effectively; and how to address the corruption that comes from beyond national borders, including developing global initiatives, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We urged the World Bank to consult widely in taking forward this work, recognising that addressing governance failures will require action from all parts of the international community, not only from developing countries. It is essential that the framework commands broad support.

The Development Committee endorsed these views and the main messages of the report. It called on the World Bank to develop and submit to the Annual Meetings in Singapore a broad strategy for helping member countries strengthen governance and deepen the fight against corruption, with clear guidelines for World Bank operations.

On clean energy and development, I made clear that the effects of climate change are already being felt in many developing countries and will seriously impact our global efforts to reduce poverty and meet the MDGs. Responsibility for mitigating climate change requires urgent action on the part of richer countries, while some fast-growing middle-income countries must shift to cleaner, more efficient energy production to avoid exacerbating the problem. Meanwhile, developing countries need access to affordable, reliable and clean energy to grow their economies and to lift people out of poverty. We urged the international community to act now to support countries to do this in a sustainable way and so achieve a double-dividend of poverty reduction and environmental protection. Helping member countries meet these challenges should be a key objective of the World Bank and other multilateral development banks over the coming years.

We welcomed the valuable work undertaken already in the World Bank to develop an investment framework to accelerate investment in clean energy, energy efficiency and adaptation to climate change. This now needs to be developed further into an ambitious global investment framework based on sound analysis of existing financial resources and identification of gaps where new instruments are needed. We urged the World Bank to work closely with the multilateral development banks, private sector and civil society to create a global

joint investment framework to be presented at the Annual Meetings in Singapore. The Development Committee endorsed the importance of this work and asked the Bank to submit a report on progress towards an investment framework in September.

In the margins of the Spring Meetings, I co-hosted with President Wolfowitz a meeting to raise awareness among donors and African countries of the Investment Climate Facility for Africa. African governments and institutions know that creating the right environment in which people and firms feel comfortable investing their money is crucial for Africa's prosperity. If Africa is to achieve the growth necessary to meet the MDGs, the business environment must improve significantly. Boosting African growth and poverty reduction is, ultimately, what the ICF is all about. I urged donors to co-fund the ICF and cooperate operationally so that it can add value and truly be complementary to existing work. African participants welcomed the formation of the ICF with its strong African ownership. Donors (including the International Finance Corporation and the European Commission) and companies have also responded positively and the ICF was launched in Africa on 1 June.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to what extent the World Bank and International Monetary Fund require developing countries to liberalise their economies as a condition for aid; and what recent changes have been made to their policies on liberalisation. [77764]

Hilary Benn: In 2004, the World Bank abolished its practice of "prescriptive conditionally", which meant countries were urged to adopt specific economic policies to receive budgetary support. The UK pressed for a review of the World Bank's use of conditionality, and this concluded in September 2005. The World Bank undertook analysis of previous practice and recent thinking, and sought contributions and views from many sources, including developing countries. I made a written submission, setting out the Government's stance, and particularly emphasising the importance of country ownership in setting the development agenda. The review report has been published and is available on the World Bank website at www.worldbank.org. It showed that the use of conditionality in sensitive areas, such as trade liberalisation and privatisation, had declined in recent years. The review also proposed five good practice principles to guide the World Bank's use of conditionality, and these were endorsed by ministers.

The principles are:

Ownership

Conditionality should reinforce, not undermine, country ownership of policies and programmes.

Harmonisation

Conditionality should be agreed up-front with the government and with other donors, as part of a wider framework for assessing progress on poverty reduction.

Customisation

Conditionality should reflect country circumstances.

Criticality

Conditionality that determines whether to release money should include only those actions that are critical for the programme's success.

Transparency

Conditionality should be specified so that it can be reviewed transparently, and so ensure that the Bank's financial support is predictable.

The World Bank will be reporting back in the next few months on how it has implemented these principles.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also improved its practice on conditionality in recent years. The conditionality guidelines approved by the IMF in 2002 are similar to those adopted by the World Bank. A review of IMF conditionality last year demonstrated a sharper focus on core areas of the Fund's remit in macroeconomic management and a reduction in conditions on privatisation and liberalisation. A separate review of the Fund's trade policy and conditions showed a sharp reduction in overall conditions on trade policy since the adoption of the guidelines. In addition, it demonstrated a shift towards conditions on trade governance, such as reforming customs administration, and away from trade policy such as tariffs. The Independent Evaluation Office of the IMF is currently undertaking a study to look at the process of setting conditionality on economic reforms, which is expected to report later this year.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Benefit Fraud

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were prosecuted for illegally obtaining benefits in 2005-06. [78740]

Mr. Hanson: 191 people have been prosecuted for illegally obtaining benefits in Northern Ireland in the 2005-06 financial year.

Birth/Abortion Statistics

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* live births and *(b)* abortions there were in Northern Ireland in 2005. [77357]

Mr. Hanson: The number of live births registered to mothers resident in Northern Ireland in 2005 was 22,328.

The Abortion Act 1967 does not extend to Northern Ireland. Consequently the termination of a pregnancy is not permitted except where necessary to save the life of the mother or where continuation of the pregnancy would involve risk of serious injury to her physical or mental health.

Information on the number of abortions in 2005 is not yet available. In 2004 there were 2,324 admissions to hospitals in Northern Ireland with a diagnosis of

abortion, which includes miscarriage and unintentional loss of the foetus, 59 of these were medical abortions.

Businesses

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many small to medium businesses have gone into receivership in the Province in the last three years, broken down by Westminster constituency; and if he will make a statement. [77338]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of administrative receiverships in small to medium Northern Ireland businesses in the last three years.

Administrative receiverships

Year ending 31 March	*Number*
2004	8
2005	4
2006	1

The information is not held by Northern Ireland constituency and is therefore not readily available in the format requested.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* personal bankruptcies and *(b)* company failures have taken place in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [77359]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of personal bankruptcies and company failures for the last financial year.

Year ending 31 March 2006

	Number
Bankruptcies ("personal")	892
Compulsory Liquidations	89
Creditors' Voluntary Liquidations	53

Child Support Agency

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been non-compliant with a Child Support Agency assessment in each year since 2000. [78749]

Mr. Hanson: The number of people who have been non-compliant with a Child Support Agency assessment in each year since 2000 is as follows:

	Number of people
2000-01	2,039
2001-02	1,866
2002-03	1,736
2003-04	2,366
2004-05	3,455
2005-06	4,274

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in how many cases in Northern Ireland the Child Support Agency ordered a deduction from earnings to be made in each of the last five years. [78750]

Mr. Hanson: In each of the last five years, the Child Support Agency has ordered a Deduction from Earnings Order in the following number of cases:

	Number
2001-02	1,274
2002-03	1,432
2003-04	2,218
2004-05	1,694
2005-06	2,303

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was of running the Child Support Agency in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [78751]

Mr. Hanson: The total running costs over the last five years are as follows:

	Costs (£ million)
2001-02	11.380
2002-03	13.500
2003-04	15.023
2004-05	15.046
2005-06	16.225

The expenditure covers normal operating costs and costs attributed to the child support reforms. The breakdown for the last five years is as follows:

		£ million
	Operating costs	*Child support reforms*
2001-02	9.301	2.079
2002-03	10.225	3.275
2003-04	11.130	3.893
2004-05	11.620	3.426
2005-06	12.209	4.016

Please note the Annual Report and Accounts of the Northern Ireland Child Support Agency for the financial year 2005-06 are still subject to review by Audit.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much maintenance was paid through the Child Support Agency in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [78752]

Mr. Hanson: In each of the last five years, the amount of maintenance paid through the Child Support Agency in Northern Ireland was as follows:

	Amount (£)
2001-02	11,651,761
2002-03	12,495,532
2003-04	12,646,535
2004-05	13,000,061
2005-06	13,225,567

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff worked for the Child Support Agency in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [78753]

Mr. Hanson: The number of staff (measured as whole-time equivalent) who have worked for the Child Support Agency in Northern Ireland on Northern Ireland business in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Number of staff
2001-02	412
2002-03	459
2003-04	478
2004-05	445
2005-06	480

Information prior to the financial year 2001-02 has been archived and is therefore not readily available.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints were registered with the Child Support Agency in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998. [78773]

Mr. Hanson: The number of complaints registered with the Child Support Agency in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998 is as follows:

	Number
1998-99	Data not available
1999-2000	198
2000-01	173
2001-02	216
2002-03	173
2003-04	288
2004-05	528
2005-06	783

In the financial year 1998-99 the Northern Ireland Customer Services section devolved responsibility for customer complaints to individual teams. Problems in the uniformity of recording complaints resulted in the data not presenting a true reflection of the numbers received.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will keep a separate total for the annual amount spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes in each Department in Northern Ireland, including his Office. [77313]

Mr. Hanson: There are no plans to separately record expenditure on alcohol at this time. However, all Departments separately monitor spend on hospitality generally in accordance with principles set out by HM Treasury and in line with the practicality of financial coding.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what incentives are available to encourage members of staff in *(a)* each Northern Ireland Department and *(b)* the Northern Ireland Office to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75083]

David Cairns: Government policy is to encourage the use of sustainable travel and Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office may offer advances of salary to assist staff with the purchase of season tickets.

Translink, through its Corporate Commuter Initiative, encourages both public and private sector employees to use public transport to and from their workplace. Under this initiative, Translink has worked with the Department for Social Development, the Department for Employment and Learning and the Department for Culture Arts and Leisure providing assistance to staff such as personalised transport plans.

The Travelwise Scheme operated by Roads Service, provides advice to all Northern Ireland Government Departments on workplace travel plans and encourages sustainable travel, including the greater use of public transport.

Domiciliary Care Workers

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what rate per mile is paid for travel carried out by domiciliary care workers in each of the Northern Ireland health and social services trusts. [73544]

Paul Goggins: The actual rate of travel for HPSS employees is a matter for the employer to decide and up-to-date information on the rates in payment is not held centrally. It will take some time to collate this information and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available and place a copy in the Library.

Substantive answer from Paul Goggins to Mr. Gregory Campbell:

Mileage rates paid to domiciliary care workers

Trust	*Mileage rate*
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	Public transport rate
Causeway HSS Trust	Public transport rate
Craigavon and Banbridge Community Trust	Public transport rate
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	Public transport rate
Foyle Community Trust	Public transport rate
Homefirst Community Trust	Public transport rate
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	Public transport rate
North and West Belfast Community Trust	Bus fares reimbursed up to a maximum of £2.00.
South and East Belfast Community Trust	Domiciliary care workers (now referred to as intensive homecare workers) receive regular users allowance or standard rates depending on the mileage completed and the engine size of the car. The majority of homehelp staff are paid at public transport rate; however, there are three homehelps who receive a regular user allowance in light of special duties carried out.
Sperrin Lakeland Trust	Travel time paid at £6.25 per hour, where appropriate.

Mileage rates paid to domiciliary care workers

Trust	*Mileage rate*
Ulster Community and Hospitals Trust	Standard rates or regular user depending on the mileage completed and the engine size of the car. *Or* if the individual satisfies certain criteria he/she may apply for a leased car. The mileage rate for a leased car is 13.4 pence per mile.

Regular user allowance is paid to employees who are designated by their employer as an essential car user (but it is uneconomic or not possible to offer a leased car) and where in the course of their employment they are required to travel either:

1. An average of more than 3,500 miles a year; or

2. An average of at least 1,250 miles a year and uses their car on average three days a week or spend 50 per cent. of their time on travel; or

3. An average of at least 1,000 miles a year and use their car on average four days a week.

Engine capacity	*Up to 1000cc*	*1001cc to 1500cc*	*Over 1500cc*
Lump sum (£)	508	626	760
Up to 9,000 miles (pence)	27	33.5	40
Thereafter (pence)	16.2	18.3	20.5

Standard rate is paid to employees who use their own vehicle for official business but do not satisfy the criterion for a regular user.

Engine capacity	*Up to 1000cc*	*1001cc to 1500cc*	*Over 1500cc*
Up to 3,500 miles (pence)	34	43	53
Thereafter (pence)	16.2	18.3	20.5

Public transport mileage rate is payable at 23p per mile where the employer deems that standard or regular user rates do not apply.

European Evidence Warrant

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the European Evidence Warrant on cross border crime; and if he will make a statement. [78710]

Mr. Hain: I welcome agreement on the European Evidence Warrant which will improve and speed up the process of obtaining evidence from other member states for use in criminal proceedings.

Investigators and prosecutors require an effective system that delivers the evidence they require within a reasonable time. This is essential to combat terrorism and other serious, organised crime which involves an international element.

Historical Inquiry Team

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of the Historical Inquiry Team's (HIT) budget has been set aside to investigate the murder of Robert and Thomas Dobson in Moy on 16 May 1976; and if he will make a statement on the HIT's investigation into this case. [78270]

Paul Goggins: The Government have committed a total of £34 million, over six years, to the Unresolved Deaths project. Of this amount, the Historical Inquiry Team (HIT) has been allocated £24.2 million to review unresolved deaths relating to the security situation in Northern Ireland from 1968 to April 1998, and assist in bringing resolution for the families of victims affected by these deaths.

The HIT have confirmed that the deaths of Robert and Thomas Dobson will come within their remit. Of the funding provided to the HIT, there is no set amount allocated for each case. Spend on individual cases will not be known until the review of such cases is taken forward, as this depends on what work is required to be done and if any new evidential opportunities exist.

Hospital Treatment

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many heart bypass operations were carried out in NHS hospitals in Northern Ireland in each year since 1995. [78760]

Paul Goggins: The number of heart bypass operations performed in hospitals in Northern Ireland in each year since 1994-95 is detailed in the following table.

Heart bypass operations in Northern Ireland

	Number
1994-95	845
1995-96	872
1996-97	872
1997-98	834
1998-99	763
1999-2000	599
2000-01	581
2001-02	501
2002-03	530
2003-04	483
2004-05	560

Source:
Hospital In-patients System.

Housing Stock

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what housing stock is held by the Housing Executive in *(a)* each Belfast district and *(b)* Castlereagh district; and how many houses have been sold in each area in the last 10 years. [78717]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows:

Housing Executive District Office	*Stock at 31 March 2006*	*House sales completed from the financial year ending 1996-1997 to end of May 2006*
Belfast 1	2,146	1,486
Belfast 2	3,676	1,298
Belfast 3	3,215	1,726

Housing Executive District Office	Stock at 31 March 2006	House sales completed from the financial year ending 1996-1997 to end of May 2006
Belfast 4	3,643	1,193
Belfast 5	3,694	811
Belfast 6	3,256	1,009
Belfast 7	4,119	1,457
Castlereagh	3,919	1,673

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by his Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature of the charges brought against them were. [73962]

Paul Goggins: Since 2001 the Northern Ireland Office is unaware of having employed any illegal immigrants.

Local Authorities

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the expected cost savings are from the Government's plan to reduce the number of local authorities in Northern Ireland. [78265]

David Cairns: Savings from the Review of Public Administration (RPA) decisions on local government have been estimated at £54-£73 million. The final figures will depend on how the proposals are implemented.

More robust cost models will be evolved as part of the process of developing and delivering an implementation programme for the RPA as it impacts on local government. All savings achieved will be available for reallocation to front-line services in Northern Ireland.

Modernisation Fund

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications for the Modernisation Fund *(a)* have been received by the Department for Social Development and *(b)* have been successful. [78883]

Mr. Hanson: The Department for Social Development has received 163 applications for funding from the Modernisation Fund Revenue Programme. The 40 highest scoring organisations have now proceeded to the final stage of the assessment process and are undergoing detailed economic appraisal. Successful applicants will begin to be notified within four weeks. All 163 organisations who applied have been contacted by the Department and advised of the status of their application.

Northern Ireland Police Fund

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1489W, on Northern Ireland Police Fund, why the Department does not maintain a record of the community breakdown of staff; and whether members of staff in the Northern Ireland Police Funds are required to complete a community background check as part of the appointment process. [77104]

Paul Goggins: Given the status of the Northern Ireland Police Fund, appointment processes including community background checks are a matter for the board of directors of the Fund. I have been advised by the Northern Ireland Police Fund that in accordance with Article 48(2) of the Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 community background details are not required to be held in respect of the staff.

Police Complaints

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints against the Police Service of Northern Ireland were received by the Police Ombudsman in 2005-06. [77372]

Paul Goggins: The Police Ombudsman has advised that 3,108 complaints against the Police Service of Northern Ireland were received by the Police Ombudsman in 2005-06.

Security Forces (Republic of Ireland)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1605W, on security forces (Republic of Ireland), why no record is kept of occasions when security forces from the Republic of Ireland enter Northern Ireland with the consent of UK authorities while on operation. [77211]

Paul Goggins: PSNI "operations" are broadly defined as duties which include all manner of policing activities such as anti-terrorism, combating drug-smuggling, briefings, presentations, joint enquiries, investigations etc. These activities will, of necessity, cross many District Command Units and Departments and the resultant records are likely to number in the thousands. To quantify the number of occasions during which operations from the Irish Republic have, with consent, crossed into Northern Ireland would, therefore, be time-consuming and disproportionately costly.

Sinn Fein/IRA Stormont Spy Ring

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were interviewed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in connection with the Sinn Fein/IRA Stormont spy ring; and how many files recommending prosecution were forwarded

by the Police Service of Northern Ireland to the Public Prosecution Service. [65324]

Paul Goggins: Five people in total were arrested by the PSNI in connection with this incident. Four of the five people were subsequently recommended for prosecution. This was split into two prosecution files.

Taxis

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many licensed taxi drivers are operating in Northern Ireland. [78728]

David Cairns: At 15 June 2006 there were 16,880 licensed taxi drivers in Northern Ireland.

Toxic Sludge

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 786W, on toxic sludge, to which local government authority areas the four prosecution cases by the Environment and Heritage Service relate. [78730]

David Cairns: The Environment and Heritage Service is investigating four incidents involving spreading of sludges to land in breach of regulations. The council areas to which these relate are Moyle, Londonderry, Lisburn and Craigavon.

Waste Management

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much grant has been allocated to each local government authority in Northern Ireland for waste management for 2006-07. [78731]

David Cairns: The total capital grant for 2006-07 is £7,000,000, the details of which are set out as follows:

Capital grant for 2006-07

Council	£
Antrim	204,263
Ards	302,115
Armagh	225,226
Ballymena	247,825
Ballymoney	117,565
Banbridge	178,833
Belfast	1,097,774
Carrickfergus	155,206
Castlereagh	261,785
Coleraine	235,162
Cookstown	139,807
Craigavon	332,791
Derry	427,525
Down	272,819
Dungannon	204,990
Fermanagh	260,851
Larne	129,562
Limavady	141,851
Lisburn	441,807
Magherafelt	169,343
Moyle	74,516
Newry/Mourne	365,912
Newtownabbey	320,788
North Down	312,077
Omagh	214,587
Strabane	165,020
Total	7,000,000

WORK AND PENSIONS

Action Teams

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1475-78W, to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), on action teams, how many whole-time equivalent staff are allocated to each action team; and how many were allocated to each in the two previous years. [75250]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Staff

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his Department's press office. [74356]

Mrs. McGuire: As at 31 May 2006 the total number of people employed in the Department's press office, including all management and admin staff is 61.

Information on ethnicity is collected on a voluntary basis. On grounds of confidentiality we are unable to provide the information requested on how many black and Asian staff are employed within press office.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many of his staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age; [77192]

(2) how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into his Department in each of the last three years. [77193]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of staff in the Department aged under 55 years and over 55 years of age is in the following table.

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent (FTE)*
Under 55 years	113,641	102,668
Over 55 years	16,434	15,010

Notes:
1. Staff numbers are point in time as at 31 December 2005.
2. Figures include temporary staff.
3. Staffing for Health and Safety Executive not included.

The number of recruits to the Department over the age of 55 years in each of the last three years is in the following table.

Year ending December	Headcount	FTE
2003	44	40
2004	481	448
2005	423	402

Note:
Figures include temporary staff.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what incentives are available to encourage members of his staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75094]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Department for Work and Pensions offers incentives to staff to encourage more sustainable forms of travel; these include salary advances for the purchase of season travel tickets. Concessionary bus passes are available in some locations.

The Department promotes sustainable travel to work. 'Sustainable Transport Travel' pages are available on the intranet. The travel pages promote awareness of travel options and include a copy of the departmental generic travel plan. Details of greener forms of transport are also included in the departmental induction pack.

Employment and Support Allowance Claimants

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the proposed criteria are for the reserved circumstances group of employment and support allowance claimants; and how these will be decided. [78363]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The new employment and support allowance will focus on how we can help people into work and will not automatically assume that because a person has a specific health condition or disability they are incapable of work.

We are still developing details of the criteria that will decide whether a person's physical or mental functions are so severely limited that it would be unreasonable to require them to engage in work-related activity. We want to ensure that the criteria are based on functional ability, not on diagnosis, and that they will correctly identify those who should receive benefit without having to take part in work-related activity, without dismissing those for whom engagement is possible.

In developing the criteria, we are taking into account the comments that have been made in response to the Government's consultation paper.

Employment Services (Disabled People)

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to consult on the review of employment services for disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [77938]

Mrs. McGuire: It is our intention to formally consult later this year on the proposals emerging from the review of services for disabled people.

Free TV Licences

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on the provision of free television licences for over 75-year-olds in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [78032]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available. TV licence expenditure figures are not available broken down by constituency or Government office region.

Illegal Immigrants (Benefits)

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the total amount of benefits paid to illegal immigrants in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [79003]

Mr. Plaskitt: Illegal immigrants are not entitled to DWP administered benefits.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how, under its Employer Engagement Strategy, local resources in Jobcentre Plus will be matched to services required by major national employers; and how *(a)* consistency of service delivery across the country and *(b)* effective communication and liaison between specialist delivery teams will be ensured. [76510]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how, under our Employer Engagement Strategy local resources in Jobcentre Plus will be matched to services required by major national employers; and how consistency of service delivery across the country and effective communication and liaison between specialist delivery teams will be ensured. This is something, which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has a National Sales Team that provides an account management service to our major national employers. The Account Managers work at a strategic level to develop and agree Service Level Agreements with these companies. These Service Level Agreements are communicated to geographically-based Account Managers who ensure that they are used as a basis to agree local solutions to meet individual recruitment needs. The same Account Managers are responsible for engaging with service delivery colleagues within Jobcentres to resolve any issues involving employer requirements or service delivery.

In addition to this, the National Sales Team is fully committed and engaged in the Employer Engagement Strategy at all levels of Jobcentre Plus through Vacancy Planning. Working with delivery colleagues, they are able to ensure that regional and district plans reflect the current and future needs of national employers.

In support of these activities Jobcentre Plus will shortly be introducing the Employer Relationship Management IT system, which will provide an unprecedented level of data on employers

and the labour market in general. Analysis of this data will allow Jobcentre Plus to provide tailored services that meet the needs of employers.

Employer engagement strategies and marketing campaigns will all emanate from this new system and local resources will be channelled accordingly. Consistency of service will be ensured across the whole of Jobcentre Plus as access to the system will be restricted to key decision makers, such as the Account Managers, who manage the interests of the major national employers and will be able to communicate appropriate strategies throughout the organisation.

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken to improve liaison between Jobcentre Plus and *(a)* other parts of his Department and *(b)* other Government Departments and agencies. [76515]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the steps being taken to improve the liaison between Jobcentre Plus and (a) the other parts of his Department and (b) other Government departments and agencies. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our new organisational structures, introduced in April, place a new focus on effective partnership working. At Board level this is provided through a Director of External Relations and Communication; and at strategic and operational levels we have external relations functions that maximise the effectiveness of our national, regional and local partnerships.

In particular we now have a team specifically responsible for leading on our relationships with the key governmental organisations with whom we work to deliver our shared agenda on social security and benefit issues affecting our customers. They are in the process of reviewing existing partnership agreements, setting up new ones where they do not already exist and reviewing and improving day to day liaison arrangements. Organisations within the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) covered by this work include the Child Support Agency, Debt Management, the Disability and Carers Service and The Pension Service. Outside DWP the work covers Local Authorities, the Tribunal Service, the Veterans Agency and HM Revenue and Customs.

In parallel Jobcentre Plus works with a range of other Government organisations nationally to improve opportunities for people to move into and stay in work. These organisations include, for example, Regional Development Agencies, the devolved administrations, and the Learning and Skills Council. We also work closely on a wide range of issues with the Home Office's Prison and Probation Services (National Offender Management Service) and Immigration and Nationality Directorate. Opportunities are continually sought to strengthen liaison across all of these partnerships.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the introduction of the Adviser Achievement Tool into Jobcentre Plus. [76519]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question regarding the introduction of the Adviser Achievement Tool (AAT) into Jobcentre Plus. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The AAT was introduced in April 2006 to ensure all our advisers make an effective contribution to Jobcentre Plus' aims, and to identify those advisers who may need additional help to achieve this. The AAT supports the new Job Outcome Target which introduces a change to the way performance is measured. All job outcomes will count towards achievement of this target, not just those achieved through Jobcentre Plus notified vacancies or financial initiatives. Advisers will no longer have individual points targets linked to job entries as part of their personal objectives.

The AAT has been designed to improve adviser performance and strengthen the support for advisers and their managers. It reflects the new approach to evaluating individual performance which is required under the new target regime. It is supplemented by individually tailored Improvement Plans which managers and advisers will use to address personal development issues. It is intended that the AAT will provide an indicator of advisers' performance and will help their managers to regularly monitor adviser achievements.

Adviser managers will not rely on the AAT alone to deliver performance improvements. Other activities such as mandatory observations from the Quality Assurance Framework must also be undertaken on a regular basis, in conjunction with agreed individual objectives as part of the Department's internal Performance Development System.

We will be evaluating and refining the AAT throughout the year as the Job Outcome Target system becomes more established and we learn more about the blend of quality and productivity information needed to optimise individual adviser performance.

I hope this is helpful.

Medical Assessments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of medical assessments for *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* attendance allowance, *(c)* industrial injuries disablement benefit and incapacity benefit and *(d)* incapacity benefit have been classified as (i) Grade A, (ii) Grade B and (iii) Grade C in each year in which ATOS Origin and SEMA Group have been conducting such assessments. [76880]

Mrs. McGuire: Information is not available prior to September 2004 due to concerns about the reliability of the available data. No separate breakdown is available for attendance allowance and disability living allowance figures. The available information is in the following table.

Percentage of medical reports in each grade for benefits and dates shown

	Grade		
Benefit type/Period	*A*	*B*	*C*
Incapacity benefit			
September 2004 to August 2005	79	18	4
September 2005 to May 2006	76	21	3
Disability living allowance and attendance allowance			
September 2004 to August 2005	69	27	4

Percentage of medical reports in each grade for benefits and dates shown

Benefit type/Period	Grade A	B	C
September 2005 to May 2006	70	26	4
Industrial injuries disablement benefit			
September 2004 to August 2005	86	12	2
September 2005 to May 2006	84	14	2

Note:
Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.
Source:
Atos Origin Medical Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of grade C medical assessments for *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* attendance allowance, *(c)* industrial injuries disablement benefit and incapacity benefit and *(d)* incapacity benefit have resulted in a (i) new assessment and (ii) modification of the original assessment in each of the last five years. [76881]

Mrs. McGuire: If a medical report is found to be C grade at audit, Atos Origin must rework it before it is used by the decision maker to determine entitlement to benefit.

In cases where reports which have not been subject to audit are subsequently found to be deficient, as part of a complaints investigation, for example, Atos Origin notify the decision maker so that the decision maker can review their decision.

Records as to the outcome from these procedures are not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost is per claimant of a medical assessment for *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* attendance allowance, *(c)* industrial injuries disablement benefit and incapacity benefit and *(d)* incapacity benefit. [76884]

Mrs. McGuire: Financial information connected with individual medical assessments is commercially sensitive and cannot be disclosed as to do so may prejudice the commercial interests of the Department and/or its suppliers.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to question 73877, on cold-calling, tabled by the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight on 25 May 2006. [79105]

Mr. Plaskitt: I replied to the hon. Member on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1698-99W.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of Pathways to Work provision is by the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector. [76832]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested is not available.

Both voluntary and private sector organisations deliver a number of different programmes which support Pathways to Work. Some of these programmes are specific to Pathways to Work (in-work support and condition management programmes), while others are delivered nationally across Jobcentre Plus, for example WORKSTEP and new deal for disabled people.

In the Green Paper we said the next phase of Pathways to Work roll-out will be delivered through voluntary and private sector providers contracted locally.

Staff Surveys

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library copies of the results of the latest staff surveys for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its Executive agencies. [35394]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions routinely publishes its annual survey results within the public domain. This includes percentage responses for all survey questions for the DWP overall and for each of the main businesses, client groups and corporate services within the Department. Results for 2002, 2003 and 2004 are held by:

The British Library

The National Libraries for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Oxford Library

Cambridge Library

Results for the DWP Survey 2005 are currently being published in the same way. In addition, copies are being placed in the House of Commons and House of Lords Libraries as well as being placed on the Department's website. We are awaiting confirmation of publication of all departmental surveys on the Cabinet Office website before proceeding.

HEALTH

Audiology

13. **Sir Patrick Cormack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will reconsider the decision to exclude audiology from the 18 week waiting time for treatment. [78472]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The 18 week 'referral to treatment' target covers hospital pathways.

As a result of innovation, the majority of audiology and adult hearing services are accessed directly from primary care and are outside the scope of the 18 week pathway. Hearing and balance conditions that need to be referred to a medical consultant however will be subject to 18 weeks.

There is no intention to reconsider this principle. However, reducing the time that patients wait for directly accessed services is important and an action plan is being developed to improve access to audiology services outside the 18 week pathway.

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of hearing aid services in the Chorley and South Ribble Primary Care Trust area; and if she will make a statement. [78474]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department' policy on hearing aid services has focused on ensuring that the national health service provides modern digital hearing aids. Digital hearing aids have been available at Chorley Hospital since March 2004, with the majority of new patients being fitted within 13 weeks of referral to the audiology service.

Practice-based Commissioning

14. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the development of practice-based commissioning. [78473]

Ms Hewitt: All primary care trusts (PCTs) have committed to putting in place the arrangements to support practice-based commissioning (PBC) by the end of December this year. The most recent data indicate that 27 per cent. of PCTs have already put these arrangements in place, and that 41 per cent. of practices have taken on PBC.

Sexual Health

16. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures her Department is implementing to increase young people's knowledge of sexually transmitted infections. [78475]

Caroline Flint: As part of the Government's drive to modernise and transform sexual health services in England we are developing a new campaign. This will focus on young men and women and we plan to launch it later this year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expenditure on sexual health campaigns was in each year since 1979 in *(a)* nominal and *(b)* real terms. [51932]

Caroline Flint: Expenditure on sexual health campaigns including HIV public education, contraception awareness, prevention of sexually transmitted infections plus[1] helplines is shown in the table. Information is not available before 1985-86. This expenditure does not include local health promotion work undertaken at health authority/primary care trust level.

[1] Contract for the sexual health information line, formerly the National AIDS Helpline, is delivered as part of a contract which also includes Drinkline and Frank (substance misuse prevention).

	Nominal	*£ million Real terms*
1985-86	0.520	1.026
1986-87	7.600	14.540
1987-88	11.210	20.315
1988-89	10.000	16.937
1989-1990	12.000	18.974
1990-91	10.000	14.664
1991-92	11.000	15.213
1992-93	11.230	15.052
1993-94	9.410	12.299
1994-95	9.870	12.705
1995-96	8.060	10.091
1996-97[1]	5.250	6.349
1997-98	4.700	5.521
1998-99	4.800	5.496
1999-2000	6.000	6.737
2000-01	4.600	5.098
2001-02	4.600	4.975
2002-03	6.600	6.919
2003-04	6.600	6.741
2004-05	6.600	6.600
2005-06	5.120	5.003

[1] Before 1996-97, expenditure also includes a contribution towards the overhead costs of the former Health Education Authority.

Retinal Screening (Diabetics)

17. **Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets have been set for retinal screening for diabetes; and if she will make a statement. [78476]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The priorities and planning framework includes targets that by 2006, 80 per cent. of people with diabetes should be offered diabetic retinopathy screening rising to 100 per cent. by end of 2007.

Data show that, in March 2006, 78.4 per cent. of people with diabetes had been offered screening for diabetic retinopathy in the previous year.

GPs (Bolton, South-East)

18. **Dr. Brian Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there were in Bolton, South-East constituency in 1997 and on the latest date for which figures are available. [78477]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not hold information on the number of general practitioners by constituency. However, in Bolton primary care trust there were 142 GPs in 2001, which increased by 20 per cent. to 171 in 2005.

Patients Groups

19. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the funding of patients groups. [78478]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The term 'patient's group' can cover a variety of different organisations. These bodies

can be funded in a number of ways, including public donations made to charitable organisations as well as grants given by national health service bodies or central Government.

Hospital Cleanliness (West Midlands)

20. **Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in improving hospital cleanliness in the West Midlands. [78479]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Hospital cleanliness is measured annually as part of the patient environment action team (PEAT) assessment. The first inspections in 2000 found around one third of national health service trusts to have poor or unacceptable standards. Since then there has been a steady improvement and in 2004-05, fewer than 5 per cent. were classified as poor or unacceptable. The latest PEAT inspections have recently been completed, and the results will be published in due course. However the PEAT scores published in 2004 and 2005 show improved rates of cleanliness in the hospital sites across the strategic health authority areas in the West Midlands.

Breast Cancer Treatment

21. **Ms Barlow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for breast cancer treatment; and if she will make a statement. [78480]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Average waiting times are not collected centrally. In the last quarter 99.7 per cent. of patients were treated for breast cancer within a month of diagnosis and 99 per cent. of patients were treated within two months of urgent referral by their general practitioner.

25. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the most recent average waiting time was for breast cancer treatment in York; and if she will make a statement. [78484]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect average waiting times for breast cancer treatment. However, the latest data available for the York hospitals NHS trust show that in Quarter 4 2005-06 the trust achieved 100 per cent. of the two week out-patient wait for urgent referrals target and 100 per cent. of the maximum one month wait from diagnosis (decision to treat) to first definitive treatment target. The trust achieved 95.8 per cent. against the 62 day target for urgent general practitioner referral for suspected cancer to treatment for breast cancer in the same period.

Community Hospitals

22. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the future of community hospitals in Gloucestershire. [78481]

Caroline Flint: Making decisions on local healthcare provision, including the closure of community or cottage hospitals, is a matter for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities, as they have responsibility for ensuring that services provided locally meet the needs of the populations that they serve.

Mental Health Services

23. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on her Department's policy on the provision of mental health services. [78482]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In line with the implementation of the national service framework, mental health services in England are being modernised to improve access to effective treatment and care, reduce unfair variation, raise standards, increase patient choice and provide quicker and more convenient services.

Graduate Unemployment

24. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of graduate unemployment among *(a)* nurses and *(b)* physiotherapists. [78483]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect this information. The Higher Education Statistics Agency conducts a sample survey of graduates. Of those who responded for the year to 31 July 2004, 90 per cent. of nursing and midwifery graduates and 84 per cent. of physiotherapy graduates were employed in their chosen profession. The remainder were employed elsewhere, unemployed or did not answer the question.

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the national health service has given to the British Pregnancy Advisory Service to undertake abortions in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by region; [75638]

(2) how many complaints were made to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the national health service about the British Pregnancy Advisory Service in each of the last five years; [75639]

(3) how many early medical abortions were performed by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service at the request of the national health service in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age of the woman, *(b)* gestation of the pregnancy and *(c)* region; [75643]

(4) how many women were referred by national health service GPs to the British Pregnancy Advisory Service for an abortion in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* age of the woman, *(b)* gestation of the pregnancy and *(c)* region of residence was in each case. [77594]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for public health gave to the hon. Member for Belfast, North (Mr. Dodds) on 18 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 522W, about the amount of national health service funding given to British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS).

The Department has received a couple of complaints during the last five years which were investigated. Information on complaints received by the NHS is not held centrally. Under the Care Standards Act 2000, BPAS is required to supply each patient with a written copy of its complaints procedure, fully investigate each complaint and maintain a detailed, written record of each complaint. BPAS is also required to send the Healthcare Commission a statement every year with a summary of the complaints received. In addition, the Healthcare Commission look at these records as part of a clinic inspection.

The information requested on the number of NHS funded early medical abortions performed by BPAS is shown in the table. Information is not held centrally on the number of women referred to BPAS by NHS general practitioners; the abortion notification form collects the names and addresses of the two registered medical practitioners who authorised the abortion under the Abortion Act.

Total NHS funded medical abortions performed under nine weeks gestation by the BPAS, England, 2000-04

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Age					
Under 18	14	31	88	107	142
18	11	17	61	76	129
19	13	39	67	83	152
20	19	23	64	85	161
21	18	46	69	105	148
22	14	42	88	106	145
23	18	39	85	99	161
24	17	25	76	103	161
25	16	23	54	70	143
26	13	29	55	75	124
27	10	27	52	69	140
28	15	32	46	60	108
29	13	23	43	72	106
30	11	18	67	71	99
31	[1]—	27	48	47	95
32	10	25	33	54	89
33	11	22	29	56	80
34	[1]—	16	41	43	73
35 and over	35	99	186	255	427
Total	269	603	1,252	1,636	2,683
Gestation weeks					
5 and under	26	43	68	134	245
6	73	162	303	465	717
7	93	234	529	585	1,012
8	77	164	352	452	709
Total	269	603	1,252	1,636	2,683
Region of woman's residence					
East	[1]—	12	17	43	[1]—
East Midlands	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	78
London	45	128	249	362	582

Total NHS funded medical abortions performed under nine weeks gestation by the BPAS, England, 2000-04

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
North West	22	26	52	74	[1]—
North East	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	97
South East	132	285	409	507	913
South West	20	36	44	85	192
West Midlands	27	97	376	348	597
Yorkshire and Humber	17	14	83	173	171
Total	269	603	1,252	1,636	2,683

[1] Totals less than 10 (0-9 cases) are suppressed. This is in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics, 2005.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake into the reasons for trends in the early medical abortion rate in England and Wales between 2004 and 2005; and if she will make a statement. [75640]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not undertaken research into the reasons for trends in early medical abortion and has no plans to do so.

Medical abortion is safe, avoids the need for anaesthesia and surgery and offers women a choice of method. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' evidence-based guideline 'The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion (2004)' encourages abortion services to offer a choice of recommended methods for each gestation band.

There has been a continuing upward trend in medical abortions since 1991 when Mifegyne was licensed for use in the United Kingdom. In 2004, 28 per cent. of the abortions performed under nine weeks gestation were medical abortions.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make it her policy to issue a written ministerial statement to announce the publication of the abortion statistics; and if she will make a statement; [75649]

(2) what the publication date was of the abortion statistics in each of the last five years; [75650]

(3) if she will make it her policy to send an embargoed copy of each year's annual abortion statistics to those organisations known to her Department to *(a)* support and *(b)* oppose abortion; and if she will make a statement. [77566]

Caroline Flint: Abortion statistics for the last five years were published on the following dates:

2000 published by Office for National Statistics (ONS) in September 2001;

2001 published by ONS in September 2002;

2002 published by the Department in October 2003 and revised in July 2004;

2003 published by the Department in August 2004 and revised in July 2005; and

2004 published by the Department in July 2005.

The annual abortion statistics publication is a National Statistics (NS) product, the publication is released in accordance with the NS Protocol on Release Practices. The 2005 abortion statistics bulletin

for England and Wales has been pre-announced for publication in July 2006 on the Department's website.

Sending embargoed copies of statistical publications to organisations prior to the official release date and time is contrary to best practice as set out in the NS Protocol. Best practice is to make the publication, equally available to all, at the same time and the statistics are released as soon as practicable once they and the accompanying commentary are fit for purpose. We therefore do not intend to issue embargoed copies of the annual abortion statistics publication to any organisation.

In addition, the Head of Statistics Profession at the Department has now determined the release date and time for the "Abortion Statistics, England and Wales 2005" publication. This will be on Tuesday 4 July at 9.30 am. The publication will include detailed commentary of the results, reflecting current departmental policy and hence, we have no plans to issue a ministerial statement. On the day of publication, a statistical press release will be issued releasing the figures and providing a web link to the website.

Asthma

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people have been admitted to hospital due to asthma in each *(a)* health authority and *(b)* primary care trust in England for each of the last five years; [76861]

(2) what the total cost was to the NHS of treating people with asthma for each year since 1997; [76862]

(3) what measures the Department is taking to reduce emergency hospital admissions for people with asthma; and if she will make a statement. [76863]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on the number of people admitted to hospital with the primary diagnosis of asthma, in each strategic health authority and primary care trust over the last five years have been placed in the Library.

Information on the total cost to the national health service of treating people with asthma is not collected.

The NHS Improvement Plan set out the Government's priority to improve care for people with long-term conditions by moving away from reactive care based in acute systems, towards a systematic, patient-centred approach.

The national public service agreement target focuses on improving health outcomes for people with long-term conditions, including asthma, by offering a personalised care plan for vulnerable people most at risk, and reducing emergency bed days by 5 per cent., by 2008 through improved care in primary and community settings.

To take this forward, 'Supporting People with Long-Term Conditions', published January 2005, sets out a new NHS and social care model designed to help local NHS and social care organisations improve care for people with long-term conditions. By 2007, there will be some 3,000 community matrons co-ordinating care for around 250,000 people.

Autism

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Bexleyheath and Crayford are diagnosed with autism; and how many of them are children. [78068]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of people including children in Bexleyheath and Crayford who are diagnosed with autism is not available centrally.

Care Homes

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what complaints procedures there are for those in a *(a)* private and *(b)* NHS care home. [77286]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Under the Care Homes Regulations 2001, care homes are required to establish complaints procedures for service users or persons acting on their behalf. The regulations apply equally to homes run by all providers, including local authorities, private companies or individuals, voluntary organisations and the national health service.

The national minimum standards (NMS) for care homes, which are available in the Library, include specific requirements for homes to have complaints procedures for service users, relatives and friends. The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) must take the NMS into account when inspecting care homes to ensure that they comply with the Care Standards Act 2000.

Details of complaints procedures should be supplied to all service users, or those acting on their behalf if requested. Complaints procedures must be simple, clear and accessible and appropriate to service users' needs. Complaints should be responded to within a maximum of 28 days and detailed records should be kept, which should include details of investigations and any action taken.

Service users whose care is arranged by their local authority (LA) are also entitled to pursue complaints about the way the LA has fulfilled its function regarding the provision of services to meet the needs of the individual via the LA's complaints procedure.

All service users and their representatives have a further right to refer matters to CSCI and then to the parliamentary ombudsman for further investigation if they are not satisfied with the way their complaints are dealt with.

Care in the Community

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding will be made available to local authorities to pay for care in the community over the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [74267]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not hold this information nationally or for individual local authorities. Council funding for adult social services is

derived from a number of sources: a share of overall formula grant allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government, specific grants distributed by the Department, revenue from council tax, income from fees and charges and the re-prioritisation of funds on the basis of local decision making. The most recent allocation of funds for adults' social services was made in December 2005 and covers the two financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

As most of the Government funding for adult social care is allocated without conditions, it is not possible to identify the proportion of that funding that may be attributable to care in the community. Local authorities have a significant degree of flexibility to manage and direct their resources in accordance with local priorities and the needs of the communities to which they are accountable.

Carers' Grant

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) in what circumstances a local authority may refuse to pay carers' grant to *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations supporting carers; [78062]

(2) whether local authorities are permitted to use the carers' grant to support the provision of day centres; [78063]

(3) whether she plans to extend carers' grant beyond 2008; [78064]

(4) what funding is planned to help with the provision of respite care; [78065]

(5) what options are available to individuals for the use they make of carers' grant; and what role local authorities play in ensuring choice is available. [78066]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This Government introduced the carers' grant in 1999 to support councils in providing breaks and other services for carers in England. The grant is not paid to individuals but paid each year to councils as a specific formula grant.

Councils can use the grant to provide a range of services for carers in their area depending on local demand and need. This may include commissioning day care services if this is what is needed locally. Councils will want to ensure that the services they commission provide good quality services that will meet carers' assessed needs. Councils should ensure that individuals have as much choice as possible about the services they are offered.

Ministers have yet to decide whether the carers grant will continue after March 2008.

Local councils can use the carers grant to provide short breaks for carers as well as a range of other services to support them. The grant in 2006-07 is £185 million. In addition, in our health and social care White Paper "Our health, our care, our say" we commit to ensure that short-term, home-based respite support is established for carers in crisis or emergency situations.

Carter Report

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to issue a detailed response to Sir David Carter's report and recommendations reviewing specialised services in the NHS; and if she will make a statement. [75305]

Andy Burnham: We support the approach in the independent report from the Review of Commissioning Arrangements for Specialised Services chaired by Sir David Carter. This comprehensive report contains a significant number of helpful proposals for improving the access to and quality of specialised services for all patients with rare conditions. We are considering the details of the report carefully and will take forward the recommendations in the Commissioning Framework, which we expect to publish in the summer.

Children's Health Services

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of whether a primary care trust is complying with its responsibilities under the "Every Child Matters" initiative where it is refusing to accept referrals for paediatric speech and language therapy. [67662]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No assessment has been carried out centrally. Access to speech and language therapy is a matter for primary care trusts, which have responsibility for commissioning services to implement the national standards as identified in the national service framework for children, young people and maternity services and the "Every Child Matters: Change for Children" programme.

Cottage Hospitals

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact on social services care in the community programme of closing cottage hospitals; and if she will make a statement. [74266]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Decisions on the role of cottage hospitals in local healthcare provision are matters for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities in consultation with local populations.

The White Paper, "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: a new Direction for Community Services", made it clear to national health service organisations that community hospital facilities and the integrated health and social care services they provide should not be lost in response to short-term budgetary pressures that are not related to the viability of the community facility itself.

Debt Collectors

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its (i) executive agencies and (ii) non-departmental public bodies use the services of private debt collectors. [71075]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As most debtors of the Department and its executive agencies are other public bodies it is

not deemed appropriate to use a debt collection agency. Information relating to non-departmental bodies is not held centrally.

Dentistry

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the oral health of the population in *(a)* Peterborough constituency, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* England. [77921]

Andy Burnham: The information available centrally shows that in 2003-04 the average number of decayed, missing or filled teeth among five-year-olds in the area of North Peterborough primary care trust is 1.78. This compares with 0.9 in South Peterborough, 1.21 in the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire strategic health authority area and 1.49 in England as a whole. People living in some parts of Eastern England receive the benefits to oral health from a seam of naturally occurring fluoride in water which runs from Hartlepool in Durham to Chelmsford in Essex. Peterborough however does not receive either natural or artificially fluoridated water.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she plans to implement the recommendations of the Medical Devices Expert Group in respect of the provision to patients of statements of conformity for dental appliances. [77576]

Andy Burnham: The proposal to provide patients with statements of conformity for dental appliances is currently under negotiation in the Council of Ministers working group that is reviewing the Medical Devices Directive 93/42/EC. Once the revisions have been agreed and incorporated into the directive the changes will be implemented into United Kingdom law within the laid down timescale for transposition.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has in place for the inspection of dental laboratories located in *(a)* China, *(b)* Turkey, *(c)* India and *(d)* South Africa which manufacture dental appliances for use in the UK. [77577]

Andy Burnham: The manufacturer of any custom-made dental appliance should ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Medical Devices Regulations before placing the device on the United Kingdom (UK) market. Where the manufacturer is based outside the European Community this would include appointing an authorised representative to register on their behalf with the member state competent authority where they have their registered place of business. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency conducts an annual programme of inspections of custom-made appliance manufacturers and authorised representatives based in the UK selected at random.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many inspections of dental laboratories were carried out by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and its predecessors in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [77578]

Andy Burnham: The number of inspections of dental laboratories carried out under the Medical Devices Regulations are as follows:

	Number of inspections
2001-02	88
2002-03	36
2003-04	121
2004-05	108
2005-06	107

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the chief accounting officer of her Department. [76796]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As Acting Permanent Secretary, Hugh Taylor is the Principal Accounting Officer for the Department.

Before becoming Acting Permanent Secretary, he was the Department's strategy and business development group director. He previously held senior management jobs in the Prison Service, the Cabinet Office and was director for national health service work force in the NHS executive.

Accounting officer is a role that the Permanent secretary combines with his personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the Department and for Department-wide procedures in financial and other matters. The accounting officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by suitably qualified and experienced senior managers, such as Richard Douglas, the director-general of Finance and Investment.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals have been employed in her Department in each of the last five years; what vetting procedures are in place for each category of staff; and whether these include liaison with foreign law enforcement agencies. [68018]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not held centrally. Prior to the appointment of new employees, nationality checks are carried out to establish compliance with civil service nationality rules. Other checks, including the taking up of references, character enquiry and health checks are also conducted. These would not routinely include liaison with foreign law enforcement agencies.

Disability Access

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any buildings in her Department fall short of disability access regulations. [72990]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) audits have been completed on all of the Department's buildings. All of the Department's buildings are accessible and usable and meet DDA accessibility standards.

Drug Quotas

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment her Department has made of the effect on NHS costs of manufacturers' quotas on medicines and drugs and restrictions on the parallel importation of drugs and medicines; [77462]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with pharmaceutical manufacturers on their quotas on the supply of medicines and drugs in England; [77463]

(3) what assessment her Department has made of the possible impact of manufacturers' quotas for the supply of medicines and drugs in England on the pharmaceutical wholesale and retail sectors. [77464]

Andy Burnham: In terms of the impact on national health service expenditure, information is not routinely collected on the source of products, but from the data currently available, the Department estimates that parallel imports save the NHS in England approximately £60 million per year in the community sector.

Parallel importing is legal within the European Union (EU). The United Kingdom (UK) parallel import licensing scheme allows medicinal authorised products in other EU member states to be marketed in the UK provided the imported products have no therapeutic difference from the equivalent UK products.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) liaises closely with the relevant competent authorities to obtain the necessary information to ensure that only those products which fully comply with the stringent criteria for parallel import are granted a licence. This information is published at monthly intervals on the MHRA's website.

The Department has had no recent discussions with manufacturers nor made an assessment of the possible impact of quotas on the supply of medicines.

Drug Trials

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that in human trials of medicinal drugs not previously ingested by human beings the drugs are not to be ingested simultaneously by the volunteers. [76616]

Andy Burnham: Following the recent drug trial incident involving TGN 1412, an expert working group of leading international experts was established to address the scientific questions that were raised by it. In particular, recommendations we requested regarding this type of drug and how to manage the risks associated with making the transition from pre-clinical testing in animals to trials in humans.

Professor Gordon Duff, who is Professor of Molecular Medicine at Sheffield University, has been appointed to act as chair of the group.

On receipt of the report from this group, the Government will consider what steps might be required to minimise risk for first human trials in the light of their recommendations.

Food Promotion

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methods her Department will use to carry out its 2007 assessment of changes in food promotion to children as proposed in the 2004 Choosing Health White Paper. [76706]

Caroline Flint: We have said that we want to see a change in the nature and balance of food and drink advertising and promotion to children so that it better represents a healthy balanced diet.

We will be establishing a baseline against which we can assess what progress has been made. The assessment will take into account any reduction in the volume or scheduling of advertisements across television and various non-broadcast media in recent years, and what changes have been made to the content of those advertisements.

Gershon Review

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1540W, on the Gershon Review, to the hon. Member for Mid-Sussex (Mr. Soames), if she will break down the savings by main budget heading. [76388]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The total savings to December 2005 break down as follows:

	Amount (£ million)
Productive time	879
Procurement	1,048
Corporate services	36
Social care	179
Policy funding and regulation	63
Total	2,205

These figures were set out in the Department's report published in May 2006.

Head Injuries

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how payment by results will affect the commissioning and delivery of services for those with a serious head injury; [76142]

(2) what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations in the Health Committee's Report of Session 2000-01, on Head Injuries: Rehabilitation, in relation to *(a)* improving data collection on the incidence, prevalence and severity of head injuries, *(b)* facilitating the planning of services for those with a head injury, *(c)* making explicit the level at which planning for serious head injury rehabilitation should be located and *(d)* commissioning and delivery of specialist services. [76143]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In our response to the Committee (CM 5226, July 2001) the Government undertook to take their recommendations into account in drawing-up the national service framework for long-term neurological conditions (NSF), and subsequently did so. The NSF was published last year and we are now working with stakeholders to implement it.

It is the responsibility of local professionals to commission services to meet the current and forecast needs of the people they serve.

Under payment by results, money follows patients and so providers are rewarded for the number and complexity of cases they treat, and incentivised to provide high quality care.

Health Professional Council/General Osteopathic Council (Funding)

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to the *(a)* Health Professional Council and *(b)* General Osteopathic Council in each of the last nine years. [77058]

Andy Burnham: The Department granted the following amounts to the following organisations over the past four years. Information for the previous five years can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The information available is shown in the following table:

£

	Regulatory body	
	General Osteopathic Council	*Health Professions Council*
2005-06	0	0
2004-05	0	0
2003-04	0	1,330,000.00
2002-03	0	2,474,467.38

Health Treatment Centres

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been treated at each independent sector treatment centre since each was established, broken down by type of treatment received. [61716]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of elective procedures performed by centrally procured independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) in wave one is shown in the tables. Data are not held centrally by speciality except for the Greater Manchester Surgical Centre which has a different contractual arrangement. The table also indicates where all an ISTCs procedures fall within one specialty.

Treatment centres	*Number of elective procedures*[1]
GC4 spine chain	
East Cornwall, Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre	584
East Lincolnshire, Boston NHS Treatment Centre	975
West Lincolnshire, Gainsborough NHS Treatment Centre	707
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire,	725
Clifton NHS Treatment Centre	
Northumberland Tyne and Wear, Cobalt NHS Treatment Centre	1,204
Southampton, Capio New Hall Hospital NHS Treatment Centre	1,237
Thames Valley, Capio Reading NHS Treatment Centre, Woodland Hospital NHS Treatment Centre	1,120
GC5 west chain	
Kidderminster, Kidderminster Treatment Centre	1,690
GC8 chain	
Portsmouth, St. Mary's NHS Treatment Centre .	419
Medway, Will Adams NHS Treatment Centre	435
Local projects	
Bradford, Eccleshill NHS Treatment Centre	2,941
Trent, Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre[2]	3,678
Daventry, The Birkdale Clinic	5,157
Shepton Mallet, Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre	5,324
Greater Manchester , Greater Manchester Surgical Centre	4,704
Plymouth, Peninsula NHS Treatment Centre[2]	2,743
OC123 ophthalmology chain	
Mobile Cataract Unit[2]	20,956

Greater Manchester, Greater Manchester Surgical Centre	*Number of elective procedures*[1]
Orthopaedics	2,128
General Surgery	1,010
Dermatology	662
ENT	605
Urology/Gynae	274

Greater Manchester, Greater Manchester Surgical Centre	*Number of elective procedures*[1]
Plastic Surgery	25
Total	4,704

[1] Number of elective procedures at March 2006.
[2] Single specialty. The Peninsula NHS Treatment Centre and the Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre only perform orthopaedic procedures. The Mobile Cataract Unit only performs ophthalmology procedures.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with which independent treatment centres the NHS holds contracts; what type of treatment was contracted for in each case in the most recent year for which figures are available; how many episodes of treatment were contracted for in each case in that year; which NHS body holds the contract; which primary care trusts are covered by the contract; whether a (i) Wave 1, (ii) Wave 2 and (iii) other type of contract applies; and what the (A) name and (B) legal status is of the proprietor of each centre. [79101]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not held centrally on spot purchased activity from the independent sector by local commissioners. Details of the first wave of independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) contracts have been placed in the Library. All wave one ISTC contracts have been entered into with companies registered in England and Wales.

No contracts have been finalised for phase two of the procurement for additional elective and diagnostic activity or the extended choice network of independent providers.

Hospital Closures

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* other NHS units in England and Wales are being proposed for closure during the current financial year; and if she will make a statement. [74165]

Andy Burnham: The information requested for England is not available centrally. For Wales, it is a matter for the National Assembly for Wales.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was in each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed with outside suppliers over the last five years. [71760]

Caroline Flint: The information provided pertains to the central Department and does not cover executive agencies, other arm's length bodies or NHS Connecting for Health.

The five largest information technology (IT) contracts agreed with outside suppliers over the last five years are:

The information management services agreement-Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC)

The annual support charge for the CSC agreement has fluctuated from the initial estimated charge but this has been a reflection of the introduction of new services, for example, new remote working facilities, wireless connectivity services and new collaborative tools. Ongoing charges over five years are as follows:

	£ million
2002-03	7.65
2003-04	8.85
2004-05	8.77
2005-06	7.47
2006-07	[1]7.60

[1] Forecast charges.

Transformation of the infrastructure formed a separate part of the agreement. The original estimate was £9.1 million. The estimate was revised to £12.6 million to include the cost of commissioning and implementing the new services. The outturn cost was £12.6 million.

A total of £88.42 million has been spent with CSC over the five years since the contract was let. The support charges and transformation form part of that figure. The remainder has included expenditure which CSC administer on behalf of the Department, for example BT costs for the wide area network and business ports, and audio conferencing and mobile telephone costs. The remainder of the costs over the five years have been apportioned to project work in support of the integrity and resilience of the infrastructure in line with changing technologies. These project and pass-through costs are listed as follows.

	£ million
2002-03	12.88
2003-04	18.32
2004-05	20.06
2005-06	21.82
2006-07	[1]21

[1] Forecast charges. £2.72 million invoiced so far.

Finance system agreement-Cap Gemini

The original estimate for the project was £6.1 million. The revised estimate and actual cost was £5.6 million.

Corporate software agreement-IBM

The agreement was for a three year deal with three annual payments totalling £1.4 million. The original estimate and actual costs were the same.

Web content management service-Xansa

This contract was awarded early in 2006 and the estimated costs over the next five years are £5.11 million. The outturn is expected to remain the same as the estimated costs.

External applications hosting-BT

This annually renewable contract was for a hosting provision designed to be scaleable to meet the requirements of the Department. The charges represent the fluctuation in these requirements. The annual charges were:

	£ million
2002-03	0.306
2003-04	0.5
2004-05	0.374
2005-06	0.3
2006-07	0.3

London Hospitals

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she last reviewed the strategic provision of hospital provision in London and the surrounding areas; and if she will make a statement. [77489]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 19 June 2006]*: Strategic leadership and commissioning is a central role of new strategic health authorities and primary care trusts working with their partners. Strategic provision of hospital services has been a key part of the strategic authority responsibilities since shifting the balance of power was introduced in 2002.

Maternity Units

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether payment by results applies to midwife-led maternity units. [75990]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The tariff applies to midwife-led maternity units, to the extent that they are providing services within scope of payment by results. For example, deliveries in hospitals and maternity units are within scope of payment by results and the tariff would therefore apply for deliveries in a midwife-led unit. Home deliveries are excluded from the scope of payment by results and tariff would therefore not need to apply for a home birth managed by a midwife-led maternity unit.

Measles

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of measles there were in England in each year since 1997; and what the percentage uptake of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine was in each year since 1988 in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region. [79040]

Caroline Flint: Laboratory confirmed cases of measles in England and Wales between 1996 and 2005 are available on the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/measles/data_mmr_confirmed.htm

On the 15 June 2006, the HPA reported that they had received reports of 449 confirmed cases of measles in England and Wales in the period January to May 2006. Further information is available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/news/articles/press_releases/2006/060615_measles.htm

Annual England data for years 1997 to 2005 are available from NHS Immunisation Statistics on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkArea

Mental Health/Learning Disabilities

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to promote the protection of people with (i) mental health problems and (ii) learning disabilities (A) at work and (B) in residential care settings. [74986]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Less than one in four people experiencing long-term mental health problems is in employment, and one third of those in employment report having been dismissed or forced to resign. There is evidence that better access to psychological treatment can help people to return to or maintain employment.

The Government are committed to improving access to evidence-based psychological therapies, and this policy was set out in the Labour manifesto 2005 and the "Our Health, our care, our say White Paper. Our Improving Access to Psychological Therapies" programme forms a key part of the Government's "Health, Work and Well-Being—Caring for Our Future" (HWWB) strategy, which the Department launched last October with the Department for Work and Pensions and the Health and Safety Commission.

The Department is not responsible for the protection of people with learning disabilities at work. However, people with mental health problems and learning disabilities are protected by all employment legislation, for example that governing freedom from discrimination and equal opportunities. In addition, "The Duty to Promote Disability Equality statutory code of practice in England and Wales", published by the Disability Rights Commission in December 2005, includes mental illness and learning disabilities.

There are a wide range of measures to protect vulnerable people in regulated social care, including those with mental health problems and learning disabilities. We have set out standards for care and treatment for the national health service and social care services in the national service framework for mental health and the White Paper, "Valuing People: a new strategy for learning disability".

We have introduced national minimum standards for care homes, domiciliary care and adult placements to ensure that vulnerable people can live in a safe environment, where their rights and dignity are respected and staff are properly trained. The regulator, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, has powers to take swift and decisive action where abuse occurs, by serving enforcement notices on care homes and domiciliary care providers and, ultimately, it can close services down.

"No Secrets", statutory guidance issued under section 7 of the 1970 Local Authorities Social Services Act by the Department in 2000, provides a complete definition of abuse and a framework for councils to work with the police, the NHS and regulators to tackle abuse and prevent it from occurring.

We introduced the protection of vulnerable adults (PoVA) scheme in July 2004. PoVA prevents dangerous or unscrupulous people from gaining access to vulnerable people in care homes or being cared for in their own homes. The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill was introduced in Parliament on 28 February 2006. The new scheme will build on the existing PoVA scheme and will make it far more difficult for abusers to gain access to some of the most vulnerable groups in society. Subject to the necessary legislation being passed by Parliament, it will begin staged implementation in 2007.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in her private office have stayed overnight in (i) five star, (ii) four star and (iii) three star hotels in each of the last three years. [69211]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental officials and special advisers are expected to make efficient and cost-effective arrangements.

National Blood Service

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will ask the National Blood Service to issue guidance to its staff aimed at ensuring that men who have sex with men are treated with respect when they are told they are unable to give blood. [76951]

Caroline Flint: All staff working with blood donors are required to treat blood donors with respect. People who are asked not to donate blood are entitled to a clear explanation as to why they have been deferred or excluded from donating blood, this will include men who have sex with men.

Productive Time Savings

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on productive time savings, as envisaged by the Gershon Review, achieved since 2003-04; and what proportion of these savings are directly attributable to products delivered through the National Programme for Information Technology. [74054]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The latest reported savings figure for productive time is £879 million at December 2005.

The Gershon report "Releasing Resources to the Front Line" identified three main contributors to front line service (productive time) efficiency—information communication technologies (ICT), process redesign and work force reform.

Our delivery strategy for this programme recognises that efficiencies are achieved by technology, process and work force changes being delivered together. The national health service uses an integrated service improvement programme (ISIP) to plan and manage service improvement. This programme is a key element of implementing the national programme for information technology (NPfIT). More information is available at www.isip.nhs.uk.

To avoid double counting, the approach to measuring most productive time benefits is based on outcome changes, for example day case rates, inpatient length of stay and emergency admission, rather than the separate contribution of ICT or work force or process change.

It is not therefore possible to determine the proportion of current or future gains attributable specifically to the NPfIT but clearly its contribution is likely to increase.

Details of our approach to productive time measurement and the specific measures used are explained in the Department's efficiency technical note, which is available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/12/41/37/04124137.pdf.

NHS Finance

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average per capita NHS funding for 2006-07 is in rural areas. [72773]

Andy Burnham: The average allocation per person made to the 82 primary care trusts in predominantly rural areas in 2006-07 is £1,168.

NHS Treatment

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* elective hospital admissions, *(b)* first out-patient attendances following general practitioner referral and *(c)* consultant-led first out-patient attendances there were in the NHS in each year between 1990-91 and 2005-06. [75435]

Andy Burnham: Data from 1996-97 onwards are shown in the table. Data for the earlier years are not available on the same basis.

Thousand

	Elective hospital admissions[1]	*First out-patient (OP) attendances following general practitioner referral*[2]	*Consultant-led first OP attendances*[3]
1996-97	4,364	7,565	11,294
1997-98	4,450	7,609	11,529
1998-99	4,869	7,533	11,778
1999-2000	4,934	7,710	12,136
2000-01	5,045	7,938	12,466
2001-02	5,080	8,016	12,613
2002-03	5,308	8,073	12,879
2003-04	5,492	8,086	13,431
2004-05	5,607	7,980	13,370
2005-06	5,691	8,118	13,727

Sources:

[1] Heath Authority Monitoring and Monthly Monitoring, commissioner-based.

[2] QM08, provider-based.

[3] KH09, QMOP and QM08, provider-based.

Non-life Threatening Conditions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether she has received evidence that NHS organisations are reducing services for non-life threatening conditions; [75019]

(2) which conditions the NHS classes as non-life threatening. [76384]

Andy Burnham: There is no data available on the planned level of non-life threatening services but the national health service produces local delivery plans which set out the planned level of out-patient attendances and elective admissions to hospital. The 2006-07 plans are still being agreed with strategic health authorities but they currently show that, across England, the NHS is planning for a 1.4 per cent. increase in first out-patient attendances following a referral from a general practitioner and a 2.4 per cent. increase in elective admissions to hospital.

Parliamentary Ombudsman

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list those occasions when the recommendations of a report from the parliamentary ombudsman have been *(a)* rejected and *(b)* partly rejected by her Department since 1997. [76267]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There has been one occasion since 1997 when the Department has partly rejected the recommendations of the parliamentary ombudsman. This concerned information withheld pending publication of a National Audit Office (NAO) report. Following publication of the NAO report, the Department acceded to all the Ombudsman's recommendations except on one point.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial assistance will be made available to support primary care trusts seeking to re-engineer services in accordance with the priorities set out in the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say". [60751]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Revenue allocations covering 2006-07 and 2007-08 were announced to primary care trusts (PCTs) on 5 February 2005. Over the two years covered by this allocation PCTs will receive an average increase of 19.5 per cent. They are therefore able to plan to take account of the principles set out in the "Our health, our care, our say" White Paper and the wider programme of health reform, knowing how what resources they have available. In delivering wider reform, PCTs have the support of modernisation teams in strategic health authorities. These teams have an important role in ensuring the delivery of improvements in local health and social care services that maximise all opportunities and available resources.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been generated by the top-slicing of 3 per cent. of London's primary care trust budgets; where this top-sliced income is being held; what decisions have been taken on the use of the fund; and if she will make a statement. [77848]

Andy Burnham: A reduction to London primary care trusts (PCT) 2006-07 revenue allocations of 3 per cent. would amount to around £320 million. Reserves generated to manage the overall financial position are currently being held by strategic health authorities (SHAs). The final amounts and terms for the use of the reserves will be for local agreement between the SHA and PCTs, within a framework agreed with the Department.

Radon Gas

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measurement of radon gas has been recorded in each county in each of the last five years; and how this information is made available to the public. [77677]

Caroline Flint: The radiation division of the Health Protection Agency (HPA) manages the radon measurement programme in England and Wales. Buildings are monitored using two detectors supplied by HPA to measure levels of radon over a three-month period.

The HPA uses various campaign methods to encourage householders to have their dwellings measured but a number of householders choose to ignore this support. In the future, house holder-sales packs will include a section about radon levels in the house which will significantly help to raise awareness of radon gas.

The readings are fed into a national database to produce the radon atlas of England and Wales, publication NRPB-W26 from the HPA and available as a free download on www.hpa.org.uk/radiation, provides detailed data by administrative and postcode divisions as well as the definitive radon probability maps. This publication is due to be updated within the next 12 months.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to protect citizens from the effects of radon gas. [77678]

Caroline Flint: The National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) first offered advice to the Government on the exposure to radon in dwellings in early 1987. (In 2005 the NRPB merged with the Health Protection Agency, becoming its radiation protection division.)

This advice was updated and expanded in 1990 in a statement and supporting document on the limitation of human exposure to radon in homes (reference NRPB. Human exposure to radon in homes. Doc. NRPB. 1, No. 1, 17-32 (1990)). Central to the control strategy is a recommendation that radon concentrations at or above an action level should be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable. In areas with a high risk of elevated radon concentrations, the radon concentration in existing homes should be measured and reduced as appropriate and new homes built with protective measures against radon.

Legislation under the Health and Safety at Work Act, Etc. 1974 means that in places of work the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 come into effect if radon is present above a defined level and then employers are required to take action to restrict resulting exposures.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government have determined a maximum safe level of radon gas. [77685]

Caroline Flint: Radiation protection principles are based on the level of risk and this approach is applied when dealing with radon gas levels in buildings. The risks from the presence of radon gas have to be balanced against other factors. From a public health perspective, priority has to be given to areas and houses that are more likely to suffer from the problem and this is tackled in many ways.

The Government accepted advice in a statement from the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB), published in 1990, on the limitation of human exposure to radon in homes and implemented the recommendations contained in the supporting document (reference NRPB. Human exposure to radon in homes. Doc. NRPB. 1, No. 1, 17-32 (1990)). (In 2005, the NRPB merged with the Health Protection Agency (HPA), becoming its Radiation Protection Division.)

The results of 13 European studies of indoor radon and lung cancer, taken together, provide overwhelming evidence that radon can cause lung cancer. There is no evidence of a threshold below which radon exposure is safe, and there is substantial evidence of a risk for individuals who live in homes with moderate radon concentrations as well as those with homes above 200 bequerels per metre cubed, the current United Kingdom (UK) action level. Homeowners are currently advised to apply radon reduction measures if tests show levels above the action level.

Significant efforts are being made by World Health Organisation, developed countries, UK Government and the HPA to determine how to raise awareness of the issue and to how to better tackle the whole problem.

Royal Assent

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list those *(a)* Acts and *(b)* parts of Acts which received Royal Assent between 1976 and 2006 and for which her Department has policy responsibility which remain in force. [69142]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Acts for which the Department retains full or part policy responsibility have been passed since 1976 and were in force as of 31 December 2005 are as follows:

NHS Act 1977;
Public Health Laboratory Service 1979;
Health Services Act 1980;
Mental Health (Amendment) Act 1982;
Mental Health Act 1983;
Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983;
Medical Act 1983;
Anatomy Act 1984;
Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984;
Dentists Act 1984;
Health and Social Security Act 1984;
Hospital Complaints Procedure Act 1985;
Surrogacy Arrangements Act 1985;
Corneal Tissue Act 1986;
Protection of Children (Tobacco) Act 1986;
National Health Service (Amendment) Act 1986;
AIDS (Control) Act 1987;
Parliamentary and Health Services Commissioners Act 1987;
Community Health Council (Access to Information) Act 1988;
Access to Medical Reports Act 1988;
Health and Medicines Act 1988;
Hearing Aid Council (Amendment) Act 1989;
Human Organs Transplants Act 1989;
Opticians Act 1989;
Food Safety Act 1990;
Greenwich Hospital Act 1990;
National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990;
Access to Health Records Act 1990;
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990;
Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991;
Medical Qualifications (Amendment) Act 1991;
Medicinal Products: Prescription by Nurses etc Act 1992;
Community Care (Residential Accommodation) Act 1992;
Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Disclosure of Information) Act 1992;
Health Service Commissioners Act 1993;
Osteopaths Act 1993;
Chiropractors Act 1994;
Mental Health (Amendment) Act 1994;
Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995;
Health Authorities Act 1995;
National Health Service (Amendment) Act 1995;
Medical (Professional Performance) Act 1995;
Mental Health (Patients in the Community) 1995;
Health Service Commissioners (Amendment) Act 1996;
National Health Services (Residual Liabilities) Act 1996;
National Health Service (Primary Care) Act 1997;
National Health Service (Private Finance) Act 1997;
Community Care (Residential Accommodation) Act 1998;
Food Standards Act 1999;
Health Act 1999;
The Road Traffic (NHS Charges) Act 1999;
Care Standards Act 2000;
Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000;
Health Service Commissioners (Amendment) Act 2000;
Health and Social Care Act 2001;
Human Reproductive Cloning Act 2001;
National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002;
Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act 2002;
Community Care (Delayed Discharges) Act 2003;
Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Deceased Fathers) Act 2003;
Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003;
Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004;
Health Protection Agency Act 2004; and
Human Tissue Act 2004;

RU-486

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the US Administration about H.R. 1079 (Holly's Law) and the

experience of the US Administration in dealing with deaths caused by the abortion drug RU-486 in the United States; and if she will make a statement. [77592]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to replies given on 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1701-02W.

Recent assessments by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), in consultation with independent experts, have concluded that the balance of risks and benefits of mifepristone (Mifegyne, RU-486) remains positive, for use in its licensed indications in medical abortion, and that no changes to prescribing advice are needed. The MHRA is aware of deaths that have been reported in association with the use of mifepristone both in the United States (US) and in the United Kingdom. However, as there is no clear evidence that mifepristone has caused these deaths there is no basis for regulatory action or further discussions with the US authorities.

Service Reorganisation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether primary care and NHS trusts in Gloucestershire are required to consult *(a)* the public and *(b)* voluntary organisations on possible changes in passenger transport services arising from reconfiguration of hospital and other services. [78901]

Caroline Flint: The requirement on trusts and primary care trusts is to consult on proposals to change health services not passenger transport services. Such issues, however, would be dealt with in the context of the health service consultation, and not treated separately.

However, the consultation which was launched on 12 June 2006 by Avon, Gloucester and Wiltshire strategic health authority, 'The Future of Healthcare in Gloucestershire Proposals for Developing Sustainable NHS Services', includes proposed changes to passenger transport services.

Sexually Abused Children

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services are provided by the NHS for children in Milton Keynes who have been sexually abused. [77697]

Andy Burnham: Specialist services including treatment for sexually transmitted infections, termination of pregnancy and mental health services are available for those children who need them as a result of sexual abuse, wherever they are in England. For children with less severe mental health problems, it is more appropriate for universal services to provide the psychological support they need than for them to be referred to specialist child and adolescent mental health services.

The Department and the Mental Health Foundation jointly funded a multi-centre study to evaluate the use of psychotherapy with girls aged 6 to 14 years who had been sexually abused. Two of the main findings were that high rates of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder were found and both group and individual psychotherapy were effective and improvement in the patients condition tended to continue after treatment had ended.

It is important that Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are developed in a way that is responsive to the needs of the populations they serve. The CAMHS standard of the children's National Service Framework (NSF) sets out the requirement for an assessment of the needs of particular groups of children in the locality who are vulnerable or at risk. The NSF also states that commissioners and services should be able to demonstrate multi-agency partnership working in the following areas: the provision of services to children and young people who may or may not have been harmed, as set out in "Working Together to Safeguard Children"; contributing to the assessment of complex child abuse cases; the assessment and provision of post-abuse therapeutic services; and services for looked after and adopted children.

Skipton Fund

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* a panel has been appointed to hear appeals to the Skipton Fund and *(b)* a timetable has been set for the commencement of appeals to the Skipton Fund; and if she will make a statement. [78589]

Caroline Flint: The NHS Appointment Commission is undertaking the recruitment of the chair and members of the Skipton Fund appeal panel and interviews have been arranged for late June 2006. Once the necessary appointments have been made, the Skipton Fund, who provide the secretariat for the appeals panel, will organise all necessary meetings of the panel and prepare cases to be considered by the panel at the earliest convenience.

Specialist Nurses

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals in South East London provide *(a)* Parkinson's disease nurse specialists and *(b)* paediatric diabetes specialist nurses. [78417]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many working days were lost to her Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated total cost to the Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [76892]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The information requested is shown in the following table.

	Staff years	Average working days lost per employee	Estimated average daily cost of absence (£)	Total cost (£)
2004	6,881	3.8	84	2,195,369
2003	7,196	5.4	79	3,069,813
2002	7,448	4.7	75	2,625,420
2001	5,607	6.8	73	2,783,314
2000	5,279	5.8	70	2,143,274
1999	4,880	6.8	69	2,289,696
1998	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.

Information on sickness absence in the civil service is published annually, and the reports for the years 1999 to 2004 can be found on the civil service website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/occupationalhealth/publications/index.asp

The average daily cost of absence is based on average basic salaries presented in each year's report.

Staff Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff surveys have been conducted in her Department in each of the last three years. [72859]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has conducted three staff opinion surveys, one each year, over the past three years.

Summary/Detailed Care Records

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information will be held on an individual's *(a)* summary care record and *(b)* detailed care record. [75125]

Caroline Flint: In the future, each person using the national health service will have a personal electronic NHS care record which can be quickly accessed by health care professionals legitimately involved in the person's care. It will be made up of detailed care records and a summary care record.

Detailed care records will be built up over time into a detailed health and care history.

Patients will also have a summary care record. Initially this is likely to be limited to more basic information such as allergies, adverse reactions to medications, and current prescriptions but over time more information will be added about current health conditions and treatment. Departmental officials are in discussion with representatives of the medical professions of patients and the public about the scope and implementation of the summary care record. This work will be accelerated by the new taskforce.

Strict controls will be in place for both the detailed and summary care records so that only those people involved in the care of the patient will have access to patient information appropriate to their role.

People's consent to share and ability to limit the sharing of their care record is covered by the NHS care record guarantee.

Vulnerable Adults

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on plans to place on a statutory footing the 'No Secrets' guidelines for developing a multi-agency framework for prevention and investigation of abuse of vulnerable adults. [78423]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government regard abuse of vulnerable and older people as unacceptable in all its forms and is determined to root it out.

'No Secrets', published by the Department in 2000, provides a complete definition of abuse and a framework for councils to work with the police, the national health service and regulators to tackle abuse and prevent it from occurring. 'No Secrets' is statutory guidance, issued under section 7 of the 1970 Local Authorities Social Services Act; local authorities must have regard to it.

I am informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection that 145 out of 150 localities have established adult protection committees, as recommended in the guidance, which demonstrates that councils are taking their responsibilities to tackle and prevent abuse seriously.

Waiting Times

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median wait was for a (i) out-patient and (ii) in-patient appointment in (A) 1979, (B) 1997 and (C) the most recent period for which figures are available. [76950]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The mean and median waits for in-patient admission and first out-patient appointment in 1997 and 2006 are shown the following table. It is not possible to calculate mean or medians for 1979 as data were not collected in sufficient detail at that time.

Average waiting time for elective in-patient admission

		Weeks
Period ending	Median wait	Mean wait
March 1979	n/a	n/a
March 1997	13.2	18.1
March 2006	7.3	8.7
April 2006	7.6	8.9

Source:
Department of Health QF01

Average waiting time for a first out-patient appointment from a general practitioner referral to a consultant

		Weeks
Quarter ended	Median wait	Mean wait
March 1979	n/a	n/a
June 1997	6.3	9.0
March 2006	6.1	6.5

Note:
In-patient figures are available monthly, hence figures quoted for April 2006
Source:
Department of Health QM08R

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Avian Influenza

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what aid the Government have given to the Romanian authorities to tackle the incidence of H5N1 avian influenza there. [77807]

Mr. Bradshaw: The UK is playing a lead role in international initiatives to coordinate action on avian influenza. We provide advice and support through the Veterinary Laboratories Agency which, as the World Reference Laboratory, is a constant source of advice, expertise and training for specialists around the world. We have provided technical veterinary expertise to Romania and will consider requests for additional support, working with the European Commission, to help their efforts to tackle the disease.

We consider that the most effective use of resources is to channel them through multilateral organisations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation, who already have in place infrastructures and programmes which can be employed to address avian influenza.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely impact on pigeon racing of restrictions which may be introduced to tackle avian influenza; and whether the Department plans to issue guidelines on this matter. [78010]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following a veterinary risk assessment, pigeon racing is currently allowed within the British Isles (that is, including the Republic of Ireland) subject to certain conditions. These include a requirement for race organisers to advise their local Animal Health Office that the event is taking place and to adhere to strict biosecurity practice.

Following a further recent risk assessment, pigeon races from Belgium and Northern France were permitted since 15 June 2006. These gatherings are subject to the same notification and biosecurity conditions for races within the British Isles as well as additional requirements to isolate pigeons following a race and can only take place until 31 July 2006 when we will review the position again. If the disease situation changes we will immediately review the position and may re-impose a ban on all pigeon races.

The Defra website contains full details of the restrictions and guidance on how to comply with them: http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/qanda/gatherings.htm.

Commercial Recycling

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he plans to extend his Department's grants to cover commercial recycling; [76776]

(2) what mechanisms he plans to help small and medium-sized businesses recycle their waste products. [76851]

Mr. Bradshaw: The recent consultation on the review of England's Waste Strategy puts forward proposals for a greater emphasis on the recycling of commercial and industrial waste. This includes a wider role for local authorities in fostering better recycling services for small businesses, better integration of municipal and business waste management, and the further development of markets for recycled materials. The consultation also asked for views on how best the Government can support small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) in overcoming the barriers they face in recycling their waste.

Responses to the consultation, which closed on 9 May 2006, are being carefully considered during the development of a revised waste strategy—due to be published later this year.

In addition, the recently created Waste Infrastructure Development Programme is considering how to encourage local authorities to allow for appropriate, larger facilities that can serve the non-municipal sector.

The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme also plays a key role in reducing the amount of commercial waste sent to landfill—returning £284 million to businesses over three years through resource efficiency and waste minimisation programmes.

The Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) has set up a pilot project providing sector-specific help for small businesses, and the Environment Agency (EA) is developing a pilot internet service called 'What do I do with my waste?'. This will work as an extension to the EA's existing guidance service for SMEs, 'NetRegs', which includes guidance on waste issues.

Egg Industry

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department will provide guidance on new welfare guidelines as they will apply to permitted flooring systems for the egg industry. [75971]

Mr. Bradshaw: Updated legislation covering the welfare of laying hens in all systems was introduced in 2002. A Code of Recommendations for the welfare of laying hens is available from the Defra website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/layers/layerscode.pdf

If a producer requires further guidance on the suitability of individual flooring systems, they should contact the relevant local enforcement body.

Endangered Species

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many offences have been committed under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulations since the increase in penalties in 2005; what the nature was of these offences; and what penalties were imposed in each case. [76715]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Data on convictions under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species regulations since the increase of penalties in 2005 are unavailable as the most recent data available are for 2004. Data for 2005 will be available in the autumn.

GM Organisms

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the UK Government's policy is on non-food GM crops; and what assessment has been made of the impact of such crops in different parts of the world. [77806]

Ian Pearson: No genetically modified (GM) crops, including non-food GM crops, will be approved unless they pass a detailed case-by-case assessment of possible risks to human health and the environment. Under European Union (EU) legislation each proposed commercial GM product is subject to a detailed risk assessment which involves careful scrutiny by independent scientists. An evaluation is made of all the risk factors that may arise, including possible toxic or allergenic effects and the likely consequences of any gene transfer. Any GM crop intended for importing into this country from outside the EU would need to have the requisite EU consent.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the UK Government's policy is on Poland's decision to ban the cultivation and sale of genetically modified organisms. [77869]

Ian Pearson: This is a matter for the Polish Government and the European Commission. The Government's policy is that we expect member states to abide by existing EU law.

Hosepipe Ban

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the financial impact on the landscape and gardening industry of the imposition of a hosepipe ban in some parts of the South East of England. [78645]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* Water companies are responsible for considering whether to introduce hosepipe bans using the powers available to them under the Water Industry Act 1991. Prior approval from Government is not required.

No assessment of the financial impact of hosepipe bans on the landscape and gardening industry has been conducted by the Government. However, in light of lessons learned from the current drought period, my Department will review the scope of the current legislative framework relating to hosepipe bans.

Landfill

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of landfilled waste in Herefordshire comes from commercial sources. [76775]

Mr. Bradshaw: Based on returns supplied to the Environment Agency by the facility operators, 5,406 tonnes (48.6 per cent.) out of a total of 11,122 tonnes of waste landfilled at three licensed facilities in Herefordshire in 2002-03 were of commercial origin. This is the last year for which fully quality assured data are available.

This is a relatively small amount compared both to the total waste land-filled in the West Midlands (6,623,554 tonnes) and to the total waste dealt with (through treatment, transfer and disposal) in Herefordshire (167,846 tonnes). The tonnage deposited in landfills is likely to decrease further over subsequent years as landfill sites come under stricter regulation.

Marmoset Monkeys

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what restrictions apply to the taking of marmoset monkeys into public places; and if he will make a statement. [77704]

Mr. Bradshaw: Marmoset monkeys are not listed under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act and there are no restrictions specific to taking them into public places. However, any keeper would need to ensure that in taking such an animal into a public place they are not causing any unnecessary suffering contrary to section 1 of the Protection of Animals Act 1911.

Under the Animal Welfare Bill all keepers and owners will need to ensure that an animal's welfare needs are also provided for.

The Department is also looking at the provision of codes of practice on the care of primates.

Meat Hygiene Controls

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the proposals in the Food Standards Agency's consultation on charging arrangements for meat hygiene controls on *(a)* the charges to and *(b)* the viability of small abattoirs. [76359]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The Food Standards Agency's proposals for changes to the charging arrangements for meat hygiene controls are still being developed. I understand that they are currently seeking the initial views of stakeholders, prior to full consultation later this year. Officials from this Department will be liaising closely with those of the Agency to assess their potential impact on charges generally and particularly on the viability of smaller abattoirs.

Packaging

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the Government plan *(a)* to reduce the amount of packaging used by big businesses and *(b)* to encourage consumers to choose products with less packaging. [76852]

Mr. Bradshaw: Last year the Government launched the Courtauld Commitment, a voluntary agreement between 13 major retailers and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to reduce packaging waste. There are three broad objectives to meet, which are:

i. to design out packaging waste growth by 2008;

ii. to deliver absolute reductions in packaging waste by March 2010; and

iii. to identify ways to tackle the problem of food waste.

There are also two sets of regulations which cover packaging in the UK both of which encourage producers (including retailers) to minimise packaging. The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 1997 (as amended) are intended to increase the recovery and recycling of packaging waste. The amount of packaging waste producers have to recover and recycle is determined, in part, by the amount of packaging they handle. Therefore, businesses can save money if they reduce the amount of packaging they handle. The Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003 (as amended) place a number of requirements on all packaging placed on the market in the UK, including a requirement that packaging should be manufactured so that the volume and weight are limited to the minimum adequate amount to maintain the necessary level of safety, hygiene and acceptance for the packed product and for the consumer.

Both regulations have led to decreases in packaging used around products. However, more still needs to be done to reduce the amount of packaging that is produced. We have asked the Advisory Committee on Packaging to work with industry to find solutions to this problem and to let me have recommendations for ways of encouraging businesses to further reduce the amount of packaging they use.

Although legislation is one way of reducing packaging, consumers also have a part to play. If consumers make a point of choosing goods that are not heavily packaged, buy "loose" food rather than pre-packaged food and use their reusable shopping bags, manufacturers would be more inclined to think about the type and the quantity of packaging around their products.

Private Sewers

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with interested parties on his recent consultation on the adoption of private sewers; and what option he plans to recommend following that consultation. [76866]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA has worked hard with stakeholders including Ofwat, Water UK and the Consumer Council for Water to examine the scope and form any potential transfer to water and sewerage companies might take; its costs and funding, the impact on the drain repair and insurance industries, and public expectation. We intend to publish a decision on how to address the problems associated with existing private sewers in England and Wales in the autumn.

Recycling

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects of a deposit system for returnable cans and bottles on the amount of domestic and commercial waste; and if he will make a statement. [78011]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department commissioned a project last year to evaluate whether a deposit system could provide additional value in the UK alongside the current packaging waste recovery system. The work has now been completed and has taken into account existing deposit and return schemes in other parts of Europe, the USA and Canada. The Government will evaluate the findings including an assessment of the likely cost implications, taking account of the fact that additional costs are likely to be passed on to consumers.

The Department has also had discussions with the Advisory Committee on Packaging, regarding the impact of a deposit system. A task force concluded that the costs would be significant, and might be in the region of £1 billion to £7 billion, depending on how any such systems were set up.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has also been leading a £1.2 million project to help retailers pilot new ways of encouraging householders to return their wastes to collection systems at supermarkets for recycling. The project has looked at whether these new approaches, including the use of new technology in bring banks and incentives such as discount vouchers, could help bolster recycling rates and attract new recyclers.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what standards the Government plan to introduce for operators recycling televisions and computer monitors containing cathode ray tubes. [78441]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive aims to minimise WEEE arisings and to encourage reuse, recycling and recovery.

Article 6(1) and annex II of the Directive introduce requirements for the treatment of collected items of WEEE to remove certain substances, preparations and components. The aim is to avoid the dispersion of pollutants into any recycled material or the waste stream. Cathode ray tubes (including their fluorescent coating) are among the substances that have to be removed.

This type of treatment will be subject to waste management licencing to ensure the protection of the environment and human health. We will publish guidance on how to comply with these requirements for those involved with the treatment of WEEE once regulations are made to transpose these provisions.

Specified Risk Material

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action he is taking to enable butchers who remove specified risk material from carcases to return such material to the abattoir. [78161]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (No. 2) Regulations 2006, came into force on 3 May. They enable any butcher to apply to their local authority for an authorisation to remove vertebral column from the carcases or part carcases of cattle which are between 24 and 30 months of age. Vertebral column from this age group of cattle is specified risk material.

We are working closely with industry representatives to facilitate the disposal of vertebral column removed from carcases at butchers' shops and have discussed the possibility of having approved intermediate plants operating on abattoir sites. This would allow vertebral column to be returned to the abattoir of origin for disposal. Abattoirs wishing to pursue this option should notify their local animal health office at the earliest opportunity.

Other disposal routes available include rendering and incineration or the use of collectors such as knackers. Guidance on the disposal of vertebral column has been drawn up in consultation with the industry and will be available shortly.

Veterinary Practices

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many veterinary practices there were in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 1991. [78209]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold information on the number of veterinary practices.

Warden Bay Scheme

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Warden Bay scheme will include replacing the woodland at the top of the cliff. [78078]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* I refer to the answer given on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 905W, which explained that Swale borough council is promoting the Warden Bay coast protection project and details of its construction are a matter for that authority. My hon. Friend may wish to contact the council direct to establish their plans for the area of woodland in question.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what mechanism the Waste and Resources Action Programme Real Nappy Scheme is audited. [78530]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Real Nappy Scheme is funded through the Waste Implementation Programme (WIP) and run by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). WRAP publishes an annual report, which lists the achievements of each of its programmes. WRAP's accounts are audited on an annual basis by their own auditors, like any other company, and the Real Nappy Programme is considered as part of that process. In addition, the National Audit Office (NAO) is carrying out an investigation into reducing the reliance on landfill in England. As part of that process, they have considered the impact of WIP including the Real Nappy Programme. It is expected that the finalised NAO report will be available later this summer.

Water Extraction

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much water has been abstracted from the river *(a)* Lugg, *(b)* Arrow and *(c)* Wye in each month since January 2004. [77448]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency has provided the following information which is taken from data received from licence holders who are authorised to abstract water from the rivers Arrow, Lugg and Wye. The data cover the period 2004 and 2005.

The information does not include any data declared as commercially confidential.

River Lugg

Cubic metres

	2004	*2005*
January	445,182	429,002
February	392,922	410,636
March	430,350	430,892
April	417,979	405,629
May	510,077	465,109
June	469,213	197,099
July	499,943	251,026
August	442,533	180,490
September	428,585	845,724
October	483,706	493,262
November	429,688	430,440
December	494,898	497,852
Total	5,445,076	5,037,161

River Arrow

Cubic metres

	2004	*2005*
January	4,900	—
February	4,900	—
March	4,900	—
April	4,900	—
May	5,266	—
June	9,858	2,906
July	11,993	5,475
August	991	1,300
September	4,900	—
October	4,900	—
Nov[illegible]	4,900	—
D[illegible]	4,900	—
T[illegible]	67,308	9,681

River Wye

Cubic metres

	2004	*2005*
January	2,824,006	2,418,956
February	2,572,504	1,827,142
March	2,674,162	11,516,887
April	2,581,641	2,540,052
May	2,391,498	3,035,505

River Wye

	2004	*Cubic metres 2005*
June	3,340,550	3,458,862
July	3,509,541	4,075,843
August	3,326,877	2,980,020
September	3,294,570	2,746,270
October	2,702,291	2,707,629
November	2,455,457	2,716,335
December	3,583,783	2,559,602
Total	35,256,880	42,583,103

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Misuse and Enforcement Campaign

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much will be made available to police through the Alcohol Misuse and Enforcement Campaign between *(a)* 9 June and 9 July and *(b)* 10 July and 10 August, broken down by constabulary. [77652]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 June 2006]:* The latest Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign (AMEC) ran from 8 May 2006 until 8 June 2006 with an additional £2.35 million provided to local forces and trading standards authorities for this period. One key purpose of this campaign was to set the tone of acceptable behaviour and how the use of alcohol would be policed both for the World Cup and the summer. The campaign did not extend into the period of the World Cup itself, as the police service has its own well-established plans for policing during major sporting events which are funded through the service's mainstream resources.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of Government guidelines on the treatment of animals used in scientific experimentation; and if he will make a statement; [77683]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of strengthening Government guidelines on the treatment of animals in scientific experimentation; and if he will make a statement. [78438]

Joan Ryan: It has long been our policy to assess and satisfy the welfare needs of animals bred and used under the licensing controls of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. We are working to ensure that the highest possible standards of animal welfare are applied to animals used in scientific procedures and that they are used only where it is fully justified, where the benefits outweigh the costs and where there are no suitable alternatives.

The animals must be housed and cared for in accordance with codes of practice published and laid before Parliament under the 1986 Act. These codes set standards which have to be met as a requirement of licence conditions, and the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate closely monitors compliance. In their report published in July 2002, the House of Lords Select Committee on Animals in Scientific Procedures recognised the progress that had been made since the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 came into force in fostering a culture of care towards animals used in scientific procedures in establishments designated under that legislation.

The culture of care in the United Kingdom is indeed probably better than anywhere else in the world, and we remain committed to maintaining and improving that position. United Kingdom standards and best practice have been used extensively to inform revised guidance on the accommodation and care of laboratory animals adopted on 15 June 2006 by the Council of Europe.

The new guidelines include a considerable increase in the minimum amount of space that must be allocated to animals. This will help to promote more group accommodation and a more stimulating and interesting environment for the animals. In anticipation of their adoption, we have for some time been advising United Kingdom users to work to the Council of Europe draft guidelines. The United Kingdom codes of practice will be revised to reflect these improved practices, where necessary, in due course.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure that animals used in laboratory experiments are kept in adequate conditions. [78580]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* It has long been our policy to assess and satisfy the welfare needs of animals bred and used under the licensing controls of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. We are working to ensure that the highest possible standards of animal welfare are applied to animals used in scientific procedures and that they are used only where it is fully justified, where the benefits outweigh the costs and where there are no suitable alternatives.

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Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures to tackle antisocial behaviour have been introduced by his Department since 1997; and what the take-up for each measure has been to date in *(a)* Dudley and *(b)* the West Midlands. [77145]

Mr. McNulty: Building and enforcing a modern culture of respect and tackling antisocial behaviour is a priority for the Government. On 10 January the Government published the Respect Action Plan. The plan is central to the Government's drive to step up and broaden the clampdown on antisocial behaviour and to promote good behaviour.

Prior to this the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 put in place a range of measures to tackle antisocial behaviour and gave local agencies the tools they need to tackle antisocial behaviour on the ground. Key measures in the Act include:

Powers to close premises where drugs are used unlawfully.

Powers enabling social landlords to take action against antisocial tenants.

A package of support and sanctions to enable parents to prevent and tackle antisocial behaviour among children.

Powers to allow police officers to disperse groups of people who are causing nuisance or intimidating others.

Powers for environmental health officers to close noisy premises.

Powers to tackle graffiti and fly-posting.

The Housing Act 2004 also contained important measures to enable landlords to tackle antisocial behaviour. A survey of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships in England and Wales in 2005 found that:

514 crack house closure orders were made between January 2004 and September 2005;

809 areas were designated as dispersal areas between January 2004 and June 2005;

2,369 parenting contracts and orders were made between October 2003 and September 2005;

13,478 acceptable behaviour contracts were made between October 2003 and September 2005.

Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) were introduced under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and have been available since April 1999. In Dudley 30 ASBOs have been issued between April 1999 and September 2005. 552 ASBOs have been issued in the West Midlands during the same period.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in each London borough in each year since their inception, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex; and if he will make a statement. [75541]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in tables which will be placed in the Library.

Building Safer Communities Fund

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding from the Building Safer Communities Fund has been allocated to *(a)* Leeds city council and *(b)* the basic command units of West Yorkshire Police within the Leeds city council district in each of the last three years. [76933]

Mr. McNulty: The information is as follows:

(a) The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in Leeds City Council received a total of £3,987,656 under the Building Safer Communities Fund over the last three financial years, broken down as follows: 2003-04 £1,307,428, 2004-05, £1,340,114, 2005-06 £1,340,114.

(b) The Basic Command Unit of City and Holbeck within the West Yorkshire Police force has received a total of £1,111,170 under the Basic Command Unit (BCU) Fund over the last three financial years, broken down as follows: 2003-04 £370,390, 2004-05 £370,390, 2005-06 £370,390.

Cannabis

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average number of grammes of cannabis found on people charged with possession of cannabis was in each of the last five years. [77159]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is not collected centrally.

CCTV

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment he made of the cohesiveness of Government, local authority, town and parish council funding streams for developing a viable and robust network of CCTV cameras; [76931]

(2) how much central Government funding has been spent on CCTV cameras in the area covered by Leeds city council in each of the last five years; [76932]

(3) how much funding for CCTV cameras has been allocated by town and parish councils in the Leeds city council district in each of the last three years. [76934]

Mr. McNulty: There is continuing interest in the further development of CCTV across the country. The Government offices in the regions have a role in ensuring all interested parties, including local authorities and town and parish councils are involved, both in the planning and in finding the appropriate funds. Although there is no National CCTV strategy at the moment, work is under way to produce one by the end of the

year. Under the Crime Reduction Programme, Central Government provided £869,000 funding during 2001-02 for Leeds Watch Local, a CCTV scheme under the second round of the CCTV initiative. Money has been made more widely available since then through general crime reduction funding streams, for example under the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF). The allocation for CCTV cameras in the Leeds city council district over the last three years was £2,170,000. Exact figures at town and parish council level are not held but funding, where allocated locally, was split fairly equally at approximately £720,000 each year.

Community Support Officers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding the Government have provided for police community support officers in each police force in each of the last five years. [75901]

Mr. McNulty: The table gives details of Government funding to police authorities for police community support officers (PCSOs) in the four years since they were first appointed.

£000

	Total			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[1]
Avon and Somerset	57.5	415.2	845.9	1,856.6
Bedfordshire	0.0	59.5	234.4	543.6
Cambridgeshire	66.5	376.2	644.4	1,050.8
Cheshire	42.0	208.9	387.3	712.3
City of London	0.0	0.0	43.2	388.9
Cleveland	300.0	1,022.4	1,069.4	1,310.7
Cumbria	0.0	0.0	111.4	360.8
Derbyshire	0.0	0.0	210.2	1,012.3
Devon and Cornwall	153.6	606.5	780.0	1,043.8
Dorset	86.8	145.1	333.6	603.3
Durham	54.9	125.2	339.4	760.1
Dyfed Powys	0.0	23.7	175.2	508.5
Essex	62.4	278.8	1,068.1	1,958.5
Gloucestershire	0.0	174.5	434.1	1,000.6
Greater Manchester	1,263.2	3,388.7	3,250.2	4,136.0
Gwent	147.3	708.5	943.2	1,582.6
Hampshire	0.0	0.0	111.8	559.7
Hertfordshire	121.4	501.8	663.9	1,030.2
Humberside	0.0	0.0	96.6	480.5
Kent	71.7	582.6	909.7	1,432.1
Lancashire	672.7	1,644.0	1,673.8	2,603.7
Leicestershire	234.8	640.5	657.5	1,316.7
Lincolnshire	147.6	559.4	680.0	1,111.7
Merseyside	167.6	845.9	1,183.4	3,484.7
Metropolitan Police	6,400.0	15,474.5	17,241.6	21,001.8
Norfolk	136.0	389.3	547.9	836.6
North Wales	0.0	52.6	204.5	1,040.9
North Yorkshire	0.0	298.0	515.4	907.6
Northamptonshire	199.0	262.2	427.2	639.9
Northumbria	0.0	176.5	712.5	2,077.5
Nottinghamshire	104.2	400.3	949.6	1,674.5
South Wales	0.0	276.7	760.2	1,889.3
South Yorkshire	208.4	289.0	590.4	1,343.6
Staffordshire	0.0	15.2	325.2	1,192.3
Suffolk	0.0	60.2	260.0	641.6
Surrey	350.0	1,093.6	1,136.7	1,418.1
Sussex	111.2	703.9	1,004.3	1,500.1
TVP	0.0	34.1	370.8	2,077.6
Warwickshire	119.8	262.2	480.7	786.0
West Mercia	68.4	283.2	536.8	781.4
West Midlands	0.0	205.9	1,072.1	2,566.4
West Yorkshire	534.2	2,030.4	3,150.0	4,689.3
Wiltshire	63.8	373.6	398.8	596.8
Total	11,945.0	34,988.8	47,531.4	78,510.0

[1] Subject to audit

Correspondence

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will reply to the letter of 2 May 2006 from the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East to the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State regarding his constituent Mrs. P. Day of Southend-on Sea. [78043]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* I can confirm that I will be writing to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East.

Crime (Ealing)

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of violent crime there were in Ealing Southall constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available, broken down by type of crime. [78046]

Mr. McNulty: Southall comes within the Ealing Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area. There were 9,962 violent crimes recorded in Ealing in 2004-05. Of these, 8,009 were offences of violence against the person, 388 were sexual offences and 1,565 were offences of robbery.

Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many domestic violence incidents dealt with by police in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Luton and *(c)* Bedfordshire in the last five years involved (i) repeat victims and (ii) repeat visits to the same address. [76730]

Mr. McNulty: Data for the number of reported incidents of domestic violence that involved victims of a reported domestic violence incident in the previous 12 months are available from 2002-03 for Luton and Bedfordshire and given in the following table. Data are not available for England and Wales as a whole. Information on repeat visits to the same address is not collected centrally.

Number of reported incidents of domestic violence that involved victims of a reported domestic violence incident in the previous 12 months

	Luton	*Bedfordshire*
2002-03	1,890	2,962
2003-04	1,818	3,295
2004-05	1,924	3,287

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the trend over the last five years in the number of repeat victims in cases of domestic violence investigated by police in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Luton and *(c)* Bedfordshire. [76731]

Mr. McNulty: Between 2002-03 and 2004-05, the number of reported incidents of domestic violence that involved victims of a reported domestic violence incident in the previous 12 months has risen by under 2 per cent. in Luton and 11 per cent. in Bedfordshire. Data are not available for England and Wales as a whole.

Drug Intervention Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the results of the Drug Intervention Programme. [69543]

Mr. Coaker: Since the introduction of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) in April 2003, over 45,000 drug misusing offenders have entered treatment through DIP. The programme continues to have a positive impact in communities not only through the interventions that it offers but also by delivering a more integrated approach by local agencies to the problems of offenders. Acquisitive recorded crime—to which drug related crime (including theft) makes a substantial contribution—fell by 12 per cent. in the year to April 2005 compared with the previous 12 months.

The programme is highly regarded by operational staff and the many offenders whose lives it has helped to change. Its success has been achieved through a combination of additional resources, new legislation, revised working practices and a stronger focus on partnership working.

We are on track to achieve the overall target of 1,000 offenders a week (4,300 a month) into treatment by 2008. In April 2006 over 2,800 offenders engaged in treatment through DIP. The programme continues to be developed and strengthened. For example, from 31 March 2006 testing on arrest has been rolled out to 98 areas.

Those testing positive are required to attend an assessment with a drugs worker. Testing on arrest is a way of identifying drug misusers at an early stage in the criminal justice process. Restriction on bail is now available across all local justice areas in England.

Drugs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of drug trafficking offences in each of the last five years, broken down by police force. [77151]

Mr. Coaker: The table shows the number of people found guilty at court or cautioned in England and Wales police force areas between 2000 and 2004 for drug trafficking offences. Trafficking offences include: possession with intent to supply, unlawful supply, unlawful production and unlawful import or export.

Persons found guilty or cautioned for drug trafficking offences[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 2000 to 2004

Number of persons (rounded)

Police force area	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Avon and Somerset	310	250	280	320	320
Bedfordshire	100	110	110	110	80
Cambridgeshire	110	100	120	210	140
Cheshire	200	150	170	170	220
Cleveland	170	210	220	240	240
Cumbria	120	100	110	130	150
Derbyshire	210	200	220	210	260
Devon and Cornwall	360	330	350	370	320
Dorset	150	110	110	100	110
Durham	190	160	140	160	120
Essex	250	210	250	220	240
Gloucestershire	100	90	120	140	130
Greater Manchester	990	670	710	760	880
Hampshire	390	270	310	380	390
Hertfordshire	130	130	130	130	190
Humberside	210	170	240	290	400
Kent	460	340	310	350	410
Lancashire	320	290	410	510	500
Leicestershire	190	140	150	220	270
Lincolnshire	80	100	100	90	120
Merseyside	430	320	360	450	480
City of London	20	10	20	20	10
Metropolitan	2,300	2,370	2,520	2,230	2,340
City of London and Metropolitan Police	2,320	2,380	2,550	2,250	2,350
Norfolk	190	120	140	150	210
Northamptonshire	180	100	80	70	140
Northumbria	400	440	430	520	460
North Yorkshire	130	100	130	120	150
Nottinghamshire	330	260	270	290	440
South Yorkshire	360	350	290	410	450
Staffordshire	170	180	240	240	270
Suffolk	220	120	130	180	190
Surrey	150	140	140	150	150
Sussex	450	520	570	550	450
Thames Valley	320	300	270	310	320
Warwickshire	90	50	60	80	90
West Mercia	330	270	210	220	290
West Midlands	690	660	640	790	790
West Yorkshire	1,010	770	630	590	870
Wiltshire	170	110	100	120	120
Dyfed-Powys	240	180	210	230	170
Gwent	200	210	140	120	140
North Wales	130	110	100	100	130
South Wales	410	380	380	420	530

[1] Unlawful import and export, unlawful production of drugs (including cannabis), unlawful supply and possession with intent to supply unlawfully.

Extremist Exploitation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking towards making young people less vulnerable to being influenced and exploited by extremists. [76813]

Mr. McNulty: Together with the Muslim communities, we are taking forward projects designed to reduce the risk of radicalisation of vulnerable young people. Examples of these projects are; The National Roadshow of Influential Populist Scholars, work with the UK Youth Parliament seeking new and effective tools for engagement and youth workshops to challenge the radicalisation of Muslim youth. The Prison Service have commissioned a three year project on how prison service policies on preparing prisoners for release meets the needs of Muslim prisoners. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Home Office have a full programme of media intensive visits by British Muslim delegations to a number of countries in the Muslim world. And as a Government we are committed to prioritising policies that tackle the real and perceived socio-economic inequalities confronting Muslim communities today. As well as focusing on tackling the issue of young Muslims being influenced and exploited by extremists, the Home Office has funded a number of initiatives in Burnley, Oldham and Bradford which are involved in engaging young people at risk of joining far right extremist organisations. The Home Office also works closely with Rewind a project aimed at tackling issues of racism among young people. We are also supporting an initiative in Blackburn with Darwen which will bring together young girls across faith groups to discuss issues of racism and extremism.

Firearms

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many incidents a deactivated gun that has been reactivated was used in shootings and armed violence in England and Wales in the last five years; and which of these incidents resulted in murder. [77610]

Mr. McNulty: Data for recorded crime involving specific types of imitation firearms in England and Wales have been collected centrally only since April 2004.

In 2004-05, police recorded one violent offence that involved a deactivated firearm. The weapon was used as a threat and did not result in injury.

Iris Scans

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the results were of the airport-based Iris Recognition Immigration System pilots; what percentage of iris scans were successful; and if he will make a statement. [78121]

Joan Ryan: The IRIS Project Board agreed on 5 May 2006 that the project should exit its pilot stage. At that point the IRIS enrolment biometric acceptance rate was 99.53 per cent. compared to the contract pilot acceptance criterion of 98 per cent. I will make a written statement to the House on the overall results of the IRIS Project Report once it is complete.

Knives

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives have been handed in during the amnesty in Houghton and Washington East constituency. [76334]

Mr. McNulty: Figures for the number of items handed in during the amnesty are being collected at force level. The number of items surrendered after the first week in Northumbria is 617. Final figures will be published after they have been collated following the end of the amnesty (30 June).

London Terrorist Attacks

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average compensation paid to those who lost *(a)* one and *(b)* two limbs as a result of the terrorist attacks on 7 July 2005 was; and whether further consideration is being given to increasing the sums involved. [68700]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* Compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is paid on the basis of a tariff (scale) of awards for injuries of comparable severity. The tariff awards for the loss of limbs are as under: loss of one leg below knee £33,000, loss of one leg above knee £44,000, loss of one hand or arm £44,000, loss of both hands or arms £110,000, loss of both legs £110,000. Victims who lose a limb are likely to be eligible for additional compensation for loss of earnings, loss of future earning capacity and the costs of special care. Such compensation will vary according to individual circumstances.

In most such cases final settlement of the claim will not be possible until the final prognosis for recovery is clear, and a final assessment can be made with regard to lost earning capacity and the costs of future care. However, a substantial interim award or awards will be made where a final determination cannot be made for some time. We announced on 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 38WS, that we were making an extra donation of £2.5 million to the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund to give assistance to bereaved and the injured victims of the 7 July 2005 London bombings. The further support was being made on a special, one-off basis in recognition of the exceptional circumstances of the London bombings, rather than under the rules of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, which would require a change to legislation.

Mentally Ill Prisoners

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who work with mental health patients have been murdered by patients in each of the last 10 years for which records are available. [76779]

Mr. McNulty: The requested data are not collected centrally for inclusion on the Homicide Index.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer Question 51888 tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South on 10 February 2006 on transport for prisoners. [65398]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I replied to the hon. Member on 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1220W.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will provide a substantive response to question 63667, tabled by the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight on 30 March, on the Security Industry Authority. [70112]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. member to the reply given 6 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 299W. I can confirm that in the 10 weeks following the offence date of 20 March 127 warnings have been issued and the SIA have conducted six operations as part of "Operation Forewarn". The SIA has a regionally-based compliance team of 33.

People Trafficking

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the number of people trafficked into the UK for *(a)* sexual slavery and *(b)* forced labour in each year since 1997, broken down by country of origin. [74856]

Mr. Coaker: It is difficult to make an accurate assessment of the number of people trafficked into the UK for sexual or labour exploitation and particularly by reference to the year and country of origin. An indicator of the number of victims involved in this type of trafficking is the number of referrals to the Poppy project. Since the scheme's inception in 2003 a total of 184 women who met the criteria for the project have been referred to it (out of a total of 451 referrals between March 2003 and the end of March 2006). However, the scheme operates mainly in London and has tightly focused criteria, so the number of victims nationwide is likely to be higher. A breakdown of the country of origin for women who met the criteria for the Poppy project follows. Operation Pentameter, a police-led, multi-agency initiative aimed at tackling the trafficking of human beings for sexual exploitation has resulted in the rescue of 75 women since its launch on the 21 February. These cases are subject to on-going investigation and as such it would not be appropriate to disclose the country of origin of the potential trafficking victims. The Home Office has commissioned CEOP, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre, to conduct an intelligence gathering exercise to scope the problem of child trafficking in the UK; initial findings are expected in the autumn.

There is currently little information on the scale of trafficking for labour exploitation and officials are considering ways in which our knowledge can be improved. Illegal working statistics may provide some indication of the possible size of the illegal working market. Statistical returns are provided on a monthly basis by local enforcement offices, showing the breakdown by nationality of those encountered during illegal working operations. There is currently no facility available to record whether those encountered have been trafficked for the purpose of labour exploitation. However, following are statistics available for illegal working operations for each financial year since 2002 with the top five nationalities identified (figures are not available prior to 2002). 2002-03—A total of 301 operations were reported; a total of 1,099 offenders were encountered. Poland, Lithuania, Brazil, Ukraine and Pakistan were the top five nationalities identified in descending order. 2003-04—A total of 697 operations were reported in 2003-04; a total of 2,304 offenders were encountered. Brazil, Poland, Lithuania, Bangladesh and Ukraine were the top five nationalities identified in descending order. 2004-05—A total of 3,314 operations were reported in 2004-05; a total of 9,227 offenders were encountered. Turkey, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Brazil were the top five nationalities identified in descending order.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to expand the Poppy scheme for victims of human sex trafficking. [74859]

Mr. Coaker: In April the Home Office entered into a two-year, £2.4 million funding agreement with Eaves Housing for Women for the expansion of the Poppy project. This funding will not only provide for the existing crisis provision service for up to 25 women, it will also meet the costs of 10 additional "step-down" places which will help the women to live semi-independently with less intensive support, and the development of a resource pack for victims, service providers and law enforcement agency staff. It will also introduce the first ever specialist national outreach service in the UK for victims trafficked into sexual exploitation. Whilst the project remains London based it will continue to take referrals from across the country and provide a national service. We are currently looking at how best to utilise other existing local service providers to support victims and will continue to consider the feasibility of further extending the Poppy model of support to other areas in the future.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were identified as victims of child trafficking in the UK in each year between 2001 and 2005; from which countries they came; what percentage of those children had been sexually abused; and through which agencies most of those victims of child trafficking were found. [75972]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have no centrally collated data on the number of children trafficked into the UK. The Home Office recognises there is an urgent need to improve its intelligence on this issue and for this reason have commissioned a scoping project in partnership with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOPS) to estimate the scale and nature of the problem including source countries. Additionally newly established Minors Intelligence Teams based at Croydon and Liverpool Asylum screening units now provide monthly reports on

children who have been identified as being at risk including those that they believe have been trafficked.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taking to deter child trafficking into the UK. [75974]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have taken a number of steps to deter child trafficking into the UK. They have, for example, strengthened the legislative framework by including the offence of trafficking children in the Sexual Offences Act, 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration Act, 2004. Additionally, the Sexual Offences Act introduced new offences of "abuse of children through prostitution and pornography" which aim to protect children under the age of 18. The law enforcement response to human trafficking is co-ordinated by Reflex, the multi agency task force on organised immigration crime, established in 2000. Reflex has been working closely with police forces in the regions to increase awareness of human trafficking and build capacity to tackle it. A key thrust of its activity is to develop our intelligence base, thereby improving our knowledge and understanding of the extent and nature of child trafficking within the UK. The establishment of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) on 1 April 2006 brings a renewed focus on improving intelligence and targeting those organised crime groups causing the most harm. The previous Home Secretary (Mr. Clarke) made clear in his letter to all chief constables, in June 2005, that police forces should increase their efforts against organised immigration crime, focusing particularly on human trafficking. A national action plan is being developed this year incorporating the responses from the UK consultation on tackling human trafficking. The action plan will include measures to deter child trafficking. Responses to the plan from stakeholders are currently being collated with a view to publishing a summary report of these on 21 June 2006. The Government are increasing their engagement with developing countries in helping to eradicate the root causes of trafficking such as poverty, social exclusion, discrimination against women, girls and inequality. The Government are working with several overseas countries to prevent human trafficking by helping to tackle poverty and removing the conditions that lead to forced migration. The Government are also seeking to build the capacity of these countries to combat trafficking by improving ways of stemming the problem. Through our embassies and consulates we are working to raise awareness in source countries on the dangers of trafficking among potential victims.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what programmes are in place to ensure that recovered children are not re-trafficked. [75975]

Mr. Coaker: Children who have been identified as having been trafficked and who are considered to be at risk are looked after by local authorities under section 20 of the 1989 Children Act. The arrangements for trafficked children as for other children in need in the UK are matters for local authorities to decide based on careful analysis of the risks, the needs and the circumstances facing that particular child.

The Home Office National Asylum Seekers Service (NASS) is conducting a review together with the Department for Education and Skills, to ensure that safe arrangements for lone asylum-seeking children who have been assessed as being at risk from traffickers can be incorporated in those for other unaccompanied foreign national minors in need of support. This work will be carried out in partnership with the most knowledgeable and experienced local authorities. Her Majesty's Government are aware that children returned to certain countries could be put at risk of further harm, with the likelihood of being re-trafficked. As a general principle, therefore, children will only be returned, where it is considered both possible and safe to do so and only after a full assessment of each case has been thoroughly carried out. Before considering the return of a child, full consideration is given to the Government's obligations under the immigration laws and the European Convention on Human Rights and the unique circumstances of each case including an assessment of the country of origin.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which counterparts in other countries he *(a)* has discussed and *(b)* plans to discuss actions to tackle the growth in human trafficking. [78810]

Mr. Coaker: My right hon. Friend Tony McNulty, along with Lord Goldsmith attended the G8 meeting on 15 and 16 of June the agenda for which included human trafficking. The Government are actively involved in discussions on how to tackle trafficking with other EU countries as part of the EU Action Plan which we initiated. We will keep under review the need for bilateral discussions as and when they arise.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the Government have transposed the Council of the European Union's Framework Decision on combating trafficking in human beings into UK law; and if he will make a statement. [78811]

Mr. Coaker: The UK has met its international obligations with the introduction of a range of offences covering trafficking into or out of the UK for sexual exploitation under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and Section 22 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003. With regard to trafficking for non-sexual exploitation, the UK is compliant with the framework decision following the introduction of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004, the Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004, the Proceeds of Crime Act 2004 and relevant sections of the Immigration and Asylum Act 2006. An explanatory memorandum to this effect was cleared from scrutiny in the Lords on 13 June.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information the Government have provided to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's Global Programme Against Trafficking in Human Beings for the purposes of establishing a trafficking database. [78814]

Mr. Coaker: UN Office on Drugs and Crime trafficking trends database collects a wide range of

open source information on trafficking including both qualitative and quantitative information provided by the UK Government. The information provided by the UK Government includes estimates of the volume of trafficking by country, details of trafficking cases dealt with by the criminal justice system, characteristic profiles of victims/ traffickers and details of trafficking routes.

Police

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received in favour of keeping West Mercia as a separate police force. [69976]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 May 2006]:* We have received representations from West Mercia police force and authority in favour of allowing West Mercia to stand alone as a strategic force. We have also received correspondence in favour of this option from members of the public and other interested parties in the West Mercia force area.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many misconduct sanctions have been imposed on police officers in each of the last five years, broken down by type of sanction. [75403]

Mr. McNulty: The misconduct sanctions imposed on police officers in each of the last five years for which statistics have been collected, broken down by sanction, are as follows:

Disciplinary punishments or misconduct sanctions awarded

Most serious outcome	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Dismissed	41	24	44	33	34
Required to resign	84	73	71	62	57
Reduction in rank	15	19	18	14	13
Reduction in pay	7	3	—	—	—
Fine	154	191	169	138	115
Reprimand	86	88	58	42	45
Caution	51	50	42	21	18
No action	4	8	7	14	42
Written warnings	760	897	1,120	1,221	880

Sources:
1. Police Complaints and Discipline England and Wales, 12 months to March 2003 Home Office
2. Police Complaints and Discipline England and Wales, 12 months to March 2004 Home Office
3. Police Complaints: Statistics for England and Wales 2004-05 IPCC

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister about merging police forces in England and Wales since his appointment. [77126]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has regular discussions with his right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, about the whole range of my responsibilities.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* serving and *(b)* former police officers of each police force have been imprisoned in each of the last five years. [77155]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police recruits have dropped out of training in each police force in each of the last five years; and what percentage this represents of the total number of recruits in each year. [77427]

Mr. McNulty: The figures in table A refer to police recruits who have voluntarily resigned from their force within their probationary period. Data are only available from 2003 onwards. The figures in table B are force recruitment data for the same period. The probationary period is two years in length and an officer may be recruited in one year and then resign in the next. For this reason, it is not possible accurately to cross-reference the two sets of data so as to express the number of resignations during any given year as a percentage of the officers recruited during that year.

Table A: Probationer officer leavers full-time equivalent[1] by year

Force	*As at 31 March 2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Avon and Somerset	6	21	18
Bedfordshire	16	25	26
Cambridgeshire	14	9	16
Cheshire	6	6	5
Cleveland	0	15	10
Cumbria	4	3	8
Derbyshire	4	9	8
Devon and Cornwall	10	5	17
Dorset	6	12	12
Durham	3	3	12
Dyfed-Powys	2	4	9
Essex	5	13	35
Gloucestershire	5	8	11
Greater Manchester	20	67	71
Gwent	0	2	5
Hampshire	20	40	24
Hertfordshire	16	39	40
Humberside	2	17	13
Kent	13	31	18
Lancashire	2	12	19
Leicestershire	5	8	19
Lincolnshire	8	7	7
London, City of	8	5	4
Merseyside	8	11	16
Metropolitan Police	289	377	200
Norfolk	5	6	4
Northamptonshire	7	6	3
Northumbria	4	10	11
North Wales	2	1	3
North Yorkshire	0		0
Nottinghamshire	0	6	7
South Wales	11	8	9
South Yorkshire	18	15	20
Staffordshire	5	13	28
Suffolk	9	17	13
Surrey	15	20	19
Sussex	24	84	74

Table A: Probationer officer leavers full-time equivalent[1] by year

Force	As at 31 March 2003	2004	2005
Thames Valley	32	34	60
Warwickshire	5	4	0
West Mercia	6	11	8
West Midlands	51	46	45
West Yorkshire	16	24	28
Wiltshire	8	7	6
Total	690	1,060	961

[1] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave

Table B: Police officer joiners[1]

Force	As at 31 March 2003	2004	2005
Avon and Somerset	40	317	93
Bedfordshire	89	178	106
Cambridgeshire	77	107	99
Cheshire	141	153	82
Cleveland	129	138	83
Cumbria	63	113	51
Derbyshire	146	146	64
Devon and Cornwall	138	131	200
Dorset	72	86	76
Durham	21	104	79
Dyfed-Powys	7	53	35
Essex	40	225	276
Gloucestershire	53	98	60
Greater Manchester	113	978	233
Gwent	45	78	102
Hampshire	267	282	204
Hertfordshire	202	279	155
Humberside	57	188	126
Kent	192	290	191
Lancashire	240	311	148
Leicestershire	116	245	123
Lincolnshire	64	44	59
London, City of	45	52	39
Merseyside	101	192	389
Metropolitan Police	2,443	2,974	1,880
Norfolk	71	56	77
Northamptonshire	45	99	109
Northumbria	151	197	159
North Wales	75	66	71
North Yorkshire	99	82	71
Nottinghamshire	89	138	138
South Wales	180	173	118
South Yorkshire	103	261	205
Staffordshire	29	137	117
Suffolk	81	113	37
Surrey	93	116	129
Sussex	139	320	229
Thames Valley	306	479	361
Warwickshire	57	51	59
West Mercia	235	88	90
West Midlands	478	408	476
West Yorkshire	277	337	566
Wiltshire	63	120	70
Total	7,471	11,003	8,035

[1] Joiners include constables who were previously Special Constables or joined as a Police Standard Direct Recruit or on the Police High Potential Development scheme. Figures are based on full-time equivalent which includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet and (ii) using official telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in each of the last five years. [77431]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the consultation on the merger of the four existing forces in the West Midlands will cost *(a)* his Department and *(b)* (i) each individual police force and (ii) each local authority involved. [77682]

Mr. McNulty: The statutory four month period in which objections can be raised under Sections 32 and 33 of the Police Act 1996 is part of normal Home Office business and, as such, imposes no additional costs. The costs, if any, that police forces and police authorities choose to incur is a matter for the bodies concerned.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations have been closed in villages and towns with a population smaller than 10,000 inhabitants in each year since 1997. [78201]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 741-42W, on the police, whether his strategic objectives in relation to West Mercia police differ from those of his predecessor. [78390]

Mr. McNulty: As my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, made clear during the course of Home Office oral questions on 19 June, he believes that the creation of strategic police forces will bring benefits both in improving protective services and safeguarding dedicated local policing. However, he also made it clear that he wants to engage in further discussion with police forces and police authorities on how best to move to strategic police forces.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will withdraw the guidance to police forces contained in Annex C of his Department's circular 46/2004; [77964]

(2) if he will amend the guidance to police forces on reviewing injury pensions so that injured officers who were in receipt of such a pension prior to the introduction of the current guidance will not have their pension reviewed earlier than their state retirement age; [77965]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect of new legislation on age discrimination on the existing guidance to police forces on injury pensions contained in Annex C of Home Office Circular 46/2004. [77966]

Mr. McNulty: We have no plans to change the guidance in Annex C in HOC 46/2004, which was issued to provide for a fairer and more consistent framework within which police authorities review the

injury pensions they are paying. Police authorities have a statutory responsibility to consider at suitable intervals whether the pensioner's loss of earning capacity has altered. The relevant provision is now set out in regulation 37 of the Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006, but the legal obligation has been in place since before 1987, when the previous regulations were made. A wider policy review of the injury award system is planned.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of the creation of larger police constabularies on response times; and if he will make a statement. [67102]

Mr. McNulty: While no assessment has been made of the effect of the creation of larger police forces on response times, we believe that strategic forces will have greater capability and capacity to deliver effective protective services, response policing and neighbourhood policing for all their communities. Targets on response times are set and monitored locally. It is an operational matter for the chief constable of each area to decide how he or she wishes to deploy the available resources to best serve their communities.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposed merger between Lancashire and Cheshire police authorities on policing in Lancashire. [76013]

Mr. McNulty: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's assessment revealed that the most effective option for improving policing for the communities of both Lancashire and Cumbria is for these force areas to amalgamate. This will preserve and embed neighbourhood policing and protect people better against serious crime and terrorism. Both Lancashire and Cumbria police authorities voted in favour of amalgamation.

Pornographic Material

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will consider introducing legislation to reduce the amount of *(a)* pornographic materials in circulation and *(b)* bad language, pornography and violence on television; and if he will make a statement. [78967]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Legislation, including the Obscene Publications Act 1959, the Indecent Displays (Control) Act 1981, the Video Recordings Act 1984 and the Communications Act 2003 already exist to protect people against illegal and harmful sexual material. The Government are also currently considering the responses they have received to their Consultation on the Possession of Extreme Pornographic Material which contains proposals to make illegal the simple possession of a limited range of extreme pornographic material.

(b) Decisions on broadcast programme standards are a matter for Ofcom, the BBC and S4C to determine independently of Government, according to the provisions of the Broadcasting and Communications Acts.

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times in the last 12 months the London Area Manager of the Prison Service, or his representative, has attended multi-agency public protection arrangements strategic management boards within his area. [78088]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Four meetings of the multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) strategic management boards were held in the last 12 months and a representative of the Area Manager attended all these meetings. The Prison Service is part of the MAPPA "Responsible Authority" with the Police and Probation and a protocol exists between the agencies which has been signed by the Area Manager. This requires the Area Manager to ensure consistent representation at strategic management board. The main responsibilities of the Prison Service and the Area Manager are to ensure that operational functions work consistently in prisons. This is monitored through assurance visits to each prison by the Area Manager's representative.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are employed in the Prison Service Race and Equality Advisory Group; and if he will make a statement. [78130]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service Race Equality Action Group employs 26 staff.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost has been of the Tasker investigation commissioned by the Prison Service London area office; and if he will make a statement. [78186]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information will be calculated once the investigation is complete.

Prisons

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of prison inmates are involved in training courses; how many were on training courses five years ago; and if he will make a statement. [77248]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* Data in the specific format requested are not available.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mobile telephones have been found in each prison in the possession of inmates in each of the last seven years; and if he will make a statement. [77485]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service does not separately record incidents of mobile telephones found in the possession of prisoners and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times illegal drugs have been found in each prison in each of the last seven years, broken down by *(a)* type and *(b)* quantity of drug; and if he will make a statement. [77486]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service does not hold data on drugs finds broken down by type of drug and quantity. Centrally available information records any drug-related find and includes items associated with drug taking.

Individual prisons will have information on the type and quantity of drugs found and use this information in developing a local drug strategy for combating drug abuse.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what forecast he has made of the prison population on 30 June. [78146]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The latest prison population projections are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 10/05 "Updated and Revised Prison Population Projections, 2005-2011, England and Wales".

Private Security Industry Act

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when application procedures for each type of licence under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 were opened. [77000]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The information requested is in the following table.

Sector	*Open for business*	*Offence date*
Door supervision		
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	1 March 2004	4 June 2004
South West	1 June 2004	13 September 2004
Wales	14 June 2004	27 September 2004
Midlands	5 July 2004	18 October 2004
North West	9 August 2004	15 November 2004
North East	6 September 2004	13 December 2004
East	4 October 2004	3 January 2005
South East	25 October 2004	28 February 2005
London	3 January 2005	11 April 2005
Vehicle Immobilisers	1 November 2004	3 May 2005
Security Guarding	10 January 2005	20 March 2006
Cash and Valuables in Transit (CVIT)	10 January 2005	20 March 2006
Public Space Surveillance	27 June 2005	20 March 2006
Close Protection	1 September 2005	20 March 2006
Key Holding	14 November 2005	20 March 2006

Railway/Underground Crime

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes have been reported at each mainline railway station in each of the last five years. [76398]

Derek Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

The number of crimes reported at each mainline railway station—namely those stations in Great Britain managed by Network Rail—and recorded by the British Transport police (BTP) in each financial year since 2001-02 is given in the following table.

Notifiable offences

Mainline railway station	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Birmingham New Street	1,049	1,053	1,061	1,084	917
Edinburgh Waverley	445	498	590	506	366
Gatwick Airport	144	231	269	273	162
Glasgow Central	592	563	480	409	361
Leeds	781	1,275	1,239	1,388	1,346
Liverpool Limestreet	475	426	436	445	482
London Bridge	548	588	646	575	567
London Cannon Street	34	45	42	60	58
London Charing Cross	317	352	269	303	267
London Euston	1,155	1,151	975	909	840
London Fenchurch Street	50	58	69	55	60
London Kings Cross	1,091	1,274	1,096	1,033	896
London Liverpool Street	756	781	910	916	877
London Paddington	1,102	1,073	1,226	1,065	944
London Victoria	1,732	1,938	1,864	1,956	1,743
London Waterloo	1,788	2,270	2,159	1,979	1,551
Manchester Piccadilly	764	821	843	940	957

In reading the data supplied in the table, the following factors should be considered:

(i) the data include crimes committed on train journeys ending at these locations as well as those occurring on the stations themselves; and

(ii) the Home Office introduced a National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) that all police forces across England and Wales were required to adopt. BTP adopted this standard on 1 April 2002. The impact of the new recording standard saw an increase in recorded crime, equating to an average 22 per cent. increase recorded by all police forces across England and Wales. The basic principle of NCRS is that if on the balance of probability a crime has been committed it is recorded as a crime. As a result 2001-02 data cannot be meaningfully compared with subsequent years. The standard has made crime recording more victim focused.

Road Traffic Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted in (A) Southend, (B) Essex, (C) Hertfordshire and (D) England and Wales of offences under sections (1) 16 and (2) 17 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by age group. [75630]

Mr. Coaker: The table shows numbers of prosecutions and convictions for offences under section

16 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 over the five year period from 2000 to 2004. The offences under section 17 of the same act form part of a group of miscellaneous motoring offences in the data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. It is not possible to separate these offences from others within the group and therefore no separate data can be provided. Data for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, by sex and age group under section 16 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in England and Wales, 2000 to 2004[1]

	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
Age	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
10-11										
Male	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	—
Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	—
12-14										
Male	17	15	22	17	31	21	20	13	24	14
Female	4	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	2
Total	21	17	22	17	33	23	20	13	26	16
15-17										
Male	106	91	129	105	112	86	116	88	133	105
Female	5	4	9	8	2	2	7	6	6	1
Total	111	95	138	113	114	8	123	94	139	106
18-20										
Male	84	74	78	67	71	59	72	62	56	52
Female	8	7	1	1	7	5	6	5	1	1
Total	92	81	79	68	78	64	78	67	57	53
21 and over										
Male	76	60	76	61	57	43	67	54	140	120
Female	5	4	9	8	5	5	8	6	4	4
Total	81	64	85	69	62	48	75	60	144	124
All ages										
Male	283	240	306	251	272	210	277	219	353	291
Female	22	17	19	17	16	14	21	17	13	8
Total	305	257	325	268	288	224	298	236	366	299

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Security Industry Authority

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average wait for a licence issued by the Security Industry Authority has been since licensing was introduced. [62301]

Mr. Coaker: The SIA do not calculate the average processing times for applications. Some, such as those involving overseas criminal records checks, unavoidably take a considerable time. The SIA have a published target of processing 80 per cent. of all applications within six weeks, measured from the date that a properly completed application enters the processing system to the date that a licence is issued. From April 2004 until August 2005 the SIA processed 62 per cent. within six weeks and 88 per cent. within nine weeks. Since September 2005, there has been a backlog of applications that have been waiting to enter the system. These have added an additional time of between two and four weeks to the process, so it is now taking up to 10 weeks to process most applications.

Sex Offenders Register

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* former prisoners and *(b)* individuals who have been cautioned were placed on the sex offenders register in each month since the register was introduced; [78568]

(2) how many *(a)* former prisoners and *(b)* individuals who have been cautioned and placed on the sex offenders register were in breach of the obligations thereby placed on them in each month since the register was introduced. [78569]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The data requested are not collected centrally and to do so would incur a disproportionate cost.

Annual data on registered sex offenders (RSOs) living in the community in England and Wales

	RSOs in the community	*RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of registration requirements*
2001-02	18,513	682
2002-03	21,413	780
2003-04	24,572	853
2004-05	28,994	993

Staff Profiles

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77435]

Mr. Byrne: The number of staff that are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age are shown in the following table.

Staff under and over 55 years of age as at 31 December 2005

	Number (FTE)	
	(a) Under 55	*(b) 55 and over*
Centrally managed Home Office	19,615	2,194
Identity and Passport Service	3,026	349
HM Prison Service	41,328	7,097
Criminal Records Bureau	385	18
Total	64,354	9,658

Swale Borough Council

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to designate Swale borough council as an alcohol control zone. [78510]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* Local authorities can place restrictions on public drinking in areas with a history of alcohol-related crime, disorder or nuisance by making a Designated Public Place Order (DPPO), sometimes referred to as an 'alcohol control zone'. The power, given under section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, is not available to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and can only be exercised by local government. Current figures reveal that around 170 authorities now have adopted this measure, with around 360 Orders published in England and Wales.

Young Victims of Crime

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of victims of crime have been under 18 years old in each of the last five years. [78651]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally. With the exception of certain specific sexual offences where the age of the victim is defined by statute, no details of the victim's age are available from the recorded crime series.

TREASURY

Biodiversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Minister in his Department is responsible for monitoring his Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if he will make a statement. [73936]

John Healey: As Financial Secretary, I am the HM Treasury's Sustainable Development Minister responsible for both sustainable development policy and sustainability of our internal operations.

HMT is taking a number of steps to reduce the impact of its operations on the environment. These are set out in our sustainable development action plan which is available on our website. http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./media/089/DA/sustainabledev_170306.pdf .

Birth Rates (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the birth rate was per 1,000 women aged *(a)* 19, *(b)* 18, *(c)* 17, *(d)* 16, *(e)* 15, *(f)* 14 and *(g)* under 14 years in (i) Peterborough constituency and (ii) Peterborough city council area in each year since 1997. [77911]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 June 2006:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the birth rate per 1,000 women aged (a) 19, (b) 18, (c) 17, (d) 16, (e) 15, (f) 14 and (g) under 14 years in (i) Peterborough constituency and (ii) Peterborough City Council area in each year since 1997. (77911)

Where constituencies are not co-terminous with local authority boundaries, as is the case with Peterborough, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) do not generally release figures based on recording of mother's age at birth registration. This is to protect against disclosure of information provided in confidence. Figures are provided for the relevant local authority instead.

The latest year for which livebirth data are available is 2005 and the table below shows livebirth rates per 1,000 female population by age for Peterborough Unitary Authority for the period 1997 to 2005. Rates for 2005 are provisional, as they are calculated using mid-2004 population estimates.

There were too few livebirths to girls resident in Peterborough at ages under 14, 14 and 15 for figures to be provided separately without breaching confidentiality. Therefore, livebirths to girls aged under 16 have been aggregated in the table.

Rates by single year of age at local authority level should be treated with caution. Population estimates are only considered reliable at local authority level when aggregated to groups of at least five years of age.

Teenage livebirth rate per 1,000 females by age, Peterborough Unitary Authority, 1997-2005

	Age				
	Under 16	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*
1997	6	14	31	59	115
1998	7	19	47	70	87
1999	4	19	41	77	95
2000	7	15	37	61	66
2001	7	12	38	51	89
2002	7	12	35	51	87
2003	5	21	37	55	105
2004	7	23	41	54	79
2005[1]	5	19	41	65	88

[1] Provisional rates, based on mid-2004 population estimates

Climate Change Levy

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been raised through the Climate Change Levy. [78070]

John Healey: Information on revenue from Climate Change Levy can be found on table 2 of the HM Revenue and Customs 'Climate Change Levy Bulletin', on the HM Revenue and Customs website: http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=climate

Correspondence

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam of 13 April concerning his constituent Mr. Paolo Standerwick. [78553]

Ed Balls: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Death Rates

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* death rate from heart disease, stroke and related illnesses and *(b)* death rate from all cancers was among (i) people aged 65 and under, (ii) people aged 75 and under and (iii) all people, in each year since 1970. [78013]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 20 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) death rate from heart disease, stroke and related illnesses and (b) death rate from all cancers was amongst (i) people aged 65 and under, (ii) people aged 75 and under and (iii) all people, in each year since 1970. I am replying in her absence. (78013)

The most recent year for which figures are available is 2004. The table below shows age-standardised death rates from all circulatory diseases and cancer, for persons aged under 65 and under 75 years, and for all ages, in England and Wales for the years 1970 to 2004.

Death rates 1 from circulatory diseases 2 and cancer, 3 for persons by age, 4 England and Wales, 1970 to 2004

Death rates[1] from circulatory diseases[2] and cancer[3], for persons by age[4], England and Wales, 1970 to 2004[5]

Death rate per 100,000 population

	Circulatory diseases			*Cancer*		
	Under 65	*Under 75*	*All ages*	*Under 65*	*Under 75*	*All ages*
1970	135.7	268.0	537.5	105.0	163.9	213.2
1971	134.5	264.7	527.7	104.6	163.3	212.1
1972	138.0	272.6	542.1	104.2	163.8	213.5
1973	135.2	266.2	530.2	103.7	163.8	213.9
1974	134.9	264.6	522.7	103.6	164.2	215.2
1975	131.4	258.1	512.0	101.9	162.1	214.0
1976	129.8	254.9	506.6	103.7	165.0	217.6
1977	127.1	249.7	487.6	101.7	162.4	215.1
1978	129.5	252.1	489.4	102.2	163.3	216.5
1979	129.5	250.0	487.0	102.0	163.1	217.7
1980	122.8	239.0	465.3	100.7	162.1	217.0
1981	117.9	232.3	452.1	99.6	160.9	216.4
1982	113.9	226.1	442.4	97.4	159.8	215.1
1983	112.7	224.2	435.1	98.1	161.2	217.5
1984	107.0	215.0	422.1	99.4	163.7	224.0
1985	105.8	212.6	425.4	97.9	161.9	223.5
1986	101.9	205.7	407.8	96.1	159.8	220.6
1987	97.9	198.4	391.4	95.6	159.3	221.3
1988	92.4	191.4	381.3	95.2	160.2	222.6
1989	86.8	182.9	370.1	93.1	158.3	221.7
1990	83.7	176.4	357.7	91.5	156.1	219.0
1991	80.2	171.5	355.0	89.9	154.7	218.1
1992	76.2	163.5	340.6	88.4	153.0	216.7
1993	75.6	163.1	340.8	86.5	149.2	210.7
1994	69.0	151.0	317.4	83.9	146.5	207.9
1995	67.9	148.1	313.3	81.8	143.9	204.8
1996	65.4	141.9	302.6	80.3	140.6	200.8
1997	61.5	133.7	288.0	77.0	136.5	196.2
1998	60.0	130.0	282.8	76.8	135.4	195.5
1999	56.5	122.6	270.9	74.6	131.3	190.9
2000	53.2	113.8	252.8	73.1	128.2	187.0
2001	51.4	109.3	252.7	72.4	126.5	188.0
2002	49.7	104.0	246.2	71.4	125.2	187.1
2003	47.9	99.1	239.3	69.4	122.0	183.6
2004	44.0	90.6	219.6	67.5	119.5	180.3

[1] Rate per 100,000 population standardised to the European Standard Population.
[2] Deaths from all circulatory diseases selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Eighth Revision (ICD-8) codes 390-444.1, 444.4-458.9 and 782 for the years 1970 to 1978, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 390-459 for the years 1979 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes I00-I99 for 2001 onwards.
[3] Deaths from malignant neoplasms selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Eighth Revision (ICD-8) codes 140-207 for the years 1976 to 1978, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 140-208 for the years 1979 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97for 2001 onwards.
[4] Deaths of babies aged under 28 days are excluded from 1986 onwards.
[5] Figures are for registrations of death in each calendar year from 1970 to 1992 and for occurrences of death in each calendar year from 1993 onwards.
Note:
Between 1984 and 1992 a different interpretation of ICD-9 selection Rule 3 was used to code underlying cause of death in England and Wales to that used internationally. This change means that comparisons between this period and years before and after, should be interpreted with caution. The impact of the change on mortality statistics was analysed and reported in annual mortality publications in 1984 and 1994. *The introduction of ICD-10 for coding cause of death in 2001 also means that figures are not completely comparable with data for years before this date. Comparisons between the data before and after 2001 should therefore also be interpreted with caution. Articles specifically examining the effect of the change in classification for circulatory disease and cancer trends were published in Health Statistics Quarterly 22 and 23. **More information about these changes, as well as the results of the study, can be found on the National Statistics website at www.statistics.gov.uk/icd10mortality.
*Mortality statistics: Cause 1984. DH2 No. 11, pg viii-ix.
Mortality statistics: Cause 1993 (revised) and 1994. DH2 No.21, pg xxv-xxxiii.
**Griffiths C, Brock A, Rooney C (2004) The impact of introducing ICD-10 on trends in mortality from circulatory diseases in England and Wales. Health Statistics Quarterly 22, 14-20.
Brock A, Griffiths C, Rooney C (2004) The effect of the introduction of ICD-10 on cancer mortality trends in England and Wales. Health Statistics Quarterly 23, 7-17.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will keep separate records of the amount spent annually on alcohol for hospitality purposes in *(a)* the Department and *(b)* his private office. [77201]

John Healey: The information requested is not recorded separately. The Treasury's expenditure on official entertainment is incurred in accordance with the principles of "Government Accounting" as well as the Department's own internal guidance, which provides that expenditure on official entertainment should be incurred in moderation and also be compatible with the occasion and the standing of guests.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in *(a)* his private office and *(b)* the Department are (i) under and (ii) over 55 years of age. [77202]

John Healey: As at 1 April 2006, 51 staff in the Treasury were 55 years of age and over, including one member of the staff of the Chancellor's private office. Of the 1,061 staff under the age of 55, 12 were working in the Chancellor's office.

Fixed-odds betting terminals

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how fixed-odd betting terminals are taxed in *(a)* betting shops and *(b)* casinos; and what estimate the Government have made of the tax revenue from such terminals in the last 12 months. [78303]

John Healey: Takings from fixed-odds betting terminals have been within the scope of VAT from 6 December 2005 when they were also removed from the scope of General Betting Duty. They will be liable to Amusement Machine Licence Duty from 1 August 2006. Fixed-odds betting terminals cannot be offered outside of a licensed bookmaker.

In Budget 2006 we estimated that revenue would increase by £25 million in 2006-07 from aligning the taxation of gaming machines with the Gambling Act. This includes the increase in revenue from fixed-odds betting terminals.

Gambling Act

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment the Government have made of the effect on tax revenues of the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005. [78304]

John Healey: The Government have not made an assessment of the overall effect on tax revenues of the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005.

Planning Gain Supplement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many submissions have been received on the Planning Gain Supplement in response to the consultation. [78318]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2417W.

Small Change Big Difference

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department and its agencies have taken following the launch of the Government's Small Change Big Difference campaign. [72016]

John Healey: The Treasury and its agencies support the Government's Small Change Big Difference campaign.

We have an on-site low-cost fitness centre, our staff restaurants have healthy eating options on menus, and we provide facilities for on-site low-cost therapies such as shiatsu massage.

We support fitness activities run by staff such as a yoga club, running club, football and other sporting teams. There is an annual sports day in July each year. In addition we work with our occupational health providers to seek other ways of encouraging healthy living and will be holding a well-being day in June 2006.

We provide a number of family friendly policies to promote work-life balance such as the opportunity for all staff to request varied working patterns and not just those who are statutorily entitled to seek alternative working arrangements.

We will be introducing a smoking ban in the Treasury building before the end of 2006 and providing help-line contacts for those who wish to stop smoking.

In common with other Government Departments we will continue to work with the Department of Health to promote further awareness of healthy life style options among our staff.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing six monthly fixed awards for tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [75758]

Dawn Primarolo: As the 2005 pre-Budget report stated (Para 5.23), the Government will continue to listen to the case for a system of fixed awards, but believe on balance that it is preferable to maintain the current system that flexibly responds to changing circumstances.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls to the tax credits helpline were *(a)* received, *(b)* handled, *(c)* engaged and *(d)* abandoned in each month from December 2005 to May 2006; and if he will make a statement. [75770]

Dawn Primarolo: I have already provided much of this information and would refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 187W. Table 1 sets out the number of calls received and table 2 provides those figures for calls handled, engaged and abandoned that did not form part of my answer on 5 June.

Table 1

2005-06	*Received*[1]
December	1,306
January	1,825
February	1,489
March	1,551
April	1,592
May	2,356

[1] Where the caller selected an option from the call steering menu and was put in a queue to speak to an adviser.

Table 2

2005-06	*December*	*May*
Handled[1]	1,271	2,284
Abandoned[2]	35	72
Engaged[3]	4	6

[1] Where the caller spoke to an adviser.
[2] Where the caller selected an option from the call steering menu and was put in a queue to speak to an adviser but the call was terminated before the caller spoke to an adviser.
[3] Call attempts where the caller was played an engaged tone, before they were placed in a queue to speak to an adviser.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit overpayments have been written off in each quarter since April 2003 because HM Revenue and Customs could not reliably match the payment of manual cheques to claimants; what the value was in each quarter; and if he will make a statement. [76490]

Dawn Primarolo: For 2003-04, I refer the hon. Member to NAO report, 2004-05. This represented an estimated 134,000 payments made during 2003-04. HM Revenue and Customs has not written off any such manual payments made in 2004-05 or 2005-06.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations *(a)* he and *(b)* the Paymaster General have received from the Citizens Advice Bureau about the complexity of tax credit award notices; and if he will make a statement. [78092]

Dawn Primarolo: Treasury Ministers regularly receive representations on various aspects of the administration of the tax credits system.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of *(a)* the intra-year volatility of the incomes of low income households and *(b)* its implications for the design of the tax credits system; and if he will make a statement. [78150]

Dawn Primarolo: To improve its understanding of short-term changes in income, HMT and HMRC partly funded research on income variability by Professor John Hills and others at the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion at the London School of Economics. This was also part-funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. The report, "Tracking Income: How Working Families' Incomes Vary Through the Year" was published in March 2006, and is available on the LSE and HMRC websites.

The research showed that many families experience instability in their incomes over time and, while recognising the challenges posed by administering a responsive annual system, said that basing tax credit payments solely on previous levels of income would be "rough justice".

As the 2005 pre-Budget report stated (para. 5.23), the Government will continue to listen to the case for a system of fixed awards, but believe on balance that it is preferable to maintain the current system that flexibly responds to changing circumstances.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether overseas students, with the right to work for 20 hours a week, can claim tax credits; what guidance is given to tax credit staff to check that the limit of work is being observed; and if he will place in the Library copies of written guidance to staff on the eligibility of overseas students for tax credits and the checks to be carried out; [78276]

(2) whether asylum seekers with the right to work can claim tax credits; what guidance is given to tax credit staff on asylum seekers' eligibility; and if he will place in the Library copies of such guidance. [78278]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* Apart from specified exceptions, set out in the Tax Credits (Immigration) Regulations 2003, persons subject to immigration control, including asylum seekers and overseas students, are not eligible for tax credits.

Guidance for staff on dealing with claims from people subject to immigration control is available on the HMRC website: www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ntcmanual/eligibility_residency/ntc0350000.htm.

UK Competitiveness

Mr. Willis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps he has taken to improve UK competitiveness. [77984]

John Healey: The Budget report provided an assessment of all areas of the UK economy, and action needed by Government to provide the right environment for businesses competing in the global environment.

The Government's strategy for advancing productivity growth is based, first on providing macroeconomic stability to allow firms and individuals to invest in the future, and second, on making microeconomic reforms to ensure that markets function efficiently and that barriers to productivity growth are tackled.

USA (War Debts)

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what war debt repayments have been made by the USA to the UK in respect of military assistance provided in conflicts over the last 30 years; [78177]

(2) how much, in today's prices, has been paid to the USA in respect of *(a)* First World War and *(b)* Second World War debt; [78178]

(3) what sums are outstanding in relation to war debt repayments to the US; and on what dates repayments are due; [78179]

(4) whether the USA has offered to cancel the UK's outstanding liability for repayment of Second World War debt. [78180]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Member to the answers the former Financial Secretary (Ruth Kelly) gave him on 30 October 2003, *Official Report*, column 317W; 14 October 2003, *Official Report*, column 150W; 28 February 2002, *Official Report*, columns 1439-41W; the answer given by the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth) on 17 December 2002, *Official Report*, columns 679-80W and the answer given by the Economic Secretary to my hon. Friend the Member for East Lothian (Anne Moffat) on 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 858-59W.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 21 June 2006

TRANSPORT

A500

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential economic impact of the new A500 through Stoke-on-Trent. [79097]

Dr. Ladyman: The potential economic impact of the new A500 through Stoke on Trent was assessed as set out in the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) document "Guidance on the Methodology for Multi-Modal Studies" (GOMMS, 2000).

The GOMMS approach to assessment includes various objectives against which schemes are to be assessed, one of which is Economy.

The Economy objective comprises Transport Economic Efficiency, Reliability and Wider Economic Impacts.

With regard to Transport Economy Efficiency, the quantitative economic modelling carried out before start of works in 2004 shows that the A500 Scheme has a Benefit to Cost Ratio of 4.0. The Benefit to Cost Ratio is a measure of the economic efficiency, and is calculated by dividing the benefits by the costs, and a BCR of 4 is considered "High" Value for Money.

With regard to Reliability, the qualitative assessment shows that the A500 Scheme has a positive "Beneficial" impact.

With regard to Wider Economic Impacts, the qualitative assessment shows that the A500 Scheme lies within and will directly serve the Stoke-on-Trent designated regeneration area, and that Development will depend upon the A500 Scheme.

The results of the assessments are included in an Appraisal Summary Table, which was presented at the Public Inquiry in November 2002.

Aviation Industry (Emissions)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he last met representatives of the aviation industry to discuss the reduction of carbon emissions from aircraft over the next 10 years; and what the conclusions of the discussions were. [78955]

Gillian Merron: We have regular meetings with various stakeholders, including representatives from the aviation industry, to discuss a range of issues. It is not the normal practice of Government to release details of meetings with private individuals or companies.

Crossrail

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of whether the proposed seven year construction time for the Crossrail project will be achieved. [78611]

Derek Twigg: I understand from Cross London Rail Links Ltd—the company responsible for Crossrail design—that seven years remains a reasonable estimate for the overall period of main construction works.

Foreign Registered HGVs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of accidents involving heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) in the UK involved foreign-registered HGVs in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [79300]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available.

Gatwick Express

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to make a decision on the future of the Gatwick Express. [79335]

Derek Twigg: Alternative plans submitted by train operators for the implementation of the recommendations of the Brighton Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy are currently under consideration by the Department for Transport. An announcement will be made in due course.

Travel Costs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on foreign travel by his Department in each of the last eight years. [76064]

Gillian Merron: The Department was formed in May 2002. Three of the Department's agencies, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Highways Agency, and Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, do not record details of overseas travel separately from other travel and subsistence costs, and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Figures for the Department and its remaining agencies are contained in the following table:

£

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
DfT(c)	1,682,041	1,825,175	1,595,447
DSA	33,000	29,000	33,000
DVLA	—	—	—
HA	—	—	—
MCA	931,875	1,278,135	868,867
VGA	277,000	245,000	349,574
VOSA	—	—	—
GCDA	157.00	186.00	177.00

The figure stated for DfT(c) for financial year 2004-05 differs from that included in the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins) on 16 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2407W. It is with regret that in the earlier answer, the cost of domestic flights was included in error. The air travel element in the current table consists entirely of international flights.

All travel in the Department and its agencies complied with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code".

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department staying overnight in (i) Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in each of the last three years. [69082]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport does not separate travel and subsistence costs for Northern Ireland from those for Great Britain. The figures for the last three years are contained in the following tables.

(a) Civil servants

	GB and NI	Republic of Ireland (IE)	Other	Total
2005-06	301,217.82	1,218.54	180,911.55	483,347.91
2004-05	296,831.12	307.87	73,907.94	371,046.93
2003-04	306,050.16	1,396.42	64,303.67	371,750.25
Total	904,099.10	2,922.83	319,123.16	1,126,145.09

(b) Special advisers

	GB and NI	Republic of Ireland (IE)	Other	Total
2005-06	356	0	751	1,107
2004-05	130	0	0	130
2003-04	0	0	181	181
Total	486	0	932	1,418

The amount spent on overseas travel in 2005-06 is higher than in previous years largely as a consequence of travel arising from the UK's presidency of the European Union between July and December 2005.

The Department's agencies do not record subsistence payments by region, and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Railway Stations

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many railway stations are unstaffed at weekends. [73189]

Derek Twigg: This information is available from the National Rail Inquiries website at www.nationalrail.co.uk.

Road Safety

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures the Government are taking to reduce road casualties *(a)* overall and *(b)* among children. [79188]

Dr. Ladyman: We continue to develop and implement our wide-ranging road safety strategy "Tomorrow's Roads—Safer for Everyone", which set casualty reduction targets to be met by 2010. The first three-year review of the strategy, published in April 2004, confirmed that the 2010 targets remained appropriate. A second review is now under way.

The 2004 casualty figures show we are now over halfway towards our 2010 target of a 40 per cent. reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured, and over three-quarters of the way towards our 50 per cent. reduction target for children:

the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents has fallen by 28 per cent. from the baseline average of 1994-98, and

the number of children killed or seriously injured has fallen by 43 per cent. from the 1994-98 baseline.

After setting the target to reduce child fatal and serious injuries, we published "Child Road Safety—Achieving the 2010 Target". This reviewed progress on child safety and identified the action still needed. This action plan is currently being reviewed. Measures to help us reach our target include:

Kerbcraft practical pedestrian training;

THINK! campaigns;

20 mph zones around schools, where appropriate; and

child specific projects within the Neighbourhood Road Safety Initiative, which aims to improve road safety for people living in deprived areas.

Both documents are available on the Department for Transport website: www.dft.gov.uk

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of accidents caused by drivers who are aged *(a)* 30 to 64, *(b)* 65 to 74, *(c)* 75 to 85 and *(d)* over 85 years in each of the last three years. [78976]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available.

Personal injury road accident data in Great Britain are collected by the police and reported to the Department using the STATS19 accident report format. Results are published in detail in "Road Casualties Great Britain—Annual Report". The report for 2004 was published on 29 September 2005 and a copy placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to introduce continued driver development by making Pass Plus or similar schemes compulsory to try to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured. [79096]

Dr. Ladyman: There are no plans to introduce continuous driver development for car drivers but from autumn 2008 and 2009 respectively bus and lorry drivers will be required to hold a Certificate of Professional Competence which will include a requirement for continuing training in order to drive vocationally. A research project has recently been setup to consider how to increase the take-up of the Pass Plus scheme.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on road traffic casualties of the Hazard Perception Test since 2002. [79098]

Dr. Ladyman: The Hazard Perception Test was introduced as part of the theory test in November 2002. No specific assessments have been carried out into its impact on casualty rates.

The Department is undertaking a research study, "The Cohort Study of Learner and Novice drivers II", which will include an assessment comparing the effect on casualty rates of newly qualified drivers who took the Hazard Perception Test against those who did not. The results of that study will be published in 2007.

Royal Liverpool University Hospital

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he last discussed Hall Lane Strategic Gateway in Liverpool in relation to plans for rebuilding Royal Liverpool university hospital; with whom these discussions were held; and if he will make a statement. [76774]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The Secretary of State has not had any discussions about the Hall Lane Strategic Gateway. Officials in the Government office for the North West liaise on a regular basis with officials from Liverpool city council on the progress of their major schemes including the Hall Lane scheme. I understand that the council considered the scheme at a meeting of its executive board on 16 June 2006.

Train Usage

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* passenger train carriages and *(b)* multiple units are stored on the rail network but are not in service. [77777]

Derek Twigg: Around 330 passenger carriages are currently in store. These are mainly locomotive hauled coaches previously used on long distance routes and which have been replaced with new or younger cascaded rolling stock.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* locomotives, *(b)* multiple units, *(c)* freight wagons and *(d)* carriages are in use on the rail network, broken down by (i) train operating company and (ii) class. [77778]

Derek Twigg: Tables have been placed in the Library of the House, which give details of the number of locomotives, multiple units and carriages, used by UK franchised passenger train operators, broken down by train operating company and class. Vehicles operated by non-franchised operators such as Network Rail, open access and charter operators are not included. Details of the numbers of freight vehicles used on the network are not held centrally.

This information is based on latest available data but minor variations in the figures can be expected due to ongoing activities such as short term vehicle hiring, the introduction of new fleets and the withdrawal of older vehicles.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Duties

11. **Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what changes to his ministerial duties have occurred since May. [79140]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on Wednesday 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 985W, and to my letter of appointment as Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Sino-British Trade

12. **Mr. Neil Turner:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with the Chinese Government on encouraging Sino-British trade and investment. [79141]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My hon. Friend may be aware that I visited China in February this year.

This visit enabled me to meet several very senior members of the Chinese administration, including:

Premier Wen Jibao

Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the Peoples Political Consultative Conference

State Councillor Tang

The Chief Executive of Hong Kong Donald Tsang

The Mayor of Beijing.

Trade and investment formed an important part of the discussions we had. I was also able to close the successful UK-China Partners in Science year in Shanghai.

Trade and investment is one of the core issues considered by the China taskforce, which I chair at the request of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. Its work offers strategic direction in five key sectors—finance, energy, information and communications technology (ICT), healthcare and water—areas where the UK has world-class expertise and where Chinese demand is growing rapidly. We are encouraging Chinese companies to invest in the UK—particularly those from high value added sectors such as ICT and high performance engineering.

While in China, I was also honoured to be invited to open Nottingham university's new campus in Ningbo. Deepening educational links—particularly in the higher education sector—is vital to allowing the UK to tap into the large pool of well-qualified Chinese graduates, and to encouraging Chinese students to come to the UK. Greater understanding and interchange will help both our economies profit in the long term.

Admiralty House

13. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the cost of his official residence in Admiralty House was to the public purse in 2005-06. [79142]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Final figures are not yet available. The cost will be accounted for in the Department's annual report and accounts in the usual way.

Eastern Europe (Government Policy)

15. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent work he has undertaken in respect of his responsibility for Government policy relating to Eastern Europe. [79144]

The Deputy Prime Minister: As part of my role during the UK presidency of the EU last year I visited a number of countries in Central and Eastern Europe for high level discussions on our presidency priorities. These included Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary and Croatia.

I have also received a number of senior visitors from Eastern Europe in London over the past year. Our discussions covered a wide range of subjects, including the economy, trade and investment, education and skills, security and the environment.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by his office on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77319]

The Deputy Prime Minister: All expenditure is conducted in accordance with the principles of "Government Accounting".

Departmental Staff

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many of his staff are part of the Cabinet Office; and how many are assigned to the Department for Communities and Local Government. [78229]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1840W to the hon. Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (Derek Conway).

Official Duties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he uses an e-mail account in the course of his duties. [78228]

The Deputy Prime Minister: No.

Private Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the budget is of his new private office. [78226]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Expenditure will be accounted for in the Department's annual report and accounts in the usual way.

DEFENCE

Child Protection

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to encourage appropriate representation of military establishments on local safeguarding children boards; and if he will make a statement. [77598]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence recognises the importance of proper representation on local safeguarding children boards (LSCB) and there has been service membership of preceding bodies, particularly Child Protection Committees, where appropriate. The plans for a MOD Children's Board will provide an additional focus for improved interaction between military establishments and LSCB's in England and the equivalent bodies in UK more generally.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on advertising by his Department in each of the last three years. [70617]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor on 20 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1751W-52W.

In addition, the final outturn figure for publicity and recruiting, which includes advertising, for 2004-05 was £76.8 million.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by his Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77274]

Mr. Watson: Records are kept of overall expenditure on official hospitality, but there is no separate record of the amount spent on alcohol, nor are there any plans to do so. Expenditure in the Department is conducted in accordance with the principles of "Government Accounting" and comprehensive guidance is issued to staff about expenditure on official hospitality, including situations in which alcohol may be provided at public expense.

Farnborough Air Show

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Indonesian *(a)* military and *(b)* other official personnel will be attending the Farnborough Air Show in 2006. [78373]

Mr. Ingram: The Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) intends to publish a list of those countries from which delegations are invited a day or so in advance of the exhibition opening, the timing being consistent with maintaining the security of guests. It is planned to place this list on the DESO internet site:

www.deso.mod.uk

Mine Clearance

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mine clearance equipment is available to Light Forces; what mine clearance equipment is deployed in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; how many mine clearance projects have been completed in each of the last three years, broken down by country; and how many projects are pending, broken down by country. [77760]

Mr. Ingram: Light Forces are equipped with appropriate mine clearance equipment for the tasks and environments in which they operate.

I am withholding information regarding the specific mine clearance equipment available to Light Forces and deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq, as disclosure of such information would have a bearing on our operational security and place our servicemen and women at risk.

UK forces do not undertake mine clearance projects. They undertake only routine clearance tasks that are essential to the protection of UK forces during an operation. Humanitarian mine clearance projects are undertaken by specialist contractors, paid for and coordinated by the Department for International Development.

Operation Telic

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions helicopters have been grounded due to temperatures exceeding 45 degrees since the start of Operation Telic. [77607]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* The information requested cannot be provided as disclosure of such information would reveal the operational tactics and capability of UK forces, which in turn could have a bearing on our operational security, thereby placing our servicemen and women in additional unnecessary danger.

Royal Ordnance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which countries will supply in future the items currently produced at Royal Ordnance *(a)* Bridgwater and *(b)* Chorley. [77619]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* BAE Systems Land Systems (BAES LS) remains responsible for the security of the supply of products previously manufactured at Bridgwater and Chorley. MOD and BAES LS have set up a joint project team to monitor the transfer of products to other sites (in the UK or abroad) and to ensure security of supply.

Decisions on alternate sources are a commercial matter for the company. BAE LS has indicated, however, that some activities will be transferred to other BAES LS facilities in the UK; some to other UK suppliers; and others to foreign suppliers including USA and France.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Volunteers' Week

10. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Government are taking to support Volunteers' Week. [79139]

Edward Miliband: The Government supports Volunteers' Week, primarily through an annual core grant of £1.5 million to Volunteering England, the organisation that runs the week. This year during Volunteers' Week, which took place from 1-7 June, I and other Government Ministers visited a range of volunteering organisations to show support for Britain's 20 million volunteers.

Third Sector Organisations

14. **Helen Goodman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps she is taking to encourage all Government Departments to take account of relevant third sector organisations and issues in determining policies and measures. [79143]

Edward Miliband: The Government have set up the new Office of the third sector in the Cabinet Office to co-ordinate the work of Government with the third sector. This includes work to ensure the implementation of the principles of the Compact on funding and policy.

Civil Service (Staff Learning and Development)

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* adult learning courses and *(b)* occupational and professional development courses the civil service makes available to its staff. [78272]

Mr. McFadden: Civil service Departments seek to ensure that all staff have the skills they need to carry out their duties effectively. The range of courses civil servants might attend in either adult learning or occupational and professional development is dictated by the particular needs of the individual, their link to the requirements for current and future development, availability of appropriate training and cost.

The Professional Skills for Government programme has identified a framework for standards of performance across core skills and professional expertise. Occupational and professional development needs to be focused on ensuring staff are able to demonstrate these standards of performance. The National School of Government offers a comprehensive range of training courses which support the professional development of staff in the civil service.

Cyber Security

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent guidance she has issued on cyber security in Government Departments. [79138]

Mr. McFadden: The Government take the issue of cyber security very seriously. The Cabinet Office regularly issues guidance on cyber security based on advice received from the National Infrastructure Co-ordination Centre (NISCC—pronounced "nicey") and the Communications Electronic Security Group (CESG).

Six such notices have been issued this year on a range of specific and technical electronic security requirements (which it would not be appropriate to comment on).

We have also launched the first phase of Get Safe Online, a joint public-private initiative to raise awareness of internet safety among the general public.

Departmental Report

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many copies of the Cabinet Office Departmental Report 2006 were produced; at what cost; to whom copies were sent; at what cost; who was consulted prior to publication; how members of the public can obtain copies; at what cost; and if she will make a statement. [78598]

Hilary Armstrong: One Thousand copies of Cabinet Office Departmental Report 2006 were produced for Cabinet Office's own use and distribution. The total design and production cost to the Cabinet Office was £25,000.

Copies were distributed at no cost to the following:

Cabinet Office Parliamentary Branch and House of Commons Library;

HM Treasury and Cabinet Office Library;

Cabinet Office Board members;

Cabinet Office PSA target holders;

Cabinet Office staff;

National Audit Office;

Central Office of Information

Some copies have been reserved for future distribution among stakeholders and other contacts.

The Cabinet Office Management Board, Heads of Management Units and HM Treasury were consulted prior to the publication of the report.

Further copies were produced by The Stationery Office (TSO) for sale to members of the public at a cost of £11 per copy. They can be purchased at TSO shops, and ordered online from www.tso.co.uk/bookshop. The report can also be downloaded free of charge from the Cabinet Office website www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/publications

Departmental Targets

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who is responsible for progress on each of the targets set out on pages 37 to 45 of Cm 6833; to whom each person reports; what recent discussions she has had about implementation of each target; and if she will make a statement. [78599]

Hilary Armstrong: I am responsible for delivery of the Cabinet Office's Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets and with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer jointly responsible for the delivery of PSA target 1.

Progress on performance against the PSA targets is reported to the Treasury in two, public documents the Autumn Performance Report (available on the Cabinet Office website at http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/psa/autumn_delivery/index.asp) and the departmental report.

Public Service Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the announcement by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry of 18 October 2005 on public service pensions, that all sector scheme negotiations would be completed by March 2006, when she will announce the details of the consultation on the proposed benefit structure for new entrants to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme; whether the negotiations have been completed; and if she will make a statement. [78009]

Mr. McFadden: The principles agreed between the Government and the trade unions at the Public Services Forum on 18 October 2005 stated that all sides involved in scheme-specific negotiations should aim to reach agreement no later than June 2006. However, the principles also stated that a co-operative approach should be adopted in all discussions and that adequate time should be made for the discussion process. The Cabinet Office's primary concern is to reach an agreement which produces pension arrangements which are sustainable and which are right for the civil service. The Cabinet Office has had several months of constructive discussions with the civil service trade unions. It expects to put formal proposals to them shortly. The Cabinet Office will publish the formal proposals on its website www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

Staff Handbook

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will place in the Library a copy of the Cabinet Office staff handbook. [78271]

Mr. McFadden: The Cabinet Office no longer publishes a staff handbook. The terms and conditions of service that apply to all Cabinet Office employees are readily available electronically on the Cabinet Office intranet to all staff. The text is updated periodically as necessary. I will arrange for a CD Rom containing the current version as at 15 June 2006 to be placed in the Library.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister what the dimensions are of the garden at 10 Downing Street. [78264]

The Prime Minister: The dimensions of the garden at 10 Downing Street have remained unchanged since the 18th century. It is an L-shape garden which at its widest points is approximately 42m and 58m. The total area is approximately 1760m^2.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Prime Minister what steps he takes to offset the carbon emissions of his flights to foreign countries on official business. [77696]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on 15 May, *Official Report*, 2006, Column 820W.

Ministerial Travel

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Prime Minister what official role Mrs. Blair plays when accompanying him on foreign tours; and who pays for her travel. [77863]

The Prime Minister: My wife accompanies me on official visits overseas as appropriate. The costs of such visits are included in the total cost of Ministers' visits overseas which is published on an annual basis. Information for 2005-06 is currently in the process of being assembled and will be published shortly.

Sustainable Development

Joan Walley: To ask the Prime Minister what mechanism exists to enable liaison between Government departments responsible for delivering sustainable development policy. [77048]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply. The Government published the UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Futureonly" in March 2005, setting out a range of activities to support this vital agenda. The UK Framework for Sustainable Development, "One future—different pathsy", also launched in March 2005, describes the shared understanding and common purpose that exists across departments and in different parts of the country.

Sustainable development is promoted and co-ordinated through a number of ministerial and official level working groups across Government.

For example, within the Cabinet there are two committees which have sustainable development issues as part of their remit: the Energy and Environment (EE) Committee and the Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development in Government (EE(SD)). The EE Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister and was established in May 2005 to develop the Government's energy and environmental policies, to monitor the impact on sustainable development of the Government's policies, and to consider issues of climate change, security of supply and affordability of energy.

I chair the EE(SD) Sub-Committee which has the remit to improve the Government's contribution to sustainable development through the conduct of its business, including through consideration of departmental sustainable development action plans; and to report as necessary to the Energy and Environment Committee.

The Sustainable Development Commission is the Government's independent watchdog on sustainable development, reporting to the Prime Minister and the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales. Its recently expanded role includes monitoring cross-Government and departmental progress towards sustainable development.

Details of other groups working across Government to deliver sustainable development can be found on our sustainable development website at http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/government/index.htm

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Prime Minister whether he had read *(a)* the Sustainable Development Commission's report "Is Nuclear the Answer", dated March 2006, and *(b)* the Environmental Audit Committee's report "Keeping the Lights on: Nuclear, Renewables and Climate Change" HC584, dated 16 April 2006, prior to making his address to the Confederation of British Industry on 16 May. [78094]

The Prime Minister: In addition to the presentation and papers from the Energy Review, I was briefed and read widely on energy issues in preparation for the address to the CBI on 16 May. This, of course, included the Sustainable Development Commission's report and its research papers and the Environmental Audit Committee's April report.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 370W, on business rates, how many *(a)* hotels, *(b)* hostels and *(c)* bed and breakfasts were on the 2005 Rating List for each local authority area in England. [78250]

Mr. Woolas: A table showing the number of properties classed as *(a)* hotels, *(b)* hostels and *(c)* bed and breakfasts in the 2005 Rating List for England, for each individual local authority area, at 31 January 2006, has been placed in the Library.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment the *(a)* Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* Valuation Tribunal Service has made of the potential effect of concerns over the effect of overhead power lines on the valuation of domestic properties for council tax; and what guidance each body has published on this. [78284]

Mr. Woolas: Neither *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) nor *(b)* the Valuation Tribunal Service (VTS) has made an overall assessment of the potential effect of overhead power lines on the valuation of domestic properties for council tax purposes. Whether the existence of overhead power lines would affect the open market value of a dwelling, on which the council

tax banding is based, is a question of fact and degree in individual cases. Such matters would be considered by listing officers of the VOA and, if their decision on banding were subject to an appeal, by Valuation Tribunal panels, on a case by case basis. No specific guidance on the effect on valuations for council tax purposes of proximity to overhead power lines has been published by either *(a)* the VOA or *(b)* the VTS. General guidance on the approach to valuation for council tax purposes is contained in the VOA's "Council Tax" manual, which is published on the VOA's website at: www.voa.gov.uk

Departmental Staff

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent communications, public relations and marketing staff were employed by the Department and its predecessors in each year since 2001. [79027]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government was created on 5 May 2006. Information on full-time equivalent communications staff employed within the Directorate of Communication on that date is given in the table.

	Number
Senior Management	2.8
Press Office	20
Strategic Communications	2
Corporate Communications and Events	3
Internal Communications	3
Publicity and Marketing	9.4
eCommunications	8.5
Print Publishing	6.5

Comparable information in relation to the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is not available. However for information on ODPM press officer numbers, I refer to the answer given by my hon. Friend (Jim Fitzpatrick) to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1770W.

Fire Safety

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance will be offered by the Fire and Resilience Directorate to the owners of *(a)* metal reclamation yards, *(b)* tyre dumps, *(c)* timber yards and *(d)* other high fire risk open air premises to ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. [78582]

Angela E. Smith: For the premises listed, and other industrial uses of open air premises, generic guidance is given in the guide for factories and warehouses. The existing guide "Fire Safety for Tyre Sites" will continue to be available. Non-industrial uses are covered by the guide for open air events and venues that we shall be publishing shortly. Further guidance may be needed on some types of premises or uses and we will be keeping the position under review.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans for responsibility for the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 to remain with the Fire and Resilience Directorate in her Department. [78583]

Angela E. Smith: Responsibility for the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and for policy on general fire safety law for non-domestic premises both rest with the Fire and Resilience Directorate. The Department has no plans to change that.

Leisure Facilities (Discount Entitlement)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to local authorities on the required proof of entitlement for people claiming benefits to discounts for use of leisure facilities. [74614]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not provide guidance for local authorities in relation to proof of entitlement to discounts for the use of leisure facilities for people in receipt of benefits; this is a matter for local authorities.

Local Government

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Government encourages exchange of best practice between local authorities on estate utilisation. [77573]

Mr. Woolas: Government policy is to promote the spread of best practice in local authority asset management. Asset management was one of the themes for Round 6 of the Beacon councils scheme and the authorities with Beacon status for asset management have been rolling out a programme of learning events to share their best practice with other local authorities.

Additionally, my department, in liaison with other stakeholders, commissioned the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors to prepare new guidance. This guidance, which was published in 2005, aims to help local authorities use their assets more effectively to support delivery of their strategic objectives and increase the cost effectiveness of existing assets and capital resources. The text of the guidance is available on the internet at:

http://www.rics.org/Property/Propertymanagement/AssetManagementinLocalAuthorities230305.htm

The Government also welcomes the Asset Management Network, set up in 2000 by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and local government property societies, to disseminate best practice information and support local authorities developing asset management practices. The network runs an extensive website for hosting asset management information at:

http://www.ipfproperty.net/ampnetwork

Local Strategic Partnerships

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether non-councillor members of local strategic partnerships are *(a)* regulated by (i) local government codes of conduct and (ii) the Standards Board and *(b)* required to declare personal or prejudicial interests. [78281]

Mr. Woolas: The Local Government Act 2000 provides for a code of conduct to apply to members and co-opted members of every relevant authority. The Standards Board for England polices this code. This code does not directly apply to non-local authority members of LSPs. However, they would be required to conduct themselves with reference to their own professional or corporate code of conduct, and to comply with any advice which accompanies this.

Valuation Office Agency

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1196W, to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), on the automated valuation model, what data sources are used to compile the Valuation Office Agency's single dataset. [78253]

Mr. Woolas: The main source of the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA's) property attribute dataset is the Agency's own paper-based records, which have now been digitised and are maintained as part of ongoing work in the VOA. Data has also been drawn from other sources to supplement and validate these records. These are:

data on the location of subsidised housing from the National Register of Social Housing (NRoSH); this has been reviewed and adapted by the VOA

data supplied under a contractual arrangement with Rightmove.co.uk plc

National Land and Property Gazetteer "X-Y co-ordinate" data

Additionally, data is supplied by local authorities, primarily as part of their statutory responsibility to supply information which they consider would assist the VOA's listing officers in maintaining council tax lists.

Also, standard ordnance survey maps have been used to confirm some property attribute details and to assist with the calculation of plot sizes.

Wards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority wards, including the district tier in two-tier areas, there are in England. [78252]

Mr. Woolas: Decisions as to the number of wards in England are a matter for the Electoral Commission. The current number is: in the 32 London boroughs, 624 wards; in the 36 Metropolitan districts, 815 wards; in the 45 Shire unitary authorities (excluding the county of the Isle of Wight which has 48 divisions), 1,006 wards; in the 238 two-tier districts, 5,449 wards. Total: 7,894 wards.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Arms Exports

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent estimate he has made of the annual value of the UK arms export trade. [76858]

Mr. Ingram: I have been asked to reply.

Defence exports bring commercial benefits to UK companies and around 20 per cent. of UK defence employment is in export work. As set out in the Defence Industrial Strategy White Paper in December 2005 (CM6697), they also contribute to the achievement of wider defence objectives and support our foreign and security interests.

Over the last five years the UK defence industry, with the support of the Defence Export Services Organisation, won defence export orders averaging £4.5 billion per annum. Last year, these included the US101 helicopter, to be used for the US Presidential flight, and an important understanding with Saudi Arabia. This will lead to a greater partnership in modernising the Saudi armed forces, and will sustain the defence relationship for many years to come.

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for what purpose a Westland Scout AH1 helicopter (registration G-ONEB) was transferred to Sierra Leone after being deregistered in the UK on 12 May 2006, and if he will make a statement. [77081]

Mr. McCartney: My interest in this relates to the possible need for an export licence for the export of this item. Although I am bound by a duty of commercial confidentiality as regards export licensing information which may be placed in the public domain, I shall ensure that this matter is pursued, if necessary involving HM Revenue and Customs as the enforcement authority. I would be grateful if the hon. Member could send me any further factual information he holds regarding this matter.

Coal Production

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much coal was produced by the *(a)* National Coal Board and *(b)* British Coal Corporation in each year since 1976. [79215]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows:

(a) The National Coal Board	*Output (million tonnes)*
1976-77	119.9
1977-78	119.9
1978-79	119.0
1979-80	122.3
1980-81	125.5
1981-82	123.2
1982-83	119.6

(a) The National Coal Board	*Output (million tonnes)*
1983-84	103.9
1984-85	41.2
(b) The British Coal Corporation[1]	
1985-86	102.5
1986-87	101.3
1987-88	97.5
1988-89	101.8
1989-90	93.1
1990-91	89.3
1991-92	87.7
1992-93	76.8
1993-94	56.2
1994-95[2]	32.1

[1] The National Coal Board began trading under the name The British Coal Corporation in 1985-86 and from 1986-87 began producing consolidated accounts under that company name.
[2] Figure is for the nine months to end December 1994 at which point the mining assets of the Corporation were sold to the private sector.
Source:
National Coal Board/British Coal Corporation Report and Accounts.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by his Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77262]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI does not currently keep a separate record of amounts spent on alcohol. It is not intended to keep a separate record in future since the total spent by the Department on hospitality in the round was £71,000 in 2005-06 and it would not be cost effective to further analyse such a relatively low amount.

The DTI's internal guidance strongly reinforces the need for any expenditure in respect of hospitality to be conducted in accordance with the principles of Government accounting.

Energy Efficiency

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of his Department's additional allocation from the Treasury for support for micro-renewables he plans to allocate to individual household installations. [78485]

Malcolm Wicks: The additional £50 million announced by the Chancellor in the Budget will not be used to support microgeneration installations in individual households. These funds will be used for installations in the public sector, possibly including social housing.

Individuals can apply for grants under the original £30 million Low Carbon Buildings Programme.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps are being taken to encourage the use of *(a)* cleaner and *(b)* more efficient sources of energy. [77858]

Malcolm Wicks: Government are taking a number of measures to encourage the use of cleaner and more efficient sources of energy such as renewables, combined heat and power (CHP), and carbon abatement technologies.

The Government's key mechanism for encouraging renewable generation is the Renewables Obligation (RO) which places an obligation on electricity suppliers to source a specific and annually increasing percentage of their sales from eligible renewable sources. This is set at 6.7 per cent. for 2006-07 and will rise to 15.4 per cent. by 2015-16. The RO together with the Climate Change Levy will be worth up to £1 billion per year by 2010.

Since 2002 the Government have also made available around £500 million of direct funding for emerging renewable and low carbon technologies in the form of capital grants.

This includes:

£117 million in capital grants for round one offshore wind farms;

£66 million for biomass capital grants;

£80 million for Low Carbon Buildings Programme;

£50 million Demonstration Fund for Carbon Abatement Technologies, Hydrogen and Fuel Cells;

£12.5 million for the Clear Skies Programme;

£50 million for Marine Renewables Deployment Fund; and

£19 million a year for industry-led Research & Development.

With regard to Combined Heat and Power (CHP) the Government have added support measures for CHP in the new Climate Change Programme, including a commitment that CHP will be fully considered in the UK's Phase II National Allocation Plan of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. Combined heat and power (CHP) can increase the overall efficiency of fuel utilisation to more than 75 per cent. compared with up to 50 per cent. from modern Combined Cycle Gas Turbines. We are also considering whether we can offer support for CHP under the current Energy Review.

In 2005 the Government launched the Carbon Abatement Technologies Strategy and the UK's Strategic Framework for Hydrogen Energy. Carbon Abatement Technologies (CATs) have the potential to significantly lower carbon dioxide emissions by 85 per cent. or more and will enable the cleaner use of coal and allow it to have a role in a sustainable world. The use of hydrogen as a transport fuel could provide significant cost-competitive CO_2 reductions by 2030. These strategies include (as listed above) funding for demonstration of hydrogen, fuel cell and carbon abatement technologies (including Cleaner Coal and Carbon Capture and Storage).

The EU Emissions Trading scheme covers electricity generation and energy intensive industry and requires an allowance to be produced for every tonne of carbon dioxide emitted. These allowances are tradeable across the EU and will effectively require companies to incorporate the cost of carbon into decision making. This scheme should therefore provide another incentive to invest in cleaner and more efficient sources of energy.

Energy Engineers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what information his Department holds on the average age of registered professional *(a)* gas engineers and *(b)* nuclear engineers. [78521]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not hold information covering the age profiles of registered gas or registered nuclear engineers.

Work force demographics will be addressed in the sector skills agreements which are being developed by the relevant sector skills councils—Cogent for nuclear and Energy and Utility Skills for gas. These will provide a framework for meeting current and future needs for skilled people.

Energy Review

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the reasons are for the delay in posting the submissions received in April in response to the Energy Review consultation on his Department's website; and when he expects all the remaining submissions to be posted. [79081]

Malcolm Wicks: We received a high number of responses to the Energy Review consultation (over 5,300), many of which were submitted towards the end of the consultation period. Since the close we have focused on reading and logging the responses to ensure the comments feed into our overall analysis. We are now working on responses received in April, which we hope to post on the DTI website by the end of the month.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will post the submissions received in April to the Energy Review consultation on his departmental website. [78973]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* The high number of responses to the Energy Review consultation (over 5,300), many of which were submitted towards the end of the consultation period, has meant we are still working on the responses received in April. We hope to post these on the DTI website by the end of the month.

Franco-British Nuclear Forum

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of EU competition law on the Franco-British Nuclear Forum announced by the Prime Minister on 9 June 2006; [79042]

(2) how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff have been allocated from his Department to the Franco-British Nuclear Forum announced by the Prime Minister on 9 June 2006; [79050]

(3) which UK companies and industry groups were consulted about the setting up of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum prior to its announcement by the Prime Minister on 9 June 2006; [79051]

(4) what assessment he has made of the likely cost of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum announced by the Prime Minister on 9 June 2006; and what proportion of the costs will be borne by UK companies and industry groups. [79052]

Malcolm Wicks: The terms of reference for the Franco-British Nuclear Forum, which my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Chirac agreed to establish on 9 June 2006, have yet to be decided, as have its aims, and its membership. I shall write to the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton as soon as the information is available.

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) when he plans to make a statement on the Franco-British Nuclear Forum announced by the Prime Minister on 9 June 2006; [79102]

(2) who will represent the UK at the Franco-British Nuclear Forum announced by the Prime Minister on 9 June 2006; [79103]

(3) what the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* aims are of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum announced by the Prime Minister on 9 June 2006; and how often it will meet. [79104]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answers 20 June 2006]:* The terms of reference for the Franco-British Nuclear Forum, which my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Chirac agreed to establish on 9 June 2006, have yet to be decided, as have its aims, and its membership. I shall write to the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton as soon as the information is available.

Music Copyright

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many prosecutions there have been for the illegal copying of music for personal use under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988; and if he will make a statement. [76874]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is a matter for copyright owners or their representatives to pursue those who infringe copyright in music by private copying. I understand that the BPI, the British music industry's trade association, has not sued anyone who has merely copied music for personal use.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent advice he has received from *(a)* the police and *(b)* the music industry on the issue of private sound copying and the application of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988; and if he will make a statement. [76875]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Infringement of copyright by private copying is a civil, rather than a criminal matter, and therefore not a matter for the police. I have not received any recent representations from the music industry, although I am aware of their concerns. Private copying is one of the issues under consideration by the current independent review of intellectual property led by Andrew Gowers. The review will report to Government in the autumn.

New Technologies

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of the Department's budget was spent on researching new technologies in the last period for which figures are available. [76806]

Jim Fitzpatrick: SET Statistics provide a breakdown of Government R&D expenditure by primary purpose and Department. The following table outlines spend for

the Department of Trade and Industry and other major Government Departments for 2003-04 on technology support and gives this as a percentage of the Department's total budget. The category technology support includes strategic as well as applied research, and pre-competitive research. These figures exclude funding of the research base under the Science Budget and are derived from SET statistics tables 3.6 and 3.10 available on the DTI website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/science/science-funding/set-stats/govt-exp-r&d/index.htnml, hard copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Analysis of net Government R&D expenditure by primary purpose and department—Dates covered: 2003-04

	Primary purpose A: General support (£ million)	*As percentage of total department budget*	*Primary purpose B: Government services (£ million)*	*As percentage of total department budget*
DEFRA	16.9	0.33	6.0	0.12
DIES	—	—	17.0	3.23
ODPM	0.3	0.01	3.2	0.07
DfT	0.1	0.00	10.6	0.16
DH (includes NHS)	2.8	0.00	557.6	0.95
DWP (formerly DSS)	—	—	12.1	0.01
HSC	—	—	—	—
HO	—	—	42.2	0.56
DCMS (formerly DNH)	6.2	0.22	0.8	0.03
DFID (formerly ODA)	—	—	214.9	5.49
DTI (ex OST)	—	—	—	—
NI departments	—	—	1.6	0.01
SE (formerly SO)	17.5	0.13	52.2	0.38
NAW (formerly WO)	4.5	0.07	18.1	0.28
FSA	—	—	—	—
Other departments	1.3	0.00	13.3	0.04
Total Civil Departments	49.7	0.03	949.5	0.55
MOD	—	—	2,676.6	8.92
Total Government	3,597.5	1.58	3,733.9	1.64

	Primary purpose C: Policy support (£ million)	*As percentage of total department budget*	*Primary purpose D: Technology support (£ million)*	*As percentage of total department budget*
DEFRA	128.8	2.52	29.2	0.57
DIES	33.8	6.42	1.2	0.23
ODPM	26.9	0.61	—	—
DfT	41.0	0.61	7.1	0.11
DH (includes NHS)	31.4	0.05	1.1	0.00
DWP (formerly DSS)	6.4	0.01	—	—
HSC	14.1	7.24	—	—
HO	5.7	0.08	—	—
DCMS (formerly DNH)	7.4	0.26	—	—
DFID (formerly ODA)	0.0	0.00	—	—
DTI (ex OST)	15.7	0.39	455.0	11.34
NI departments	19.1	0.16	—	—
SE (formerly SO)	20.5	0.15	38.3	0.28
NAW (formerly WO)	8.5	0.13	—	—
FSA	—	n/a	—	—
Other departments	11.4	0.04	4.2	0.01
Total Civil Departments	370.8	0.23	537.0	0.31
MOD	—	—	—	—
Total Government	421.6	0.19	610.4	0.27

	Total R&D (£ million)	As percentage of total department budget
DEFRA	181.0	3.55
DIES	52.0	9.88
ODPM	30.4	0.69
DfT	58.8	0.88
DH (includes NHS)	593.0	1.01
DWP (formerly DSS)	18.4	0.02
HSC	14.1	7.24
HO	48.0	0.64
DCMS (formerly DNH)	15.2	0.54
DFID (formerly ODA)	214.9	5.49
DTI (ex OST)	470.8	11.73
NI departments	20.6	0.18
SE (formerly SO)	128.5	0.93
NAW (formerly WO)	31.1	0.47
FSA	—	n/a
Other departments	30.2	0.09
Total Civil Departments	1,907.1	1.11
MOD	2,676.6	8.92
Total Government	8,363.4	3.68

Notes:
Definitions:
Primary Purpose A, general support for research—all basic and applied R&D which advances knowledge for its own sake; support for postgraduate research studentships (PhDs);
Primary Purpose B, Government services - R&D relevant to any aspect of Government service provision (all defence included here)
Source:
ONS Government R&D Survey

Nuclear Industry

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent assessment he has made of the skills capability in the UK nuclear industry; and if he will make a statement. [78996]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are advised on skills capability in the nuclear industry by Cogent, the sector skills council covering nuclear. The most recent assessment on skills in the nuclear industry has been completed through the Sector Skills Agreement Process. "The Skills Needs Assessment of the Nuclear Industry", is available on the Cogent website at www.cogent-ssc.com/ as is the "Assessment of Current Education and Training Provision for the Nuclear Industry".

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of nuclear *(a)* scientists and *(b)* engineers available in the United Kingdom. [77722]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* The nuclear industry employs good general science and engineering graduates. The nuclear specific competences are added by in-service training and experience and, increasingly, by Masters Courses at the 15 or so universities and institutions teaching postgraduates in nuclear related topics.

Survey and scenario planning work undertaken by Cogent sector skills council with nuclear employers in 2005-06 provides estimates for the current workforce of:

(a) approximately 3,150 professional scientists working within the nuclear industry and;

(b) approximately 17,400 professional engineers working within the nuclear industry.

This reported workforce is not necessarily nuclear specialists.

The Institution of Nuclear Engineers has about 1,000 members of all categories.

In addition, there is a broader engineering design and project management resource, at least 20,000 strong, that could support energy sector projects, including nuclear.

Zimbabwe

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which UK companies have licences to export military equipment to Zimbabwe. [78594]

Malcolm Wicks: Export licence applications are made to the Government in confidence and the information they contain is therefore exempt from disclosure. The Government publishes detailed information on its export licensing decisions, by destination, in its annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. The Government's annual reports are available from the Library of the House, and our quarterly reports, from the DTI Export Control Organisation website at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/index.html

TREASURY

Cancer/Leukaemia

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people under the age of 18 years in *(a)* Southend on Sea, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England and Wales were diagnosed with leukaemia in each year between 2002 and 2005. [78596]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 June 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people under the age of 18 years in (a) Southend on Sea, (b) Essex and (c) England and Wales were diagnosed with leukaemia in each year between 2002 and 2005. (78596)

The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of leukaemia registered in England and Wales are the year 2003. Figures for people under the age of 18 years at diagnosis for the years 2002 and 2003 are given in the following table.

Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of leukaemia,[1] for people under the age of 18 years at diagnosis, registered in Southend unitary authority, Essex county and England and Wales, 2002-03

	2002	2003
Southend unitary authority	1	1
Essex county	12	8
England and Wales	478	453

[1] Figures selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD10), all leukaemias coded as C91-C95.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Southend on Sea, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England and Wales were diagnosed with (i) leukaemia, (ii) breast cancer, (iii) prostate cancer and (iv) lung cancer in each year between 2002 and 2005. [78597]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 June 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people in (a) Southend on Sea, (b) Essex and (c) England and Wales were diagnosed with (i) leukaemia, (ii) breast cancer and (iii) prostate cancer and (iv) lung cancer in each year between 2002 and 2005. (78597)

The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer registered in England and Wales are the year 2003. Figures by selected cancers for the years 2002 and 2003 are given in the following table.

Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of selected cancers,[1] registered in Southend unitary authority, Essex county and England and Wales, 2002-03

	Southend unitary authority		Essex county		England and Wales	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Leukaemia	20	15	143	132	6,066	6,190
Breast cancer (females)[2]	129	123	910	956	36,540	38,882
Prostate cancer	94	106	796	819	28,566	28,800
Lung cancer	116	102	763	737	31,801	31,718

[1] Figures selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD10), all leukaemias coded as C91-C95, breast cancer as C50, prostate cancer as C61 and lung cancer as C34.
[2] Figures provided here are for female breast cancer. However, there are around 300 cases of male breast cancer diagnosed each year in England and Wales.

Drug Deaths

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Scotland died as a result of *(a)* heroin and *(b)* cocaine misuse in the last 12 months. [78866]

John Healey: This is a matter for the Scottish Executive (Registrar General) and the hon. Member may wish to write to them about this issue.

Electoral Registration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of the electorate in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* ward of each constituency were registered to vote in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006. [79080]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 June 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question concerning how many and what percentage of the electorate in each (a) constituency and (b) ward of each constituency were registered to vote in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006. (79080)

Whilst ward electorate counts for England and Wales by parliamentary constituency can be provided for February 1997 and most recently for December 2005, the necessary ward population estimates to calculate the percentage of the electorate who were registered to vote are not available.

In the nine-year period from 1997, ward population estimates for England and Wales are available only for 2001 and 2002. Information for 2001 and 2002 has been provided previously in response to earlier Parliamentary Questions (No. 38272, 20 Dec 2005, Column 2809w, No. 41187, 19th January 2006, Column 1491w).

In addition there have been a significant number of ward name changes and ward boundary changes over this nine-year period which may cause significant difficulties when comparing figures for wards over time.

Electors (Southend)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many electors there were in each ward in Southend, West in each of the last 10 years. [78595]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 21 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question regarding the number of electors in each ward in Southend West in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (78595)

The most recent ward electorate counts are for December 2005. The ward electorate counts for Southend West for the last 10 years are included in the attached table. The ward electorate counts are for parliamentary electors, including attainers. Local government electorate counts are not available at ward level.

It should be noted that the number of people eligible to vote is not the same as the resident population aged 18 and over. There are numerous reasons for this. For example not everyone who is usually resident is entitled to vote (foreign citizens from outside of the EU and Commonwealth, prisoners, etc. are not eligible), some people do not register to vote and people who have more than one address may register in more than one place. Further, there is inevitably some double counting of the registered electorate as electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or after they have died. These factors have a differential impact from area to area.

Parliamentary electors for wards in Southend, West parliamentary constituency, 1996 to 2005

Ward name	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Belfairs[1,2]	9,021	9,270	9,250	9,106	9,037
Blenheim[2]	9,233	9,466	9,464	9,174	9,254
Blenheim Park[2,3,4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Chalkwell[5]	9,467	9,783	9,812	9,697	9,570
Eastwood[6]	10,658	10,906	10,852	10,658	10,649
Eastwood Park[6]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leigh[5,7]	9,080	9,360	9,410	9,263	9,085
Prittlewell*[2,3,4,6]	9,244	9,340	9,376	9,027	9,022
St. Laurence[2,3,6]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Westborough[4]	8,609	8,923	8,901	8,620	8,639
West Leigh[1,7]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	65,312	67,008	67,065	65,545	65,256

Ward name	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Belfairs[1,2]	7,328	7,315	7,396	7,373	7,336
Blenheim[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blenheim Park[2,3,4]	7,573	7,565	7,700	7,684	7,633
Chalkwell[5]	7,389	7,221	7,416	7,368	7,182
Eastwood[6]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eastwood Park[6]	7,509	7,555	7,660	7,663	7,552
Leigh[5,7]	7,111	6,998	7,191	7,120	7,057
Prittlewell*[2,3,4,6]	7,587	7,617	7,708	7,521	7,394
St. Laurence[2,3,6]	7,577	7,468	7,583	7,597	7,614
Westborough[4]	7,150	6,873	7,069	7,102	7,036
West Leigh[1,7]	6,920	6,886	6,940	6,931	6,929
Total	66,144	65,498	66,663	66,359	65,733

n/a = not applicable

* Prittlewell ward also falls within Rochford and Southend, East parliamentary constituency, data for the whole ward are shown. The following changes took effect on 3 May 2001:

[1] Part of Belfairs formed part of West Leigh.

[2] Part of Blenheim merged with Belfairs, part merged with Prittlewell, part merged to form part of Blenheim Park, and the rest merged to form part of St. Laurence.

[3] Part of Prittlewell merged to form part of Blenheim Park and part merged to form part of St. Laurence.

[4] Part of Westborough merged to form part of Blenheim Park and part merged with Prittlewell.

[5] Part of Chalkwell merged with Leigh.

[6] Part of Eastwood merged to form Eastwood Park, part merged to form part of St. Laurence and the rest merged with Prittlewell.

[7] Part of Leigh merged to form part of West Leigh.

Notes:

1. Data for years up to and including 2000 relate to 16 February, data for 2001 and subsequent years relate to 1 December.
2. Parliamentary electors are those people who are entitled to vote in parliamentary elections at Westminster and who meet the residence qualification. These include overseas voters but exclude peers and European citizens.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Energy Taxation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of reducing the level of energy taxation for those who live close to energy-providing facilities including nuclear and renewables. [78900]

John Healey: There is no energy tax levied on individuals, as no such assessment has been made.

Hot Meals Provision

Mr. Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reduce the rate of VAT on supplies of hot meals to *(a)* school children and *(b)* pensioners. [79303]

Dawn Primarolo: There is no VAT chargeable on the supply of a hot meal by a school to its pupils. Neither is VAT chargeable on meals provided to children or elderly people by any charity or state-regulated welfare provider as part of a package of care or welfare services.

European VAT agreements governing the application of exemptions, reliefs and reduced rates do not allow for their further extension. Neither do these agreements allow for the introduction of any new VAT zero or reduced rates for supplies of catering, including the provision of hot meals.

Incoming Phone Calls

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of calls to his Department and its agencies were *(a)* handled by an adviser, *(b)* received but abandoned and *(c)* received an engaged tone in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06. [73177]

Dawn Primarolo: I would refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 10 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1801W for (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-2006, to 31 January 2006.

The following table provides figures for the remainder of 2005-06.

	2005-06 Figures in millions rounded to nearest hundred thousand	
	February	*March*
Calls handled[1]	4	4.6
Calls received but abandoned[2]	0.27	0.27
Calls encountering an engaged tone[3]	6.9	5.9

[1] Where the caller spoke to an adviser
[2] Where the caller selected an option from the call steering menu and was put in a queue to speak to an adviser but the call was terminated before the caller spoke to an adviser
[3] Call attempts where the caller was played an Engaged tone

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1110-11W, on the parliamentary ombudsman, whether his Department has accepted recommendation 10, page 9, of the parliamentary ombudsman's report, "Tax Credits: Putting Things Right", of June 2005; and if he will make a statement. [78716]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1627W.

Tax Returns

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Northern Ireland have been fined for filing their income tax return late in each year since 1998. [78789]

Dawn Primarolo: The total numbers of late filing penalty notices (the first automatic penalty) issued in each financial year are in the following table. The figures for the financial years prior to 2001 are not available.

Year Issued	*Return year*	*Total number issued*
2002-03	2001-02	24418
2003-04	2002-03	28169
2004-05	2003-04	26760
2005-06	2004-05	26681

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in total was received in fines by HM Revenue and Customs for late income tax returns in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998. [78790]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs keep a record of penalties paid in respect of income tax returns filed after the due date at national level only.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many self-assessment tax returns were issued in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998. [78778]

Dawn Primarolo: The total numbers of self-assessment tax returns issued in Northern Ireland for each financial year are detailed in the table. The figures for the financial years prior to 2001 are no longer available.

Year Issued	*Return Year*	*Number Issued*
2001-02	2000-01	233,681
2002-03	2001-02	241,112
2003-04	2002-03	248,785
2004-05	2003-04	255,316
2005-06	2004-05	240,693
2006-07	2005-06	[1]234,763

[1] to 9 June

Taxation

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised in taxation in Northern Ireland from each tax band in 2005-06. [78788]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on estimated tax revenues raised in Northern Ireland by tax bands for 2005-06 is in the table.

Tax revenues in Northern Ireland: 2005-06 (£million)

Type of tax[1]	*Starting rate*	*Savers rate*[2]	*Basic rate*[3]	*Higher rate*
Income tax	10	10	1,400	900
Capital gains tax	0	—	10	110
Inheritance tax[4]	—	—	—	50

[1] Figures are estimated liabilities on an accruals basis for income tax, but receipts for capital gains and inheritance tax.
[2] Taxpayers with a marginal rate of 20 per cent. on savings income or 10 per cent. on dividends income.
[3] Taxpayers with a marginal rate of 22 per cent.
[4] Inheritance tax is only taxed at 40 per cent. above the inheritance tax threshold. The 2005-06 threshold was £275,000.

The information on income tax is based upon the latest survey of personal incomes (2003-04) projected to 2005-06 in line with 2006 Budget assumptions.

The information on capital gains tax is based on data held by HMRC on capital gains tax accrued in respect of assets disposed of in 2004-05 by taxpayers resident in Northern Ireland. Capital gains tax accrued in 2004-05 is paid in 2005-06.

The figure for inheritance tax is estimated, based upon historical data held by HMRC for tax paid in respect of estates where the deceased person was resident in Northern Ireland.

Similar information for other taxes is not available as taxes are often collected centrally and cannot be directly attributed to countries within the UK.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many females aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* under 16 years became pregnant in each (i) parliamentary constituency and (ii) local authority area in the East of England in each year since 2001; what the pregnancy rate was in each area; and what percentage of pregnancies in under 18 year olds ended in abortions in each area in each year. [77920]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 June 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many females aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* under 16 years became pregnant in each (i) parliamentary constituency and (ii) local authority area in the East of England in each year since 2001; what the pregnancy rate was in each area; and what percentage of pregnancies in under 18 year olds ended in abortions in each area in each year.

Information on conceptions is routinely published for local authorities and strategic health authorities. Figures cannot be provided by parliamentary constituency because of the risk of disclosing individual's information due to small differences with local authority boundaries.

Available figures are estimates of the number of pregnancies that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or termination.

Conception numbers, rates and percentage leading to abortion for girls aged under 18 by local authorities in the East of England from 2001 to 2004 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are given in the following table. Figures for 2004 are provisional.

Conception statistics for girls aged under 16 for each year since 2001 are available only for unitary authorities, metropolitan counties and counties. Figures are not available for county districts as there is a risk of disclosure of information about individuals due to small number of cases each year. The under 16 data are given in the following table.

Conceptions to girls aged under 16: number and rate by area of usual residence, 2001-04[1]

	2001		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*	
	Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
East of England	642	6.4	650	6.4	636	6.1	601	5.7
Luton UA	32	7.8	26	6.4	19	4.9	31	8.1
Peterborough UA	31	9.6	32	9.9	32	9.9	32	9.8
Southend-on-Sea UA	28	9.7	21	7.3	35	12.3	27	9.3
Thurrock UA	27	9.3	24	8.3	17	5.8	14	4.7
Bedfordshire County	45	6.1	46	6.2	44	5.8	31	4.1
Cambridgeshire County	57	5.9	57	5.7	51	5.0	53	5.1
Essex County	139	6.7	154	6.2	140	5.5	143	5.6
Hertfordshire	103	5.3	104	5.2	99	4.9	116	5.6
Norfolk	107	7.6	111	7.8	106	7.4	81	5.6
Suffolk	73	5.9	75	5.9	93	7.1	73	5.5

[1] Conceptions for 2004 are provisional.

Note
Rates are per 1000 female population aged 13-15.

Conceptions to girls aged under 18: number, rate and percentage leading to abortion by area of usual residence, 2001-04[1]

	2001			*2002*		
	Number	*Rate*	*Percentage leading to abortion*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Percentage leading to abortion*
East of England	3,311	34.2	47	3,424	34.6	47
Luton UA	176	44.0	45	184	45.0	38
Peterborough UA	167	53.3	36	179	55.4	34
Southend-on-Sea UA	130	47.4	49	146	51.1	45

Conceptions to girls aged under 18: number, rate and percentage leading to abortion by area of usual residence, 2001-04[1]

	2001			2002		
	Number	*Rate*	*Percentage leading to abortion*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Percentage leading to abortion*
Thurrock UA	137	50.1	47	119	41.7	37
Bedfordshire County	239	33.4	45	245	33.6	49
Bedford	104	36.9	47	96	33.9	56
Mid Bedfordshire	53	24.8	49	50	22.8	54
South Bedfordshire	82	37.5	39	99	43.7	40
Cambridgeshire County	302	31.7	46	289	29.9	48
Cambridge	54	35.6	43	58	35.0	43
East Cambridgeshire	29	22.5	55	18	14.0	50
Fenland	78	54.9	33	81	54.3	32
Huntingdonshire	93	31.1	48	98	33.3	54
South Cambridgeshire	48	20.7	60	34	14.8	76
Essex County	753	32.6	50	789	33.4	54
Basildon	146	48.4	45	174	56.7	44
Braintree	74	33.2	50	55	23.1	55
Brentwood	25	21.1	44	32	27.1	78
Castle Point	46	28.1	61	51	30.1	69
Chelmsford	65	22.4	54	74	25.3	54
Colchester	113	42.0	48	103	37.7	52
Epping Forest	52	25.0	63	45	21.1	71
Harlow	61	40.7	33	64	42.1	55
Maldon	20	19.7	70	25	24.4	64
Rochford	39	27.9	74	38	26.8	63
Tendring	95	43.7	46	107	47.8	40
Uttlesford	17	13.2	59	21	16.1	71
Hertfordshire	547	29.2	56	568	29.8	55
Broxbourne	57	36.3	67	59	37.3	61
Dacorum	69	26.7	65	66	25.2	62
East Hertfordshire	37	16.6	62	62	26.8	52
Hertsmere	64	37.7	72	50	27.5	64
North Hertfordshire	52	24.8	48	63	29.8	48
St. Albans	40	17.6	58	47	20.5	64
Stevenage	94	56.9	40	86	52.7	47
Three Rivers	32	20.4	69	44	28.1	52
Watford	46	34.3	39	34	25.2	59
Welwyn Hatfield	56	32.4	55	57	32.1	51
Norfolk	509	37.0	45	493	35.5	41
Breckland	63	29.5	43	56	25.4	34
Broadland	43	21.4	65	40	19.9	53
Great Yarmouth	84	48.3	35	119	65.8	33
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	102	43.7	38	96	41.0	40
North Norfolk	50	31.4	44	50	30.8	56
Norwich	113	59.2	45	84	42.8	35
South Norfolk	54	26.5	59	53	25.8	55
Suffolk	351	29.3	40	407	33.3	44
Babergh	33	21.0	52	44	27.0	45
Forest Heath	28	31.6	36	22	23.9	45
Ipswich	100	44.5	35	107	47.4	47
Mid Suffolk	34	22.3	53	40	26.5	55
St. Edmundsbury	40	25.0	40	37	22.6	32
Suffolk Coastal	44	21.2	43	39	18.1	44
Waveney	72	35.0	35	118	56.1	40

[1] Conceptions for 2004 are provisional.

Notes:

1. Following ONS guidance on disclosure of abortion statistics, figures for 2003 and 2004 on percentage of conceptions leading to abortions have been suppressed where the count is less than 10 cases. Occasionally it has been necessary to apply a secondary suppression to avoid the possibility of disclosure by differencing.
2. Rates are per 1000 female population aged 15-17.

	2003			2004		
	Number	Rate	Percentage leading to abortion	Number[1]	Rate	Percentage leading to abortion
East of England	3,374	33.3	46	3,389	32.8	47
Luton UA	164	39.7	45	180	44.7	48
Peterborough UA	155	48.0	32	175	53.8	31
Southend-on-Sea UA	140	48.3	46	135	47.4	41
Thurrock UA	120	41.1	38	123	43.1	48
Bedfordshire County	255	34.4	50	242	32.3	52
Bedford	112	38.7	54	118	40.6	53
Mid Bedfordshire	58	25.6	60	49	21.5	55
South Bedfordshire	85	37.6	36	75	32.5	47
Cambridgeshire County	281	27.8	52	268	25.6	45
Cambridge	54	30.1	50	46	24.4	43
East Cambridgeshire	30	21.5	50	29	19.9	38
Fenland	65	42.4	40	56	35.7	38
Huntingdonshire	83	27.9	60	88	28.8	48
South Cambridgeshire	49	20.4	55	49	19.4	53
Essex County	780	31.8	48	773	30.6	52
Basildon	170	54.2	50	131	40.4	39
Braintree	81	32.6	53	73	28.1	42
Brentwood	24	19.4	—	24	18.6	71
Castle Point	57	32.6	54	53	30.4	66
Chelmsford	71	23.0	48	82	25.6	66
Colchester	88	30.4	52	96	32.0	39
Epping Forest	53	24.5	70	66	29.7	64
Harlow	79	52.2	38	85	55.1	53
Maldon	24	21.8	58	26	23.6	69
Rochford	31	21.3	42	33	22.3	64
Tendring	85	36.9	24	85	35.1	49
Uttlesford	17	12.3	—	19	13.5	53
Hertfordshire	541	27.9	50	546	27.4	50
Broxbourne	57	34.8	56	70	41.0	64
Dacorum	68	25.8	50	63	23.7	37
East Hertfordshire	50	20.7	56	55	21.2	65
Hertsmere	50	27.2	52	50	26.5	64
North Hertfordshire	67	32.0	46	52	24.1	38
St. Albans	42	18.4	57	54	23.1	57
Stevenage	76	47.6	38	58	35.3	28
Three Rivers	36	21.8	47	42	25.1	57
Watford	34	24.5	41	42	29.4	50
Welwyn Hatfield	61	33.5	56	60	32.2	45
Norfolk	530	37.4	43	513	35.8	43
Breckland	75	34.7	32	69	30.7	41
Broadland	40	19.5	63	48	23.4	65
Great Yarmouth	104	57.0	44	104	58.4	37
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	103	44.2	37	87	36.6	38
North Norfolk	59	36.1	53	60	36.2	47
Norwich	113	54.3	41	104	49.9	40
South Norfolk	36	17.1	53	41	19.3	49
Suffolk	408	32.8	44	434	33.9	44
Babergh	42	25.0	52	40	23.8	58
Forest Heath	29	31.1	34	30	31.6	67
Ipswich	104	46.0	45	129	55.1	36
Mid Suffolk	52	34.1	46	33	20.3	52
St. Edmundsbury	46	26.7	46	53	30.0	38
Suffolk Coastal	52	23.4	54	64	28.0	58
Waveney	83	39.4	34	85	39.6	34

[1] Conceptions for 2004 are provisional.

Notes:

1. Following ONS guidance on disclosure of abortion statistics, figures for 2003 and 2004 on percentage of conceptions leading to abortions have been suppressed where the count is less than 10 cases. Occasionally it has been necessary to apply a secondary suppression to avoid the possibility of disclosure by differencing.
2. Rates are per 1000 female population aged 15-17.

World Cup

Mark Tami: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements he has made to attend matches at the World Cup. [79590]

Mr. Gordon Brown: As a guest of the German Government, which provided the ticket, I attended the England v. Sweden World Cup match on 20 June.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding the Government plan to allocate to the new three diseases fund for Burma. [77796]

Mr. Thomas: The concept of DFID involvement in the new multi-donor fund to tackle HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Burma was approved by Ministers in March 2006, but the level of DFID's contribution has yet to be finally approved. We anticipate a decision by early July 2006.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether people in Burma receiving antiretroviral treatment through projects funded by his Department are able to receive regular and reliable blood tests to monitor the efficacy of such treatments. [77797]

Mr. Thomas: DFID funds antiretroviral treatment in Burma through the joint-donor Fund for HIV/AIDS in Myanmar (FHAM), to which DFID is the largest contributor, providing £10 million over five years. At 31 March 2006, the FHAM was providing antiretroviral treatment to 2,953 patients. All of those people are able to receive regular clinical follow-up and monitoring, including reliable blood tests, to monitor the efficacy of their treatments.

Blood tests in the vast majority of cases include CD4 T-cell counts, which is a technique which monitors the response of the patient's immune system to the antiretroviral treatment. Materials and chemical reagents are sourced from reputable suppliers, and training of clinicians and laboratory scientists in these methodologies has been undertaken by the International NGOs involved and by the World Health Organisation (with FHAM funding).

In the main referral centres in Yangon and Mandalay, automated CD4 counter machines are available and as antiretroviral treatment is provided to new areas in peripheral areas, additional manual CD4 counting equipment and reagents, will be supplied. Those organisations funded by FHAM who provide antiretroviral treatment but do not use CD4 T-cell counts instead test patients' blood using a process of clinical staging, which is also regarded as a good practice means of monitoring treatment efficacy. In addition, the introduction of a further test for the effectiveness of antiretroviral treatment is planned for the near future, when HIV viral load testing will be made available at the central National Health Laboratory, with the support of UNICEF.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of Karen people internally displaced by the Burmese Government's recent attacks on Karen civilians. [77801]

Mr. Thomas: It is very difficult to provide a realistic estimate of the numbers of recently internally displaced Karen people because of the problems in obtaining data in Burma generally, and especially in areas of ongoing conflict. We have seen estimates ranging from 11,000 to 18,000 people and adopt a working assumption of approximately 15,000.

Flag Flying

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many days since May 1997 the St. George's Flag has been flown from his Department's buildings. [77742]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not have any buildings in England which have a flagpole, and therefore does not fly the St. George's Flag.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on flying the *(a)* St. George's Flag and *(b)* EU Flag from departmental buildings. [77743]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has only one building with flagpoles, which is in Scotland, and therefore flags are flown in accordance with the directives issued by the Scottish Executive. The St. George's Flag is not flown; the European Flag is flown alongside the Union Flag on European Day.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will ensure the Union Flag is flown from his Department's buildings on every day the offices are open. [77744]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has only one building with flagpoles, which is in Scotland. Flags are therefore flown in accordance with the directives issued by the Scottish Executive.

Hospitality Expenses

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by his Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77421]

Hilary Benn: DFID keeps a record of the amount spent annually by the Department for hospitality purposes, but there are no plans at present to keep a separate record of the amount spent on alcohol.

Expenditure in DFID is conducted in accordance with the principles of Government accounting as well as our own internal guidance.

Inter-American Development Bank

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the compatibility of Inter-American Development Bank programmes with his Department's poverty objectives. [78052]

Mr. Thomas: The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) plays an important role in assisting its borrowing member countries in their efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals. This is in line with the IADB's mission of accelerating economic and social development and reducing poverty. DFID works closely with the IADB to tackle poverty and inequality, including support through a number of trust funds which are specifically designed to help the very poorest people in the region.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which Private Member's Bills were drafted by his Department in each Session since 1997; and which of those received Royal Assent. [77505]

Hilary Benn: Members will consider a range of possible subjects before introducing their Private Member's Bills.

Government draftsmen do draft some Bills in advance which are available as one of the options for Members to consider before they make their selection.

However, Members may make subsequent amendments or revisions to a Government drafted Bill, or use it as the basis for a Private Member's Bill in the future.

The information requested is therefore not collected.

World Health Organisation

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the recent World Health Organisation's World Health Assembly. [77930]

Mr. Thomas: My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Health Services led the UK Delegation to the World Health Assembly. The Assembly was overshadowed by the sudden death of the director general (DG), Dr. Lee. However, an acting director general (Anders Nordstrom) was approved and a process for selecting a new DG was agreed.

Overall, it was a very difficult Assembly due to the loss of Dr. Lee. However, agreements were reached, which will improve global public health. The following items were of particular relevance to the development agenda.

The General Programme of Work, which is essentially the World Health Organisation's (WHO) long-term vision (2006-15) was agreed. A key objective for the UK is to see the General Programme of Work linked to a new Medium-Term Strategic Plan which will be developed by 2008; along with the preparation of the next biannual budget.

A new Global Strategy for the Prevention and control of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) was endorsed. This is an important strategy to re-invigorate and accelerate STI prevention and control, which is urgently required if countries are to achieve universal access to HIV prevention treatment and care, and to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In relation to HIV and AIDS, resolutions were also passed on nutrition and HIV/AIDS, and a resolution to endorse the Global Task Team recommendations on improving AIDS co-ordination among multilateral institutions and international donors. The Health Assembly also supported the WHO to develop a five-year-plan to help achieve universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment by 2010.

A resolution was agreed on Intellectual Property Rights to improve access to medicines, vaccines and diagnostics for people in developing countries. The Assembly agreed to establish an intergovernmental working group to draw up a global strategy and plan of action based on the recommendations of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health.

Other important resolutions for forwarding the development agenda included resolutions on eradication of polio, infant and young child nutrition, and emergency preparedness and response.

A resolution on the role of nursing and midwifery was agreed, which is linked to the theme of the World Health Report on health work force issues. This is an important contribution to supporting the sustainable development of health systems.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abandoned Vehicles

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many abandoned cars were recorded in each local authority in England in 2004-05; and what estimate has been made for 2005-06. [78533]

Mr. Bradshaw: Numbers of abandoned vehicles in each local authority were primarily collected from WasteDataFlow in 2004-05: http://www.wastedataflow.org. Results from authorities that responded are listed in the following table. Results for 2005-06 are not yet available and estimates have not been made.

Local Authority	*Abandoned Vehicles 2004-05*
Adur	279
Allerdale	78
Alnwick	23
Arun	439
Ashfield	291
Ashford	214
Aylesbury Vale	206
Babergh	349
Barking and Dagenham	940
Barnet	2,593
Barrow-in-Furness	63
Basildon	573
Basingstoke and Deane	345

Local Authority	Abandoned Vehicles 2004-05
Bassetlaw	153
Bath and NE Somerset UA	501
Bedford	654
Berwick-upon-Tweed	27
Bexley	781
Birmingham UA	2,273
Blaby	85
Blackburn with Darwen UA	493
Blackpool UA	196
Blyth Valley	129
Bolton	312
Boston	232
Bracknell Forest UA	162
Bradford UA	1,025
Braintree	276
Brent	1,014
Bridgnorth	23
Bromley	581
Bromsgrove	151
Broxtowe	177
Bury	125
Calderdale UA	308
Camden	1,069
Canterbury	305
Carlisle	245
Carrick	174
Castle Morpeth	43
Castle Point	136
Chester	292
Chesterfield	49
Chester-le-Street	202
Chichester	256
Chiltern	110
Christchurch	20
City of Bristol UA	772
City of Kingston-upon-Hull UA	1,575
City of London	100
Copeland	57
Cotswold	69
County of Herefordshire UA	301
Coventry UA	474
Craven	29
Dacorum	514
Darlington UA	297
Dartford	121
Derby UA	635
Derbyshire Dales	25
Derwentside	90
Doncaster UA	2,275
Dover	171
East Dorset	75
East Hampshire	123
East Hertfordshire	286
East Northamptonshire	158
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	370
East Staffordshire	181
Eastbourne	301
Eden	27
Enfield	2,368
Epsom and Ewell	251
Fenland	142

Local Authority	Abandoned Vehicles 2004-05
Forest of Dean	150
Gateshead UA	83
Gedling	194
Gloucester	1,467
Gosport	214
Gravesham	390
Great Yarmouth	568
Greenwich	1,879
Guildford	279
Hambleton	25
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,296
Haringey	1,594
Harlow	474
Harrogate	126
Hart	120
Hartlepool UA	293
Havant	174
Hertsmere	121
High Peak	60
Hillingdon	310
Hinckley and Bosworth	65
Horsham	173
Hounslow	1,448
Hyndburn	85
Ipswich	1,510
Isle of Wight UA	225
Isles of Scilly	0
Islington	927
Kennet	73
Kensington and Chelsea	138
Kerrier	281
Kirklees UA	674
Lambeth	484
Leicester UA	967
Lewes	197
Lichfield	50
Lincoln	84
Liverpool	902
Luton UA	2,097
Macclesfield	83
Maidstone	184
Malvern Hills	35
Manchester	182
MedwayUA	3,154
Melton	121
Merton	3,036
Mid Bedfordshire	102
Mid Suffolk	127
Mid Sussex	164
Middlesbrough UA	260
Mole Valley	715
New Forest	212
Newark and Sherwood	101
North Dorset	100
North East Derbyshire	52
North East Lincolnshire UA	580
North Hertfordshire	612
North Kesteven	778
North Lincolnshire UA	149
North Somerset UA	308
North Tyneside UA	319
North West Leicestershire	57

Local Authority	Abandoned Vehicles 2004-05
North Wiltshire	50
Nottingham UA	2,502
Nuneaton and Bedworth	192
Oadby and Wigston	87
Oswestry	34
Oxford	2,083
Pendle	88
Penwith	342
Peterborough UA	1,194
Poole UA	204
Portsmouth UA	659
Purbeck	34
Reading UA	299
Reigate and Banstead	269
Restormel	261
Ribble Valley	20
Richmond upon Thames	494
Rochdale	277
Rossendale	506
Rotherham UA	315
Rugby	149
Runnymede	144
Rushcliffe	197
Rushmoor	119
Rutland UA	28
Ryedale	10
Salisbury	114
Sedgefield	186
Sedgemoor	244
Sefton	42
Selby	45
Sevenoaks	163
Sheffield UA	547
Shepway	179
Shrewsbury and Atcham	79
Solihull UA	1,047
South Buckinghamshire	158
South Cambridgeshire	212
South Derbyshire	31
South Gloucestershire UA	706
South Hams	136
South Holland	243
South Lakeland	96
South Norfolk	66
South Oxfordshire	251
South Ribble	127
South Shropshire	20
South Staffordshire	48
Southampton UA	1,465
Southend-on-Sea UA	1,036
Spelthorne	673
St. Albans	227
St. Edmundsbury	522
Staffordshire Moorlands	27
Stockpor	322
Stockton-on-Tees UA	328
Suffolk Coastal	318
Sunderland UA	201
Surrey Heath	102
Sutton	474
Swale	260
Swindon UA	481

Local Authority	Abandoned Vehicles 2004-05
Tameside	1,509
Tamworth	227
Tandridge	210
Taunton Deane	136
Teesdale	12
Teignbridge	272
Telford and Wrekin UA	223
Test Valley	264
Tewkesbury	360
Thanet	452
ThurrockUA	1,272
Tonbridge and Malling	133
Torbay UA	383
Torridge	72
Tower Hamlets	1,322
Tunbridge Wells	168
Tynedale	46
Vale of White Horse	216
Vale Royal	253
Wakefield UA	262
Waltham Forest	1,333
Wandsworth	2,096
Wansbeck	122
Watford	238
Waveney	218
Wealden	282
Wellingborough	217
Welwyn Hatfield	277
West Dorset	303
West Lancashire	149
West Oxfordshire	185
West Somerset	23
Westminster	210
Weymouth and Portland	122
Winchester	120
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	190
Wirral	961
Woking	103
Wolverhampton UA	456
Worthing	287
Wyre	46
Wyre Forest	61
York UA	944

Badgers

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what trials of badger body snares are taking place; what the *(a)* objectives, *(b)* process and *(c)* procedures of the trials are. [76140]

Mr. Bradshaw: A study protocol for current work to assess the effectiveness and humaneness of a possible body snare designed to restrain badgers will be placed in the House Library. A full report of this work will be published following peer review.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many inquiries have been made to his Department about dealing with badgers causing damage in Castle Point in each of the last five years. [78181]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department keeps no central records of the number of inquiries it receives about badgers causing damage. However under section 10 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, DEFRA has received 29 applications for licences to interfere with badger setts in the Castle Point area since 5 May 2001 when electronic recording of applications began.

These applications were received in the following years:

	Applications
2001	3
2002	3
2003	10
2004	6
2005	5
2006 (To date)	2

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will visit Castle Point to examine the damage caused by the local badger population. [78182]

Mr. Bradshaw: I am grateful for the hon. Member's invitation. However, I am already aware of concerns about damage caused by badgers in Castle Point. DEFRA wildlife advisers have advised on several occasions about the action which can be taken, and appropriate licences have been granted in some cases.

Bottle Production

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of how much energy is used to produce *(a)* plastic and *(b)* glass water bottles. [75563]

Ian Pearson: Neither Defra nor the Carbon Trust holds this information. Defra collects data on energy use by the food industry. However it is not possible to break down the data to the level needed to estimate the energy used to produce plastic or glass bottles for packaging spring or mineral waters. Energy use in producing bottles is, in any case, only one factor that needs to be taken into account—along with others such as transport, and re-use or re-cycling of materials—when assessing which type of packaging is the best sustainable option.

Bovine TB

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the specificity was of the gamma interferon test using the *(a)* standard purified protein derivative, *(b)* ESAT6 and CFP10 peptides and *(c)* ESAT6 and CFP10 peptides in combination with the standard purified protein derivative in research undertaken by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency; and what the confidence limits were in each case. [78918]

Mr. Bradshaw: The results of the trial to determine the specificity of the gamma interferon test undertaken by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, for the conditions listed above, were as follows:

(a) PPD-B minus PPD-A: 96.7 per cent. (95 per cent. CI: 95.6 - 97.8)

(b) ESAT-6/CFP-10 peptides: 97.0 per cent. (95 per cent. CI: 95.9 - 98.1)

(c) PPD-B minus PPD-A AND ESAT-6/CFP10 peptides combined: 99.2 per cent. (95 per cent. 01:98.6-99.8).

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what date the Gamma Interferon Working Group has been asked to report to Ministers; and what discussions members of the group have had with the Independent Scientific Group. [78305]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Gamma Interferon Working Group will provide Ministers with a progress report later this month. It will outline proposals for, and the scope of, the wider roll-out of the test later this year. In the meantime, Defra continues to apply the gamma interferon test in a range of prescribed circumstances.

Members of the Gamma Interferon Working Group have held various discussions with the Independent Scientific Group (ISG). The ISG has endorsed the group's proposals.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether the Gamma Interferon Working Group has been provided with the results of research by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency into the specificity of the gamma interferon test using the ESAT6 and CFP10 peptides in combination with the standard purified protein derivative; [78306]

(2) when research was completed by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency into the specificity of the gamma interferon test using ESAT6 and CFP10 peptides in combination with the standard purified protein derivative; and what reports have been produced on the subject. [78343]

Mr. Bradshaw: The study by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency into the specificity of the gamma interferon test in GB cattle was completed on 31 March 2006. A report was submitted to Defra and the Independent Scientific Group Secretariat on 19 April 2006.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department was first advised by the Independent Scientific Group to consider using the gamma interferon tuberculosis test in combination with the standard intra dermal skin test to identify bovine tuberculosis in the national herd. [78307]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB (ISG) first advised the Department of the need for improved diagnosis, and of the potential value of the gamma interferon test to complement the tuberculin test, during the first half of 2000.

The ISG proposed a programme of study on gamma interferon to provide essential laboratory and field information. The Department subsequently sponsored a small feasibility study into the practicalities of using the gamma interferon test, and a pilot field trial was undertaken between October 2002 and October 2005.

Defra uses the gamma interferon test on an ad hoc basis in identified problem TB herds. About 9,000 tests were undertaken in 2005.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what cost-benefit assessment his Department has made of employing a gamma interferon test using ESAT6 and CFP10 peptides in combination with the standard purified protein derivative. [78344]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not conducted a cost-benefit analysis of the use of ESAT6 and CFP10 in combination with the standard purified protein derivative (PPD). Although the use of these more specific antigens may reduce the small numbers of false positive diagnoses, there is also some loss in sensitivity, that is, the chances of detecting truly infected animals. The available standard commercial assay uses PPD alone.

Carbon Emissions

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the emissions of carbon dioxide from fossil fuel sources produced by *(a)* a gas-fired power station, *(b)* a coal-fired power station, *(c)* an oil-fired power station, *(d)* an electricity-only waste to energy incinerator and *(e)* a combined heat and electricity waste to energy incinerator. [77252]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* The amount of carbon dioxide generated by different types of power station, per kilowatt hour of electricity produced, is given in the following table.

Emissions from a combined heat and power (CHP) plant will be the same per unit of electricity generated as that of a conventional plant. However the heat generated by a CHP plant may be used to offset emissions that would otherwise be generated by additional energy used for heating. Good quality CHP plants typically offer an additional carbon saving of between 25 and 30 per cent. of that generated by conventional plants.

Type of power plant	*CO_2 (kg)/kWh electricity generated*
Coal	1.09
Oil	1.17
Gas	0.47
Unprocessed municipal solid waste to electricity	[1]0.60
Unprocessed municipal solid waste to electricity and CHP (30 per cent. additional efficiency)	0.42

[1] Non-biogenic fraction only.

Electrical Goods

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to encourage electrical manufacturers to incorporate more recyclable materials in household electrical goods. [76750]

Mr. Bradshaw: The waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive is a producer responsibility directive, which aims to reduce the quantity of waste from electrical and electronic equipment and increase re-use, recovery and recycling. It requires member states to ensure that producers (or third parties acting on their behalf) set up systems to provide for the collection, treatment, recovery and environmentally sound disposal of WEEE. The directive sets out treatment requirements and recovery targets and it is the producer who is responsible for meeting these.

On 15 December 2005, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) announced a review of the policy on implementation of the WEEE directive. This review has now concluded, and the DTI will be consulting on the draft regulations and accompanying guidance shortly.

Additionally, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is currently completing a major research project to develop a process capable of removing brominated flame retardants from WEEE plastics. Under the requirements of the directive, brominated flame retardants containing plastics have to be treated separately from those not containing them. The project was led by Axion Recycling and has built on technology initially developed by the Fraunhofer Institute in Germany.

Fly-tipping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Environment Agency has made of the change in the level of fly-tipping since 2001. [78248]

Mr. Bradshaw: No national data were previously available before Flycapture, the national database for fly-tipping incidents, was launched in April 2004. Every waste collection authority in England has now registered to submit data to the Environment Agency, with around 90 per cent. submitting regular returns. Results from the first year's data showed that an average of over 88,500 fly-tipping incidents per month were reported in the period April 2004 to March 2005. Data for 2005-06 are currently being analysed.

The Flycapture database should help us build up a more accurate picture of illegally dumped waste, as well as providing a useful management tool for local authorities in tackling the problem.

Local Authority Statistics

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what statistics his Department collects from local authorities on *(a)* litter, *(b)* fly-tipping and *(c)* clean streets. [78243]

Mr. Bradshaw: All local authorities (excluding county councils) submit annual data on the cleanliness of their areas through Best Value Performance Indicator 199a. Data are also collected through the Local Environmental Quality Survey of England run by ENCAMS (Environmental Campaigns).

Waste collection authorities are required to submit data on fly-tipping via Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database established in April 2004.

Flycapture gathers summary data on the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by local authorities and the Environment Agency, as well as actions taken to deal with the problem. Every waste collection authority in England and Wales has now registered to submit data, with around 90 per cent. regularly submitting returns.

In addition, the internet-based system, WasteDataFlow, collects data on the amount of municipal waste collected by local authorities on a quarterly basis. This includes the amount of municipal waste arising from street cleaning and fly-tipping where this is collected under the control of the local authority: http://www.wastedataflow.org/

Renewable Energy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether energy generated as a by-product of a mass-burn incineration plant is classed as a renewable energy source. [78245]

Mr. Bradshaw: The EU renewables directive classifies the biodegradable element of waste as a renewable energy source.

TB Losses (Compensation)

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the compensation level payable to farmers for lost stock due to tuberculosis is; how this has changed recently; and if he will make a statement. [78966]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* On 1 February 2006, a new table valuation-based compensation system was introduced for cattle owners in England, whose cattle are affected by bovine TB, brucellosis or Enzootic Bovine Leucosis.

Compensation in England is now determined primarily using table valuations, based on average market prices for 47 pre-determined cattle categories; these are based on the animal's age, gender, type (dairy or beef) and status (that is, pedigree or non-pedigree). The relevant new procedures are covered in the Cattle Compensation (England) Order 2006.

Further information on compensation for bovine TB can be found on Defra's website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/control/compensation.htm

Waste Management

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the impact on waste management of *(a)* the introduction of recycling facilities and *(b)* mandatory bottle return and recycling schemes in supermarkets. [77522]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has been leading a £1.2 million project to help retailers pilot new ways of encouraging householders to recycle their waste at supermarkets. The project has looked at whether these new approaches, including the use of new technology in bring banks and incentives such as discount vouchers, could help bolster recycling rates and attract new recyclers.

A report on the success of this project will be available soon.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of waste was recycled in each local authority in Yorkshire and Humber in each year since 2003-04. [78946]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* The percentages of household waste recycled and composted[1] by local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region in 2003-04 and 2004-05 are provided in the following table.

Household waste recycled and composted in Yorkshire and Humber region

Authority	*2003-04*	*Percentage 2004-05*
Barnsley MBC	13	17.68
Bradford MDC	13.12	16.73
Calderdale MBC	13.62	17.05
Craven DC	18.03	21.41
Doncaster MBC	13.46	18.24
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	14.40	18.77
Hambleton DC	23.67	34.52
Harrogate BC	15	15.63
Kingston upon Hull Council	10.72	13.28
Kirklees MBC	14.20	16.23
Leeds City Council	14.60	19.56
North East Lincolnshire Council	19.66	21.18
North Yorkshire County Council	19.54	24.09
Richmondshire DC	10.12	11.99
Rotherham MBC	14.90	21
Ryedale DC	14.70	25.4
Scarborough BC	12.41	14.87
Selby DC	12.27	14.71
Sheffield City Council	12.2	17.14
Wakefield MDC	17.01	21.27
York City Council	15.43	17.77

[1] The household waste recycling rate is the sum of Best Value Performance Indicators 82 a and b

Water Framework Directive

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether members of the Consumer Council for Water will contribute to the introduction of the Water Framework Directive via membership of river basin district liaison panels. [74449]

Ian Pearson: Defra's consultation report on River Basin Planning Guidance, published in December 2005, makes clear that the river basin district liaison panels will include representatives from all relevant sectors, including those representing sections of the public affected by the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The Environment Agency, as competent authority for implementation of the Water Framework Directive in England, has decided that there will be Consumer Council for Water representatives on all the river basin district liaison panels.

Water Poverty

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on developing a joint approach to overcoming water poverty. [78930]

Ian Pearson: I have had no specific discussions with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland about this issue. However, I am aware of the approach to water affordability being taken in Northern Ireland, in particular the new affordability tariff. This is being introduced in response to particular circumstances which do not apply in England and Wales. Northern Ireland has a public sector water service while in England and Wales the industry has been fully privatised since 1989. A parallel cannot be drawn between the positions in Northern Ireland and England.

Whaling

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has made to *(a)* Japan, *(b)* Norway and *(c)* Iceland on their policy on whaling. [70423]

Mr. Bradshaw: With colleagues from 16 other countries led by Brazil, HM ambassador in Tokyo delivered a demarche to the Government of Japan on 16 January, protesting in the strongest terms on Japan's plans to expand its so-called "scientific" whaling activities. The UK Government, in common with those of a majority of International Whaling Commission (IWC) members, has regularly criticised Japanese scientific whaling programmes in both the North Pacific (JARPN) and the Southern ocean (JARPA) as being of little scientific value and urged Japan to terminate them forthwith.

On 20 April the British Charge d'Affaires in Oslo on behalf of the UK and 11 other countries delivered a demarche to the Norwegian Government, urging it to stop its commercial whaling programme. We continue to press Norway to desist from commercial whaling, which we believe to be contrary to the spirit of the International Whaling Commission moratorium.

We also persist with our strong opposition to Iceland's continuing "scientific whaling" programme and made our objections very clear with regard to Icelandic whaling at the last annual IWC meeting in Korea, and at a recent meeting with the Icelandic Fisheries Ministers.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Regional Casinos

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she plans to recommend changes to the shortlist drawn up by the Casino Advisory Panel for the regional casino licence that will be granted under the Gambling Act 2005. [79011]

Mr. Caborn: No. Ministers will not be involved in the work and decision making of the Panel, which is independent from Government.

The Casino Advisory Panel will make its recommendations on the local authority areas for the 17 new casinos permitted under the Gambling Act 2005 to the Secretary of State by the end of 2006.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings she has had with hon. Members in the constituencies which submitted proposals for a regional casino to the Casino Advisory Panel; and what issues were discussed at each meeting. [79012]

Mr. Caborn: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met the hon. Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) and the hon. Member for Coventry, North-West (Mr. Robinson) on 5 June.

The Secretary of State explained that the Panel was independent from Government and that any representations by Coventry should be made to the Panel, not Ministers.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Business Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much the Palace of Westminster has paid in business rates in each year since 1997-98. [78414]

Nick Harvey: The sums paid by the House of Commons in business rates for the Palace of Westminster in each year from 1997-98 were as follows:

	Rates paid[1] *(£)*	*Revised rates*[2] *(£)*
1997-98	1,820,550	—
1998-99	1,884,150	—
1999-2000	1,939,800	—
2000-01	2,288,000	1,976,000
2001-02	2,365,000	2,042,500
2002-03	2,403,500	2,075,750
2003-04	2,442,000	2,109,000
2004-05	2,508,000	2,166,000
2005-06	1,804,050	—

[1] Prior to 2000-01 Contributions in Lieu of Rates, (CILOR), applied to the Palace of Westminster as Crown land.
[2] For the rates period from 2000-01 to 2004-05 the valuation was successfully appealed, resulting in a reduced rating valuation and a subsequent rebate as shown as the revised rates figure.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Age Positive Week

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the costs of Age Positive Week were, broken down by main budget heading. [70110]

James Purnell: Information that is available is in the following table.

Age positive week 2006

	Cost (£)
Events	88,468.06
PR/Media	29,142.55
Advertising	68,299.00
Total	185,909.61

Notes:
1. Age Positive Week is part of DWP's activity to raise awareness of issues around our extending working life and age diversity agenda. The activities for the Week will have been complemented by ongoing PR activity and these costs are included above.
2. Cost of the events include refreshments, speakers, event management, and other associated costs.
3. All costs are exclusive of VAT

Allowances Rules

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the potential cost of ceasing to offset carer's allowance against bereavement allowance. [75489]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 7 June 2006]:* The estimated annual cost of ceasing to offset carer's allowance against bereavement allowance in the overlapping benefit rules would be around £3 million, although that figure does not take account of bereaved people who currently decline to claim carer's allowance but who would be induced to do so by a change in legislation.

Benefit Fraud

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of fraud in *(a)* income support, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance, *(c)* pension credit and *(d)* housing benefit in each of the last five years. [73255]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following tables:

Income support, jobseeker's allowance and pension credit fraud overpayments

April to March each year	Income Support (not including pensioners)	Jobseeker's Allowance	Income Support for pensioners/ Pension Credit
2000-01			
Percentage of benefit overpaid	5.2	7.0	2.1
Overpaid (£ million)	490	200	90
2001-02			
Percentage of benefit overpaid	4.3	6.6	2.2
Overpaid (£ million)	430	170	100
2002-03			
Percentage of benefit overpaid	4.3	4.9	1.2
Overpaid (£ million)	440	130	60
2003-04			
Percentage of benefit overpaid	3.0	3.4	1.3
Overpaid (£ million)	310	90	70
2004-05			
Percentage of benefit overpaid	2.3	2.2	1.0
Overpaid (£ million)	240	50	60

Notes:
1. The figures for April 2003 to March 2004 and April 2004 to March 2005 in the table have been adjusted to compensate for data quality problems. Previous figures have not been adjusted in this way as there is insufficient available information. The tables therefore are not suitable for making reliable comparisons over time.
2. The reports are available online at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fraud.asp
Source:
National Statistics reports

April to March each year	Housing benefit (HB) fraud overpayments
2002-03	
Percentage of benefit overpaid	1.9
Overpaid (£ million)	250
2003-04	
Percentage of benefit overpaid	1.4
Overpaid (£ million)	170
2004-05	
Percentage of benefit overpaid	1.3
Overpaid (£ million)	170

Notes:
1. These figures are made up of reviews of around 85 per cent of HB expenditure (used for measuring performance against the relevant PSA target to reduce fraud and error in HB) combined with more approximate estimates of error in the remaining 15 per cent. of expenditure. Further details are available in the relevant National Statistics reports.
2. The reports are available online at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fraud_hb/fraud_hb.asp
Source:
National Statistics reports.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of fraudulent claims for benefits were identified in each of the last five years; how many involved identity fraud; and if he will make a statement. [73915]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available on the number of cases of identity fraud. The available information is in the following table.

Cases where incorrect payment identified by a benefit fraud investigation

	Effective cases
2001-02	160,974
2002-03	145,232
2003-04	135,710
2004-05	150,651
2005-06	161,172

Notes:
1. The information available is based on the number of "effective cases", which includes all cases where a change of benefit entitlement is identified as a result of a fraud investigation.
2. Effective cases are a total of benefit fraud cases plus Instrument of Payment fraud cases for all years.
3. Figures exclude General Matching Service.
Source:
Fraud information by Sector (FiBS)

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals from EU accession states have been found to be fraudulently claiming *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* housing benefit since accession. [77603]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available. The Department does not maintain a record of benefit offences by nationality.

Bereavement Allowance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to increase the number of men receiving bereavement allowance; and if he will make a statement. [76753]

Mr. Plaskitt: We keep under review the way in which information is made available about benefits so that bereaved people, at this very difficult time in their lives, know about their possible right to benefit and can act on it at the right time.

As well as traditional sources of information we are working in partnership with funeral directors, registrars and voluntary groups such as Cruse, the National Association of Widows and Citizens Advice Bureaux who may be contacted by bereaved people. In addition we will continue to look for opportunities across Government and their services as they develop, to improve advice about this particular benefit, to those most in need of it—the newly bereaved.

Carers

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* benefits and *(b)* other assistance are offered by his Department to those who act as carers for (i) ill and (ii) disabled relatives in Wirral, West. [71636]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of carer's allowance is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Martyn Craske:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what *(a)* benefits and *(b)* other assistance are offered by his Department to those who act as carers for (i) ill and (ii) disabled relatives in Wirral West.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service. In the Chief Executive's absence I have been asked to reply on his behalf.

In answer to parts *(a)* and *(b)* of your question, depending on their personal circumstances, carers have access to the full range of social security benefits. Those who provide regular and substantial care of at least 35 hours a week for a severely disabled person receiving Attendance Allowance or the equivalent rates of the Disability Living Allowance care component can be entitled to a Carer's Allowance and if on a low income, to the carer premium in the income-related benefits or the carer's additional amount in Pension Credit.

Information on the recipients of carer's related benefits in Wirral West is provided in the attached Appendix.

I hope you find the information helpful.

Appendix: Recipients of carer's related benefits in the Westminster parliamentary constituency of Wirral, West, November 2005

Benefit	*Claimants*
Carer's Allowance	690
Carer's Additional Amount paid with Pension Credit	320
Carer's Premium with income- related benefits:	
Income Support	320
Income based Jobseeker's Allowance	—

Definition and convention
"—" nil or negligible.

Notes:
1. Carer's allowance: Total shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
2. Pension credit: Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced minimum income guarantee (income support for people aged 60 or over).
3. Parliamentary constituencies are allocated by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS Postcode Directory.
4. A smaller number of former MIG cases did not convert to pension credit on 6 October 2003. These cases have been excluded from the figures and are mainly cases where the claimant is aged under 60 and the partner over 60.
5. IS, PC and CA figures are taken from 100 per cent. WPLS data and are rounded to the nearest 10.
6. JSA (IB) figure is derived by applying 5 per cent. proportions to 100 per cent. WPLS data and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
7. November 2005 is the latest published data available.
Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).
Information Directorate, 5 per cent. samples.

Information on housing benefit (HB) and council tax benefit (CTB) recipients with a carer premium in the North West Government Office Region (GOR) is provided in the following table:

HB/CTB recipients with a carer premium in the North West Government Office Region

	May 2004 (Thousand)
Housing Benefit	24
Council Tax Benefit	32

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. HB/CTB data refer to households and may be a single person or a couple.
3. HB figures exclude any extended payment cases.
4. CTB figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.
5. The figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
6. May 2004 are the latest data available.
7. The lowest level the figures can be broken down to is GOR, therefore figures have been provided for North West Government Office Region.
Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2004.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his latest estimate is of the cost to his Department of Sir David Henshaw's review of the Child Support Agency, broken down by *(a)* travel costs, *(b)* salary costs for Sir David Henshaw, *(c)* other staff costs, *(d)* telephone costs and *(e)* other costs; and if he will make a statement; [75762]

(2) whom Sir David Henshaw has interviewed to date for his review of the future of the Child Support Agency; [75763]

(3) by what date he plans to make a statement on the future of the Child Support Agency; and if he will make a statement. [75764]

Mr. Plaskitt: The redesign of child support is ongoing. Sir David Henshaw will deliver his findings to my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions before the summer recess. It is the intention to publish Sir David Henshaw's report when a statement is made to the House.

The Henshaw redesign's estimated total costs between February 2006 and July 2006 will be as follows:

	Estimated cost (£)
Sir David Henshaw's:	
Time	54,000
Redesign secretariat staffing	200,000
Redesign non-staff costs and publication	up to 75,000
Redesign research/consultation	50,000

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

The DWP also meets the costs of general office overheads such as accommodation and IT. These costs are not separately identifiable from DWP running costs.

Information on costs to this Department are not yet available. The redesign secretariat is staffed by employees from the Department for Work and Pensions and the Cabinet Office and the costs detailed are an estimate of the direct costs of Sir David Henshaw and his team for both Departments.

Sir David Henshaw's report will contain the details of the costs incurred by this Department and representations made to him.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the cases agreed under the old Child Support Agency system have been varied; and at what cost. [75810]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to his Department's press release of 26 September 2005, why the gateway service for help with the resolution of potential Child Support Agency cases has not been established to date; and what representations he has received on this issue. [77088]

Mr. Plaskitt: The extent to which mediators could be used to secure agreement between the parents on the subject of child support maintenance is clearly an area to be considered by Sir David Henshaw in his redesign. He is looking at initiatives across Government, including those in the Department for Constitutional Affairs and the Department for Education and Skills, with the aim of identifying scope for closer working so that all Government interventions will ensure parents both take financial responsibility for their children and reach agreements that reflect the best interests of their children.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he estimates the Henshaw Review of the Child Support Agency will cost. [76556]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* The Henshaw redesign's estimated total costs between February 2006 and July 2006 will be as follows:

	Estimated cost (£)
Sir David Henshaw's:	
Time	54,000
Redesign secretariat staffing	200,000
Redesign non-staff costs and publication	up to 75,000
Redesign research/ consultation	50,000

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £1000.

The DWP also meets the costs of general office overheads such as accommodation and IT. These costs are not separately identifiable from DWP running costs.

Error Task Force

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have worked in the Error Task Force in each year since it was introduced, broken down by civil service grade; what targets have been set for the Task Force; when it is expected to report to Ministers; and whether its report will be published. [73446]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Official Error Task Force was set up in January 2006 with the aim of reducing official error in income support, jobseekers allowance and pension credit during 2006-07. It meets monthly with membership representing key policy and operational areas.

Information regarding the number of people who have participated in the Official Error Task Force broken down by civil service grade is in the table.

Official Error Task Force

Civil service grade	*Full-time/part-time*	*Number of staff*
SCS	Part-time	4
UG6	Part-time	2
UG7	Part-time	4
SEO	Full-time	1
HEO	Full-time	1

The Task Force is also working with a number of people to implement its improvement activities. It reports directly to the Permanent Secretary. Progress reports are provided to Ministers on a regular basis.

The first set of official error estimates covering the period of the Task Force is due to be published in summer 2007.

European Social Fund

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the information given to me under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding how much companies, contracting bodies and local authorities received in each of the last five years from the European Social Fund. [76523]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information has been placed in the Library.

Family Credit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rates were for family credit for each year of its existence; and if he will make a statement. [78410]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Estimates of take-up for family credit

	Caseload take-up rate	*Percentage Expenditure take-up rate*
1988 and 1989	57	67
1990 and 1991	62	66
1991 and 1992	66	73
1993-94	71	81
1994-95	69	82
1995-96	70	83
1996-97	71 to 75	82 to 88
1997-98	67 to 70	75 to 81
1998-99	66 to 70	73 to 79

Notes:
1. Caseload take-up compares the number of benefit recipients, averaged over the year, with the number who would be receiving if everyone took up their entitlement.
2. Expenditure take-up compares the total amount of benefit received, in the course of the year, with the total amount that would be received if everyone took up their entitlement for the full period of their entitlement.
3. The estimates exclude the full-time self-employed, and cover private households only.
4. Estimates for 1988 to 1992 are sourced from the Family Expenditure Survey, and cover calendar years. These years have been combined due to small sample sizes in each of the years.
5. Estimates for 1998 and 1999 are based on the calendar year 1989 and April to December 1988.
6. Family credit was replaced with working families tax credit in October 1999; take-up statistics for the period April 1999 to October 1999 were not published.
7. Due to small samples sizes on the FES for family credit, estimates are open to a significant margin of error.
8. The source for estimates for 1993-94 to 1998-99 is the Family Resources Survey, and covers financial years.
9. Estimates up until 1995-96 were presented as point estimates. Thereafter, estimates were presented as ranges as the point estimate was adjusted to take account of sampling variation. Estimates were not adjusted to take account of possible bias, so the Department is less confident that the true level of take-up lies within the ranges given, than it is for other benefits.
10. Estimates were published in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-up" series. Copies are available in the Library.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on information technology (IT) sourced from outside his Department in each of the last five years; who is responsible for such projects in his Department; and what IT *(a)* expertise and *(b)* qualifications they possess. [71816]

James Purnell: The information in the table lists the Department's IT spend sourced outside the DWP over the five years 2001-02 to 2005-06.

Financial year	*Spend (£ million)*
2005-06	1,156
2004-05	1,070
2003-04	1,073
2002-03	941
2001-02	651

The Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is responsible for the delivery of projects that relate to IT and the Department's modernisation programme—in co-ordination with the client groups, agencies and corporate functions—to ensure procurement of effective, reliable information systems and services that give value for money. The Chief Information Officer is also Head of Profession for programme and project management and for information systems.

The Department's Chief Information Officer, client group and corporate Directors General and agency Chief Executives have extensive experience of delivering major projects in the public and private sectors.

Interest-only Mortgages

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will raise the £100,000 limit on interest-only mortgages for people on benefit who are disabled and have adaptations made to their homes. [77086]

Mr. Plaskitt: Help with interest payments is limited to the interest on outstanding capital of £100,000. The only exception to this rule is where the loan is needed to make the home suitable for a disabled member of the household.

Language Line

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the annual cost of Language Line has been in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [48983]

Mrs. McGuire: The table provides details of departmental expenditure on Language Line for each agency in the last five years. The category entitled 'other' refers to usage by departmental cross-cutting services.

Language Line costs cannot be provided on a regional basis as they are not collated in this way.

DWP Language Line expenditure

£

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
Agency Appeals Service	—	449.50	547.80	429.65	3,612.90	5,039.85
Child Support Agency	14,191.49	20,435.00	22,691.50	42,343.45	37,348.35	137,009.79
Disability and Carers Service	6,221.71	5,602.65	6,466.06	7,529.50	13,087.30	38,897.22
Debt Management	—	17.00	—	276.30	299.50	592.80
Jobcentre Plus	380,784.68	895,807.90	974,289.46	913,270.10	1,301,822.61	4,465,974.75
The Pension Service	5,197.80	11,295.15	39,089.41	72,479.25	166,388.85	294,450.46
Other	2,066.38	6,795.40	23,381.22	103,768.40	49,014.86	185,026.26
Total	498,462.06	940,402.60	1,066,465.45	1,140,096.65	1,571,564.37	5,126,991.13

National Insurance Numbers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many immigrants were claiming benefits within six months of being allocated a national insurance number for each reporting period from April 1997 to April 2006; and if he will make a statement. [75759]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is published in "National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals Entering the UK". A copy has been placed in the Library.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* asylum seekers, *(b)* failed asylum seekers and *(c)* illegal immigrants have been issued with national insurance numbers in each of the last eight years. [77124]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the total value of welfare benefit claims made by individuals issued with a national insurance number who were referred to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate owing to *(a)* suspicion about their eligibility to work in the UK, *(b)* the use of false documents and *(c)* other reasons in each of the last five years. [75859]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of pensioners received means-tested benefits in each year from 1979-80 to 2005-06; what his estimate is for each in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [70295]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available. The information that is available is in the following table.

Estimated pensioner beneficiaries of income-related benefits as a percentage of the population of Great Britain 1990 to 2006

Mid year	Beneficiaries aged 60 and over of income-related benefits	Beneficiaries as a percentage of the population aged 60 and over
1990	5,200,000	45
1991	4,660,000	40
1992	4,500,000	39
1993	4,320,000	37
1994	4,150,000	36
1995	4,030,000	34
1996	3,910,000	33
1997	3,780,000	32
1998	3,640,000	31
1999	3,510,000	30
2000	3,410,000	29
2001	3,380,000	28
2002	3,290,000	27
2003	3,280,000	27

Estimated pensioner beneficiaries of income-related benefits as a percentage of the population of Great Britain 1990 to 2006

Mid year	*Beneficiaries aged 60 and over of income-related benefits*	*Beneficiaries as a percentage of the population aged 60 and over*
2004	3,740,000	30
2005	3,950,000	32
2006	4,100,000	32

Notes:
1. Income-related benefits are pension credit (PC), minimum income guarantee/income support for the over 60s (MIG/IS), jobseeker's allowance (income based) (JSA(IB)), housing benefit (HB), community charge benefit/council tax benefit (CCB/CTB), family credit (FC) and disability working allowance (DWA).
2. Overlaps between benefits have been removed.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest ten thousand, due to the estimation procedure to produce the figures for housing benefit and/or council tax benefit.
4. Beneficiaries is the sum of claimants aged 60 or over and claimants' partners aged 60 or over.
5. Percentage for population has been calculated using the revised Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates for age group 60 and over, for 1990 to 2004, and Government Actuary's Department 2004-based mid-year population projections for 2005 to 2006.
6. Figures based on one per cent and five per cent samples are subject to sampling variation. These include all JSA figures, information concerning partners of PC and MIG/IS claimants, and all other figures prior to 2000 except DWA which is derived from 100 per cent. sample data. HB/CTB (all years) and IS (1990 to 1993) are derived from one per cent samples. All other figures were obtained from the WPLS.
7. CTB data excludes second adult rebate cases.
8. HB data excludes any extended payment cases.
9. Jobseeker's allowance replaced income support for the unemployed in October 1996.
10. Some JSA(IB) claimants may also have entitlement to benefit via the contributory route.
11. A consistent data series prior to 1990 cannot be provided due to a lack of HB/CTB data, and because overlapping cases cannot be identified.
12. Estimates for 1990 to 2004 are based on past benefit data. The estimate for 2005 is based on projections for HB and CTB, and past benefit data for other benefits. The estimate for 2006 is based on projections for all benefits.
13. The increase in beneficiaries from 2004 is due to the introduction of pension credit which is more generous than its predecessors. People aged 65 and over are rewarded for making provision for their retirement through the savings credit. In addition pension credit assumes £1 of income for every £500 of savings above £6,000. This is half the assumed rate of income in the MIG. Pension credit has also been the subject of considerable take-up activity by The Pension Service.

Source:
DWP one per cent. samples (IS pre 1993, also HB and CCB/CTB), five per cent. samples, and Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS), and DWP projections.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in the proportion of pension contributions from *(a)* employers and *(b)* employees following the transfer of pension schemes from defined benefit to defined contribution schemes since 2002-03. [76756]

James Purnell: Information is not available in the format requested.

Weighted average employer and employee contribution rates in private sector occupational pension schemes in 2000, 2004 and 2005 are shown in the following table.

Private sector occupational pension schemes[1]	*2000*	*2004*	*2005*
Employer contribution (percentage)			
Defined Benefit schemes	9.9	14.5	16.0
Defined Contribution schemes	4.3	6	6.3
Employee contribution (percentage)			
Defined Benefit schemes	4.2	4.3	4.4
Defined Contribution schemes	2.7	2.9	2.7

[1] Pension schemes with 12 or more members.

Source:
Government Actuary's Department Occupational Pension Schemes Survey, 2000, 2004 and 2005

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate *(a)* the number of people affected by and *(b)* the total savings to the Treasury from the abolition of adult dependency increases, as proposed in the White Paper, "Security in Retirement: towards a new pensions system" in (i) 2020, (ii) 2030, (iii) 2040 and (iv) 2050. [77997]

James Purnell: The information requested is set out in the following table:

	Expenditure saved (£ billion)	*Number of people affected*
2020	1.4	660,000
2030	1.4	630,000
2040	1.1	520,000
2050	1.2	580,000

Notes:
1. Expenditure is in 2006-07 price terms and all figures are for UK and overseas cases.
2. Estimates of expenditure changes are consistent with the policy detail set out in the White Paper.
3. Savings presented in the table are additional to long-term projections of United Kingdom benefit spend, consistent with the Budget Report 2006 but are subsumed in the overall costs of the proposals as set out in the White Paper.
4. Currently around 66,000 people (the vast majority of whom are men) receive an adult dependency increase of state pension.
5. The numbers in the table take account of the equalisation of State Pension age between 2010 and 2020 and are based on current rates of female labour market participation.
6. The numbers affected are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date the first public announcement was made that the Post Office card account was a temporary scheme. [70892]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Argyll and Bute (Mr. Reid) on 13 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1849W.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of the withdrawal of Post Office card accounts on the blind and partially sighted. [74530]

Mr. Plaskitt: Post Office Ltd. made a number of improvements to its PIN pads to ensure its banking services were accessible to as many customers as possible, including those who are blind and partially sighted. Customers using a bank account at the Post Office follow exactly the same routine as those using a Post Office card account. They insert their plastic cards in the same PIN pads before entering their PIN. So any blind or partially sighted people who have used a card account should equally well be able to use a bank account at their post office branch.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his Answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1606W, on Post Office card accounts, whether *(a)* agents and *(b)* outsourced workers of the Pensions Service are telephoning pensioners to persuade them to cease using their Post Office card accounts. [75814]

Mr. Plaskitt: No, they are not.

Targeting Fraud Website

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many hits the Targeting Fraud website has received, broken down by month; how many cases of suspected fraud have been reported to the website; how many of these suspected cases have been investigated; how many *(a)* cases of fraud have been established, *(b)* changes to benefits have been made and *(c)* successful prosecutions there have been as a result; and what sentences have been imposed by the courts when prosecutions have been successful; [73440]

(2) how many submissions have been made to the Targeting Fraud website in each month since January 2000; how many referrals for investigation were made as a result of submissions to the Targeting Fraud website; how many investigations were completed as a result of submissions to the website; and how many prosecutions have resulted from website submissions. [73441]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available broken down by month. Information on sentences arising from investigations as a direct result of the Targeting Fraud website is not available.

The available information is in the following table.

Targeting Fraud website

	Hits received	*Cases reported to website*	*Cases referred for investigation*	*Cases accepted for investigation*	*Cases completed*	*Cases with change of benefit*	*Cases successfully prosecuted*
May 2000 to March 2001	1,468,696	[1]—	938	319	184	28	—
April 2001 to March 2002	222,421	8,453	2,734	1,067	673	152	4
April 2002 to March 2003	123,681	8,309	3,150	1,201	1,126	290	24
April 2003 to March 2004	547,769	23,386	9,315	3,523	2,010	481	24
April 2004 to March 2005	622,692	33,891	15,237	5,862	4,100	1,277	36
March 2005 to April 2006	[2]—	58,381	37,411	10,709	7,914	2,286	72

[1] Not available.
[2] Not yet available.
Note:
Records commenced from May 2000, when the Targeting Fraud website became available.
Source:
DWP Communications -Targeting Fraud, National Benefit Fraud Hotline (NBFH), Fraud Information by Sector (FIBS).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the case of Abdul Rahman, convicted in Afghanistan of apostasy. [77942]

Dr. Howells: Abdul Rahman was not convicted of apostasy.

Owing to apparent procedural flaws in the case, the apostasy charges against Mr. Rahman were referred back to the Attorney-General's Office and he was released from custody on 26 March 2006.

I refer the hon. Member to my public statement of 22 March 2006, available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1142704623955%20&year=2006&month=2006-03-01&date=2006-03-22, and to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones) on 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 914W.

Latin America

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact of US democracy promotion in Latin America. [78058]

Mr. Hoon: We have not made a specific assessment of the impact of US democracy promotion in Latin America. We work with a number of partners in the EU and across the region to promote democracy and good governance in Latin America.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards the implementation of the 13 practical steps for nuclear disarmament adopted in 2000 at the non-proliferation treaty review conference. [79084]

Dr. Howells: The UK is fulfilling all its obligations under the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT), including those on disarmament under Article VI of the treaty. We continue to support the relevant disarmament measures contained in the Final Document from the NPT Review Conference (RevCon) in 2000, including the 13 practical steps towards disarmament, and we have a good record on meeting the priorities they set out. Not all the 13 steps are relevant to the UK, such as those relating to bilateral measures between the US and Russia. However, we have made progress on the majority of the other steps. For example, in 2000 the UK initiated a research programme to study techniques and technologies that could be used to verify nuclear disarmament. Conclusions of this programme were presented to the 2005 NPT RevCon. We continue to call for the entry into force of the comprehensive test ban treaty as soon as possible and, pending its entry into force, maintain a moratorium on nuclear weapons test explosions and any other nuclear explosions. The UK is also pressing for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty, without preconditions, at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Terrorism Victims

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in *(a)* providing financial support and *(b)* improving information and logistical support for British citizens who are victims of terrorist attacks abroad; and if she will make a statement. [78311]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has in place a package of immediate assistance measures to help victims of terrorism overseas and their families in the immediate aftermath of a terrorist incident overseas. This is available in the absence of an insurance policy, employer's scheme or any other form of assistance.

Depending on the circumstances, the support we offer on top of our normal support may include medical evacuation for people who have been injured or evacuation for people in danger (this may not necessarily be to the UK, but to a safe place in the region); paying immediate medical expenses; transporting bodies or remains back home; paying the return luggage costs of those killed or injured; travel for two members of the victim's family to the site of the attack; and accommodation and travel insurance.

In addition to this support, victims of major catastrophes overseas, or their families, need further help when they return to the UK. The Humanitarian Assistance Unit in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) works with the relevant agencies and services to help victims to get the aftercare they need.

The Chancellor announced in the Budget a £1 million initial endowment to a charitable fund to help the British victims of terrorism. The fund will provide rapid relief to meet the immediate financial needs of those caught up in a terrorist attack, whether in the UK or overseas. The DCMS is working in consultation with the voluntary sector, partners in Government and victims' groups to finalise the details and will make a further announcement in due course.

Information and logistical support has been improved by the deployment of Rapid Deployment Teams (RDTs) to the areas affected. These volunteers are trained consular officers who travel to the area to assist our embassy/high commission with the incident. Their tasks range from meeting family members to visits to morgues, assisting with medevacs etc. The RDTs also consist of personnel from International SOS and the British Red Cross.

Venezuela

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are for Ministers in her Department to visit Venezuela. [78054]

Mr. Hoon: Foreign engagements for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and other Ministers are kept under constant review. It is not our practice to announce such visits until they are firm. Because of the unpredictable nature of world events, final decisions on overseas visits are often not possible until very shortly before the day of travel.

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken to promote British commercial interests in Venezuela. [78055]

Mr. Hoon: We actively support UK commercial interests in Venezuela through our embassy in Caracas, UK Trade and Investment and UK regional partners. UK exports to Venezuela have grown in recent years: £236 million in 2005 (26 per cent. up on 2004). The embassy and its partners work closely with the Venezuelan authorities, national and private companies, and chambers of commerce in Venezuela to identify and report commercial opportunities that could benefit UK enterprises. This year we will support five outward missions to Venezuela by UK small and medium-sized enterprises and two inward missions to the UK by Venezuelan companies seeking joint venture partnerships and alliances.

Weapons of Terror Report

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of recommendations *(a)* 58, *(b)* 26, *(c)* 20, *(d)* 19, *(e)* 7 and *(f)* 45 of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission report on weapons of terror; and if she will make a statement. [79082]

Dr. Howells: The UK has not yet made a full assessment of the various recommendations contained in the report of the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Commission, "Weapons of Terror". However, we consider it to be a valuable contribution to the continuing discussion of proliferation in many fora around the world and will study it closely.

The UK takes its disarmament obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) very seriously and we have an excellent record in this area. We have reduced the explosive power of our nuclear forces by over 70 per cent. since the end of the cold war and currently have a stockpile of fewer than 200 operational warheads. We continue to support the relevant measures agreed at the 1995 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences and have a good record on meeting the priorities they set out. We also remain fully committed to the negative and positive security assurances we gave to non-nuclear weapon States Party to the NPT in 1995.

The UK is fully committed to progress in multilateral disarmament fora, in particular in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). We continue to press for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty, without pre-conditions, in the CD. However, we believe that the CD must continue to operate by consensus if we are to make progress on these serious matters.

The Outer Space Treaty (1967), to which the UK is a Depository, places important constraints on the use of space, prohibiting the deployment of WMD in space and military activity on the moon and other celestial bodies. There is no international consensus on the need to start negotiations on a new international instrument governing the military use of space.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [78085]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* The political situation in Zimbabwe is dire as is the economic collapse. Mugabe's regime continues to deny the people of Zimbabwe their basic rights and freedoms; intimidate and suppress opposition; silence independent media; force people from their homes; ignore international calls for reform; and deny any responsibility for the grave situation the country faces. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister told the House on 19 April 2006, *Official Report*, columns 122-23, what the regime in Zimbabwe is doing is a disgrace.

We will continue to work for the restoration of good governance and the rule of law in Zimbabwe.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many women taking the abortion drug RU 486 suffered *(a)* excessive bleeding, *(b)* haemorrhaging when the foetus was expelled from the uterus, *(c)* damage to the cervix and *(d)* an infection in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by (i) age of the woman, (ii) gestation of the pregnancy and (iii) region; [75641]

(2) how many women taking the abortion drug RU 486 required further treatment because the womb was not completely emptied of its contents or it failed to end the pregnancy in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* age of the woman, *(b)* gestation of the pregnancy and *(c)* region. [75642]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the tables.

Under the Abortion Act, any registered medical practitioner who terminates a pregnancy is required to supply the Chief Medical Officer with the information set out in the Abortion Regulations 1991. As such, information is not held centrally on how many women taking mifepristone (Mifegyne, RU486) required further treatment because the womb was not completely emptied of its contents or why the drug failed to end the pregnancy.

Total complications reported for abortions using mifepristone (Mifegyne, RU486) by gestation and age for residents, England, 2000-04

		Gestation			
		Haemorrhage		*Other complications*[1]	
	Total complications	*Under 13 weeks*	*13 weeks plus*	*Under 13 weeks*	*13 weeks plus*
2000	71	27	16	16	12
2001	52	13	14	11	14
2002	98	42	29	12	15
2003	121	61	49	[2]—	[2]—
2004	93	58	25	[2]—	[2]—

		Age			
		Haemorrhage		Other complications[1]	
	Total complications	Under 25 years	25 years plus	Under 25 years	25 years plus
2000	71	25	18	13	15
2001	52	13	14	11	14
2002	98	30	41	10	17
2003	121	39	71	[2]__	[2]__
2004	93	35	48	[2]__	[2]__

[1] Includes uterine perforation and/or sepsis.
[2] For confidentiality reasons, totals less than 10 (0-9 cases) are suppressed. This is in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics, 2005.
Note:
Breakdown by region is not possible, for confidentiality reasons, due to small numbers.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1161-62W, on abortion, what estimate she has made of the cost of answering the question; and if she will make a statement. [77593]

Caroline Flint: Data on grounds, funding, gestation, and age are currently available but not in the format requested. We estimate it would take 33 hours, at a cost of £825, to extract the data and prepare the tables for publication, which is why we have previously stated that this information is only available at disproportionate cost.

If these tables were to be produced, we believe, given the level of detail and areas of interest requested, much of it could not be made available owing to patient confidentiality (the number of cases is likely to be very small).

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women seeking an abortion in England gave a Northern Ireland address in each of the last five years, broken down by postcode. [78938]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 19 April 2006, *Official Report*, columns 730-31W. The information cannot be broken down by postcode owing to patient confidentiality.

Accident Costs (Recoupment)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been recovered for the NHS in respect of recoupment of treatment costs from *(a)* accident victims and *(b)* insurance companies in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement; [75993]

(2) in what circumstances medical treatment costs can be recovered from *(a)* insurers and *(b)* accident victims, in respect of treatment under the NHS for injuries; what the maximum sums are that can be recovered in each case; and if she will make a statement; [75995]

(3) if she will extend the *(a)* range of cases and *(b)* maximum sum that can be recouped in respect of recovery of costs of medical treatment for (i) accident victims and (ii) insurers; and if she will make a statement. [76127]

Ms Rosie Winterton: For more than 70 years hospitals have been able to recover the costs of providing treatment to the victims of road traffic accidents where the injured person successfully claims personal injury compensation from the person responsible for the accident. The arrangements for this were streamlined and centralised through the Road Traffic (NHS Charges) Act 1999 which established a formal recovery scheme, operated on behalf of the Secretary of State by the Compensation Recovery Unit, part of the Department for Work and Pensions. Where a compensation payment is made to a road traffic accident victim by an insurer, the insurer is also obliged under the terms of the scheme to make a payment towards the cost of any hospital treatment the injured person needed, in accordance with a simple tariff system covering in-patient or out-patient treatment as appropriate. The injured person is not required to make any payment towards their own treatment costs under the scheme.

At present the maximum amount that can be recovered in respect of any injury is £37,100. The tariffs and the maximum amount are uprated each year in line with Hospital and Community Health Services inflation. The amounts recovered in the last three years are as follows:

	£
2003-04	105,654,936
2004-05	117,504,738
2005-06	121,500,568

Part 3 of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 laid the legislative framework for a wider-ranging NHS Injury Costs Recovery (ICR) scheme to be established, subsuming the existing road traffic accident scheme and extending it to all cases in which personal injury compensation is paid to an injured person who has received national health service hospital treatment. Following a public consultation on draft regulations that will govern the operation of the ICR scheme, it was decided to widen the scope for the scheme to take into account contributory negligence where this has been a factor in the primary compensation claim. The necessary amendment to the 2003 Act is contained in the Health Bill. In order to allow adequate time for the Bill to complete its passage through Parliament and for the amending clause to be brought into effect from the outset of the ICR scheme, the scheme is now expected to be introduced from 29 January 2007. The intention is to transfer the tariffs and maximum amount from the existing road traffic scheme, together with the

introduction of a new tariff covering the cost of ambulance journeys required to take the injured person to hospital. As now, these amounts will be uprated annually.

Acute Care Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute care beds per 100,000 population have been provided in each financial year since 1997-98 in each strategic health authority area. [74066]

Andy Burnham: Data for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are shown in the following table. Strategic health authorities (SHAs) were established in 2002 and, therefore, data prior to 2002-03 are not available on a SHA basis.

Average daily number of available acute beds per 100,000 head of population, SHAs in England, 2002-03 to 2004-05

	Beds per 100,000 people		
SHA name	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	213.7	218.9	211.8
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	125.6	129.1	135.9
Essex SHA	149.2	152.5	151.3
North West London SHA	215.1	215.1	218.7
North Central London SHA	267.7	276.7	268.8
North East London SHA	224.5	226.6	221.5
South East London SHA	209.5	209.3	204.9
South West London SHA	203.2	210.9	217.3
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	274.2	275.3	273.0
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	240.8	245.6	238.5
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire SHA	197.1	195.6	195.1
West Yorkshire SHA	230.6	228.8	221.3
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	232.1	230.3	221.5
Greater Manchester SHA	277.6	282.0	278.8
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	269.6	271.2	276.1
Thames Valley SHA	185.5	185.3	184.7
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	194.6	200.2	199.9
Kent and Medway SHA	157.3	155.4	158.3
Surrey and Sussex SHA	179.3	191.8	184.2
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	243.1	244.1	244.5
South West Peninsula SHA	258.4	261.0	256.9
Dorset and Somerset SHA	215.3	223.2	218.2
South Yorkshire SHA	307.5	297.5	302.4
Trent SHA	196.3	193.7	190.9
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	198.5	194.8	189.7
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	184.9	185.1	184.0
Birmingham and The Black Country SHA	266.2	262.2	268.9
West Midlands South SHA	214.0	204.7	205.2
England total	219.0	220.2	218.6

Source:
Department of Health form KH03 and the Office for National Statistics

Audiologists

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to increase the number of audiologists. [77284]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Work force planning is now the responsibility of local national health service employers and strategic health authorities. It is for them to determine how many audiological staff are required to meet local service needs.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her Department's press release on HER2 testing dated 5 October 2005, whether it is her policy that all women diagnosed with breast cancer should be offered HER2 testing irrespective of the type of treatment being proposed in their case. [79302]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's policy is to ensure that testing arrangements are put in place so that patients who may benefit from herceptin are identified.

Professor Mike Richards, the national cancer director, is working with cancer networks to achieve this. An update from Professor Richards is due shortly and a report on progress will be made available as soon as possible afterwards.

Childhood Obesity

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of *(a)* overweight and *(b)* obesity was amongst children in England aged under 16 years in each year since 1997. [76737]

Caroline Flint: The main source of data on the prevalence of obesity is the Health Survey for England. The table shows the most recent data on the estimated prevalence of overweight and obesity in children aged two to 15 between 1997 and 2004. Data for 2005-06 are not yet available.

Prevalence of overweight and obesity among children[1], by gender, 1997 to 2004: England

Percentage

	Unweighted						*Weighted[2]*			
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2003*	*2004*
Boys										
overweight	13.0	14.6	14.4	12.4	15.0	13.7	14.6	13.7	14.6	13.9
obese	12.7	13.0	16.4	14.5	15.5	16.9	17.0	18.9	17.0	19.2
Girls										
overweight	13.1	13.6	13.5	12.7	15.2	13.9	14.4	16.3	14.6	16.6
obese	12.4	13.8	13.7	14.2	14.5	17.1	16.1	17.8	16.1	18.5

Prevalence of overweight and obesity among children[1], by gender, 1997 to 2004: England

Percentage

	Unweighted							*Weighted[2]*		
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2003*	*2004*
Bases										
Boys	3,063	1,981	977	877	1,653	3,745	1,410	645	1,452	8,833
Girls	3,069	1,872	950	841	1,699	3,636	1,444	579	1,393	8,228

[1] Children aged two to 15 years.
[2] From 2003 data are weighted for non response. Data weighted for child selection only are provided for consistency with previous years.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2004. Updating of trend tables to include 2004 data. The Information Centre

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which statistical publications produced by her Department are issued *(a)* weekly, *(b)* fortnightly, *(c)* monthly, *(d)* quarterly and *(e)* annually; and what the planned date of publication is of each during (i) 2006 and (ii) the first half of 2007. [77565]

Andy Burnham: No departmental statistical publications are issued weekly or fortnightly. The following departmental statistical publication is issued monthly on its website:

National health service in-patient and out-patient waiting times figures

The following departmental statistical publications are issued quarterly on its website:

NHS in-patient and out-patient waiting: events occurring during the quarter

Waiting times for suspected cancer patients

Accident and emergency (A and E) activity; total time spent in A and E from arrival to admission, discharge or transfer and waiting for emergency admission through A and E

Cancelled operations

The following departmental statistical publication is issued bi-annually on its website:

Critical care beds: census day

The following departmental statistical publications are issued annually on its website:

Abortion statistics: England and Wales

Imaging and radio diagnostics

Bed availability and occupancy

The following departmental statistical publication is regularly updated. The exact timing is dependent on publication of National Patient Survey results by the Healthcare Commission:

Public Service Agreement Scores on Patient Experience

Timing of annual and other statistical publications produced by the Department is pre-announced by way of a 12-month publication plan on its website which is available at: www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Statistics/CodeOfPractice/12MonthPlan/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4016423&chk=eLDBG/.

This plan also currently includes statistical publications produced by the Information Centre for health and social care.

The Department process for pre-announcing statistical publications is carried out in accordance with the National Statistics protocol for release practices.

Dermatology

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the use of the NHS Guidelines for the Appointment of General Practitioners with Special Interests in the Delivery of Clinical Services: Dermatology by primary care trusts when making such appointments; what steps she is taking to *(a)* monitor the appointment of such general practitioners and *(b)* ensure that such appointments are being made in line with the guidelines; and what plans she has to review the guidelines. [71112]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In conjunction with the Royal College of General Practitioners, national guidelines have been developed across a number of specialties to assist primary care trusts (PCTs) to accredit general practitioners with special interests (GPwSIs). GPwSIs are PCT-led services, and it is for them to ensure they reflect national guidelines and meet local need.

The Department is currently reviewing all existing guidelines in the context of the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services" published in January 2006, which identified the need to accelerate the development of facilities and services being provided closer to home. These updated guidelines will also include new advice on how commissioners should accredit services to meet national standards. These will be published later this year.

Foster Review

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she plans to publish *(a)* the findings of the Foster Review and *(b)* recommendations for the reform of healthcare regulation. [79299]

Andy Burnham: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 694W.

General Practitioners

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are planned to increase the number of general practitioners recruited by the NHS over the next decade. [74993]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) to assess and make provision for the healthcare needs of their local communities. PCTs ensure the maintenance of adequate staffing levels, including the recruitment of general practitioners through local delivery plans.

"Delivering the NHS Improvement Plan: the Workforce Contribution" highlights strategic work force issues, which PCTs and strategic health authorities are asked to ensure are considered in their local delivery plans. This includes maintaining adequate staffing levels as well as achieving greater productivity.

Health and Social Care Act

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to extend the duty to consult under section 11 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 to cover social care and new providers; and if she will make a statement. [79298]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The duty to consult is being considered in the review of patient and public involvement. The expert panel set up to conclude this review has now reported its recommendations to Ministers. There will be an announcement on the future of patient and public involvement shortly.

Health Care Regulation

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the new NHS Patient and Public Involvement Resource Centre at the University of Warwick is able to provide support in promoting patient and public engagement in respect of the future of professional healthcare regulation to *(a)* non-executive directors of NHS bodies, *(b)* participants in patient and public organisations, *(c)* lay members of healthcare regulatory bodies and *(d)* members of local authority scrutiny committees. [77083]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The patient and public involvement (PPI) resource centre will be delivered by the consortium of University of Warwick, Centre for Public Scrutiny and LMCA—Alliance for Health. The consortium will design, develop and deliver a new centre to support the delivery of PPI in health care delivery system. Part of its remit is to promote the value of PPI.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the remit of the new NHS Patient and Public Involvement Resource Centre at the University of Warwick extends to *(a)* working with and *(b)* spreading best practice to (i) similar organisations in the UK and (ii) healthcare regulatory bodies. [77084]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The centre will also work with and spread best practice across all aspects of health and social care delivery. Currently, guidance in patient and public involvement (PPI) is provided and held by a variety of sources. A resource centre is needed to capture knowledge and learning from PPI activity systematically and create a process to enable the sharing of effective PPI practice (from the United Kingdom and overseas) and provide guidance to increase effectiveness in PPI. There is demand for personal and web-based information, signposting systems and networks—a virtual place for people to come together and exchange learning and experiences and a place for those new to PPI to get the best information to get started.

Influenza

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 229W, on influenza, what steps she has taken to ensure that expanded production capacity for pandemic influenza vaccine is located in the UK. [75348]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Last year, the Department invited manufacturers to tender for a contract to supply pandemic flu vaccine once the pandemic strain is known. The tendering process for these contracts is ongoing and we cannot comment on the location until this is completed.

Management Consultants

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to her Department was of employing management consultants *(a)* in the NHS and *(b)* for each (i) primary care trust, (ii) mental health trust and (iii) strategic health authority in each of the last five years. [76615]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect information from the national health service that would allow for an analysis of the cost of management consultants engaged by primary care trusts, mental health trusts, or strategic health authorities.

Mental Health

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for introducing payment by results funding for mental health provision; and if she will make a statement. [75672]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The introduction of a payment by results funding system for the provision of mental health services depends on the results of an ongoing project to determine currencies that could be used to describe and cost mental health activity. If the project is successful in producing meaningful currencies this summer, these will be piloted and evaluated.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the findings of the Royal College of Psychiatrists that Irish-born people living in London have the highest rates of death and depression of any migrant group; and if she will make a statement. [76631]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not made a direct assessment of the Royal College of Psychiatrists' findings. However, the Department published guidance entitled "Celebrating our Cultures: Guidelines for Mental Health Promotion with Black and Minority Ethnic Communities" in December 2004 which includes a specific chapter on promoting the mental health of people from the Irish community.

The National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England (2002) recognised the risk of suicide in black and minority ethnic groups and consequently a black and minority ethnic suicide research project has been commissioned to provide comprehensive information on the risk factors for suicide and suicide attempts in different ethnic groups, including the Irish community. This information will be published in due course.

"Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care"(2005), a five-year action plan for improving black and minority ethnic communities' access to, and experience of, mental health care includes Irish communities, and the Federation of Irish Societies is represented on the "Delivering Race Equality" national steering group.

National Recruitment and Retention Premium

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons NHS employers are not paying the national recruitment and retention premium to the building craft grade; when the review of that non-payment is planned to take place; and if she will make a statement. [78581]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no nationally agreed recruitment and retention premium for building craft workers working in the national health service. It is for employers to decide whether or not there is evidence to justify payment of local recruitment and retention premiums.

NHS employers in partnership with national trades unions have recently agreed to review the national recruitment and retention premiums set out in the agenda for change agreement.

NHS Direct

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total expenditure on NHS Direct *(a)* is in 2006-07 and *(b)* was in each of the last three years. [75661]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Expenditure by NHS Direct is only available for 2003-04 and 2004-05. For 2005-06 and future years, information is not yet available.

In 2003-04 the expenditure by NHS Direct was £121,988,000 and in 2004-05 £148,362,000. These figures are from the audited statutory accounts and are publicly available on the NHS Direct website at www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/articles/article.aspx?articleId=1242.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it a condition of NHS Direct becoming a foundation trust that it does not outsource to overseas call centres. [79232]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are in the early stages of considering how the foundation trust model and application process could apply to NHS Direct. There are no plans to transfer NHS Directs call services abroad.

NHS Drug Budget

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS drug budget has been in each year since 1997. [75340]

Andy Burnham: Primary care and national health service trust drugs budgets are not determined centrally. Trusts are responsible for setting their own budgets. Decisions on the level of funding will depend on local priorities.

The following table gives the total drugs bill since 1997.

	Outturn (£ million)
1997-98	5,173
1998-99	5,550
1999-2000	6,202
2000-01	6,688
2001-02	7,447
2002-03	8,355
2003-04	9,271
2004-05	9,965

Notes:
1. Figures are net which include pharmaceutical price regulation scheme receipt savings.
2. The total drugs spend include drugs expenditure in primary care and the hospital and community health service (HCHS). The primary care expenditure reflects amounts paid to pharmacy and appliance contractors' and amounts authorised for dispending doctors and personal administration in England. HCHS expenditure includes drugs and medical gases.
3. From 2000-01, figures are in resource terms, prior to this figures are in cash terms. Cash figures relate to February to January prescribing due to delay in prescription processing and payment calculations. Resource figures represent the actual cost between April to March.

Source:
Prescription Pricing Division, England and Department of Health Finance Division.

NHS Facilities

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what NHS facilities have been closed in 2006-07 to date, broken down by *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* reason for closure; and if she will make a statement. [78358]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not routinely collect and hold operational management information on closures of national health service facilities.

Local authority overview and scrutiny committees have the power to review and scrutinise health services from the perspective of their local populations. NHS bodies which have proposals under consideration to substantially vary or substantially develop NHS services in the area of a particular local authority have a duty to consult that local authority's committee. The committees have the power to refer any proposal to the Secretary of State if they believe that they have not been consulted when they should have been consulted or if they believe the plans are not in the interests of the health service.

NHS Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health about which NHS trusts and organisations she has received warnings under section 19 or section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998; and on which organisations auditors are considering posting Public Interest Reports. [76386]

Andy Burnham: Auditors appointed by the Audit Commission to audit the accounts of national health service bodies have the discretionary power under section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 to issue a report in the public interest.

Section 8 of the Act requires auditors in auditing the accounts to consider whether, in the public interest, they should report on any matter coming to their notice in the course of the audit, in order for it to be considered by the body concerned or brought to the attention of the public. The auditor can issue an immediate report if the public interest requires it, or can issue a report at the conclusion of the audit.

Since 1 April 2005, auditors have issued section 8 reports to the following NHS organisations:

Cambridge City Primary Care Trust (PCT) and South Cambridgeshire PCT

Central Suffolk PCT, Ipswich PCT and Suffolk Coastal PCT

Cheshire West PCT

George Eliot Hospital PCT

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority (SHA)

Hillingdon PCT

Hounslow PCT

Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT

Kensington and Chelsea PCT

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

New Forest Primary Care Trust

North Somerset PCT

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust

Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust

Royal West Sussex NHS Trust

Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust

Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust

Selby and York PCT

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust

South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust

Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust

Suffolk West PCT

Surrey and Sussex SHA

Thames Valley SHA

Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust

University Hospital North Staffordshire NHS Trust

West Hertfordshire Quadrant—West Hertfordshire NHS Trust, St. Albans and Hertsmere PCT, Hertsmere PCT, Watford and Three Rivers PCT and Dacorum PCT

West Wiltshire PCT

Weston Area Health NHS Trust

Note:

The section 8 reports issued to these NHS organisations also constituted a referral to Secretary of State under section 19 of the Act.

There will be other cases where the auditors are considering when/whether to issue reports. Comprehensive information on these is not held centrally.

Section 19 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 requires an appointed auditor to refer matters to the Secretary of State if he/she has reason to believe that an NHS organisation has made a decision which involves, or may involve, unlawful expenditure (known as referrals to the Secretary of State). These reports are not published.

Since 1 April 2005, auditors have made referrals, under section 19, in respect of the following NHS organisations.

The section 19 referrals issued to these NHS organisations were in respect of spending above the PCTs allocated limit and did not have a full report to the Secretary of State.

Ashford and St. Peters NHS Trust

Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT

Bexley Care Trust PCT

Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT

Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT

Broadland PCT

Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT

Cambridge City PCT

Cannock Chase PCT

Canterbury and Coastal PCT

Central Cornwall PCT

Central Suffolk PCT

Charnwood and North West Leicestershire PCT

Chelmsford PCT

Cherwell Vale PCT

Cheshire West PCT

Chiltern and South Bucks PCT

Colchester PCT

Cotswold and Vale PCT

Dacorum PCT

Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT

East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey PCT

East Hampshire PCT

East Lincolnshire PCT

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

Eastbourne Downs POT

Eastleigh and Test Valley PCT

Fareham and Gosport PCT

Guildford and Waverley PCT

Harrow PCT

Havering PCT

Hertsmere PCT

Hillingdon PCT

Hounslow PCT

Huntingdonshire PCT

Ipswich PCT

Isle of Wight PCT

Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT

Kensington and Chelsea PCT

Kingston PCT

Leicester City West PCT

Luton PCT

Maidstone Weald PCT

Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT

Medway PCT

Mid Hampshire PCT

Milton Keynes PCT

New Forest PCT

Newbury and Community PCT

Newcastle under Lyme PCT

Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA

North and East Cornwall PCT

North Birmingham PCT

North Bristol NHS Trust

North Devon PCT
North East Oxfordshire PCT
North Hampshire PCT
North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT
North Norfolk PCT
North Somerset PCT
North Stoke PCT
Norwich PCT
Oldbury and Smethwick PCT
Royal United Bath Hospital NHS Trust
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust
Selby and York PCT
South and East Dorset PCT
South Cambridgeshire PCT
South East Hertfordshire PCT
South Leicestershire PCT
South Stoke PCT
South West Oxfordshire PCT
South Western Staffordshire PCT
South Wiltshire PCT
Southampton City PCT
Southern Norfolk PCT
St. Albans and Harpenden PCT
Staffordshire Moorlands PCT
Suffolk Coastal PCT
Suffolk West PCT
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
Sussex Downs and Weald PCT
Swale PCT
Thurrock PCT
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust
Vale of Aylesbury PCT
Waltham Forest PCT
Wandsworth PCT
Watford and 3 Rivers PCT
Waveney PCT
Welwyn Hatfield PCT
West Gloucestershire PCT
West Norfolk PCT
West of Cornwall PCT
West Wiltshire PCT
Weston Area Health NHS Trust
Witham, Braintree and Halstead PCT
Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Wycombe PCT
Wyre Forest PCT
Yorkshire Wolds and Coast PCT

NHS IT Programme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 944W, on the NHS IT programme, if she will list the organisations and individuals who responded to the consultation; and what meetings the NHS Information Authority carried out as part of its research. [75193]

Caroline Flint: A list of names of all the organisations and individuals that responded at one or other stage of the consultation process on the national specification for integrated care records service is not held centrally. Some of the responses were provided by organisations which are no longer active.

The original "National Specification for Integrated Care Records Service (Consultation Draft)" was issued in July 2002 by the NHS Information Authority. Some 190 responses to the document were received from suppliers, clinicians, chief information officers (CIOs), information technology (IT) departments of national health service bodies and others, commenting on such aspects as architecture, functional omissions and the realisation of benefits that such a system would produce. These comments were included and formed the base document for the early draft of the output based specification (OBS). This draft was then refined. The clinical input was provided by almost three hundred individuals, and the IT community (IT managers and CIOs) numbered a further one hundred. A broad spectrum of NHS stakeholders was then engaged to review the draft OBS. The review group encompassed leading clinicians, practitioners, policy advisors, health informaticians and managers and included representatives from the Department, the NHS Information Authority, strategic health authorities, NHS trusts, primary care trusts, general practitioners, academic groups and other Government Departments.

It is known that many of these people also sought input from colleagues and we estimate that this cascade has resulted in many thousands of individuals having had a material input to the content and quality of the product.

A final list of 239 people was invited to review the OBS, from which a total of 105 formal review documents were received. From the 900 pages reviewed there were 1,175 comments of substance. These comments resulted in a further refined version of the OBS which was then distributed for any final comment. A response to every individual comment was returned to the reviewer in question.

Reflecting a level of transparency unprecedented for major projects within Government, the OBS was published to the public domain in July 2003 and is available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/.

In addition to many hundreds of internal meetings, there were 44 meetings held by the clinicians from the national programme with important stakeholders and stakeholder groups. These included several chairs of the Royal Colleges, and presentations to many hundreds of clinicians at various locations around the country.

Data on those consulted on ways of managing the confidentiality of patient health information have been placed in the Library.

23 meetings were carried out as part of the research phase in addition to eight focus groups and 56 face-to-face interviews, involving patients, researchers, suppliers, senior care service managers, and NHS information governance professionals.

NHS IT Support

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms have been put in place to manage the performance of strategic health authorities under option 2 of the procurement strategy outlined in paragraph 3.6.1 of her Department's publication "Delivering 21st century IT support for the NHS". [75124]

Caroline Flint: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are responsible for co-ordinating local information technology investment and modernisation activities to deliver benefits from all of the national programme products and services to patients and staff and across the national health service. As part of the Department's regular performance management arrangements for the NHS, SHA chief executives are held to account for delivery priorities for the NHS. Progress in national programme implementation has been the focus of a particular and stringent performance management process instigated by the former senior responsible officer for the programme.

These arrangements are complemented by a parallel process within individual SHAs, and by normal operational contacts with local NHS bodies to support and incentivise the deployment of national programme systems and services.

NHS Pension Scheme

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of members of the NHS pension scheme joined the scheme *(a)* before the age of (i) 20 years, (ii) 25 years, (iii) 30 years, (iv) 35 years, (v) 40 years and (vi) 45 years and *(b)* when they were over 45 years old. [61391]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the proportion of joiners to the NHS Pension Scheme in the age bands requested from the year 2000 to date is shown in the following table.

Age on joining NHS pension scheme	*Percentage*	*Number*
Before age:		
20	5.68	46,185
25	19.8	160,993
30	17.03	138,451
35	14.55	118,300
40	13.16	106,945
45	11.43	92,907
Over age:		
45	18.34	149,118
Total	—	812,899

Source:
Pensions Division of the NHS Business Services Authority

NHS Performance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to her statement of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 257, on NHS performance, why surpluses generated by primary care trusts and NHS trusts are transferred to strategic health authorities; what assessment she has made of the impact of such transfers on the transparency of financial accounting in the NHS; which *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* NHS trusts have transferred surpluses to strategic health authorities in the 2005-06 financial year; how much was transferred in each case; under what authority strategic health authorities are permitted to retain surpluses generated by constituent trusts; and if she will make a statement. [77473]

Andy Burnham: Surpluses generated by primary care trusts (PCTs) are transferred and held by strategic health authorities (SHAs) to allow the SHA to balance the financial position across all the organisations they performance manage. This helps increase the transparency of financial accounting and reporting in the national health service, as it means SHAs can ensure that these surpluses are not used to mask overspends of poorly performing organisations.

The Department did not require the SHAs separately to identify transfers of surpluses between PCTs and SHAs in their inter-authority transfer requests. However, for the current financial year the Department intends that transfers between PCTs and SHAs will be formally recorded in a note to their individual accounts.

The Secretary of State has the power to make adjustments to the resource limits of PCTs and SHAs under section 97 of the National Health Service Act 1977 as amended.

NHS Staff

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses and *(c)* dentists were employed in the NHS (i) in full-time equivalent terms and (ii) in headcount terms in (A) 1979, (B) 1997 and (C) the most recent period for which figures are available. [76961]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The figures requested are shown in the table.

All NHS doctors, dentists and non-medical staff: England

Numbers (headcount) and full-time equivalents

Year	*All NHS doctors (including HCHS Dentists)*[1]		*All NHS dentists*[2, 3, 4, 5]		*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*[6, 7, 8]	
	Number	*Fte*	*Number*	*Fte*	*Number*	*Fte*
1979	65,442	n/a	12,425	n/a	192,052	161,359
1997	89,619	84,758	16,670	n/a	318,856	256,093

All NHS doctors, dentists and non-medical staff: England

Numbers (headcount) and full-time equivalents

Year	All NHS doctors (including HCHS Dentists)[1]		All NHS dentists[2, 3, 4, 5]		Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff[6, 7, 8]	
	Number	Fte	Number	Fte	Number	Fte
2005	122,345	114,251	20,890	n/a	404,161	321,537

n/a = not available
[1] Excludes medical hospital; practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are also GPs that work part time in hospitals.
[2] Data on dentists on a full-time equivalent basis are not available.
[3] Dentists consist of principals, assistants and trainees. Prison contracts have been excluded.
[4] A dentist with a GDS or PDS contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the primary care trust. Information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists are not centrally available.
[5] Data on dentists that work only in private practice are not held centrally.
[6] Figures for 1979 are hospital staff only and are therefore not directly comparable with later years.
[7] Figures for 1979 are taken from 1982 HPSSS publication.
[8] Includes GP practice nurses.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census. The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census. NHS Business Services Authority.

NHS Trust Finances

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each NHS trust, including foundation trusts, owed to other NHS bodies in the final period of the financial year 2005-06 broken down by NHS body; and how much was owed by each strategic health authority to each NHS trust. [77684]

Andy Burnham: The audited information for national health service trusts, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities will be available in the autumn following validation by the Department.

The information requested from NHS foundation trusts is not held centrally and may be obtained by contracting the chairman of each organisation.

Obesity

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* males and *(b)* females are considered (i) obese and (ii) overweight. [77285]

Caroline Flint: The main source of data on the prevalence of obesity and overweight among children and adults is the Health Survey for England (HSE). Tables 1 and 2 show the most recent data on the prevalence of obesity and overweight in children and adults in 2004.

Table 1 presents prevalence among adults aged 16 and over.

Table 1: Prevalence of obesity and overweight among adults[1], by gender, 2004[2]

England	Percentage/number
Men	
Overweight	44
Obese	23
Women	
Overweight	34
Obese	23
Bases	
Men	39,244
Women	39,803

[1] Adults aged 16 and over
[2] Data are weighted for non-response
Source:
Health Survey for England 2004. The Information Centre

Table 2 presents prevalence among children aged 2-15 years.

Table 2: Prevalence of obesity and overweight among children[1], by gender, 2004[2]

England	Percentage/number
Boys	
Overweight	13.9
Obese	19.2
Girls	
Overweight	16.6
Obese	18.5
Bases	
Boys	8,833
Girls	8,228

[1] Children aged 2 to 15
[2] Data are weighted for non-response
Source: Health Survey for England 2004. Updating of trend tables to include 2004 data. The Information Centre

Overseas Doctors

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will allow an extended time scale for the introduction of the new rules with regard to overseas doctors working in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [74162]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Transitional arrangements have been put in place. Those doctors who were offered a relevant training programme before the changes were announced will be given the opportunity to complete it.

International medical graduates will still be able to work and train in the United Kingdom. They will now need to meet the requirements of an employment category, such as the work permit requirements, in line with the immigration rules for other professions.

Palliative Care

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to palliative care in *(a)* England and *(b)* Yorkshire and Kirklees in each of the past 10 years. [76165]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not routinely collect data requested on national health service funding of palliative care.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible within the NHS for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including palliative care. The NHS is currently receiving the largest sustained increase in funding in its history, growth money not identified for specific purposes. PCTs will be able to use these extra resources to deliver on both national and local priorities including palliative care.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to support the provision of palliative care services. [76166]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible within the national health service for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including palliative care.

We have set out in "Our health, our care, our say" a programme of action that will deliver increased choice to all patients at the end of life about where they are cared for and die. We will be working with key stakeholders in taking this forward.

Peripatetic Nurses

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps her Department is taking to provide peripatetic nurses skilled in the care of terminally-ill patients to work in local communities; [76163]

(2) which primary care trusts provide peripatetic nurses to work in the local community. [76164]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for local managers to determine skill mix within the nursing work force. The Government have supported the development of a range of specialist roles within nursing, and trusts must deploy them as they think fit.

Physiotherapists

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many physiotherapists were employed within the NHS in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2000. [77227]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The numbers of qualified physiotherapists employed in the national health service in England in 2000 and 2005 at 30 September in each year were 15,608 and 19,997 respectively.

Radon Gas

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research the Government have commissioned into the effects of radon gas. [77676]

Caroline Flint: The Government have contributed to research into the link between indoor radon and lung cancer in south-west England and also to animal studies of the risks of radon.

Following the announcement/publication of the results of the large European-wide study of radon and lung cancer risks the National Radiological Protection Board (now the radiation protection division of the Health Protection Agency), the Government's adviser on health related radiation protection matters, asked its independent advisory group on ionising radiation to include this information, together with the findings from other relevant research, in the current review of the risks of radon exposure. The report of this review is expected to be published in about six months.

Respiratory Health

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors specialising in respiratory problems there are in each (i) health authority and (ii) primary care trust in England; [76859]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to ensure that there are adequate respiratory nurses and doctors available for people with asthma; and if she will make a statement. [76860]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on doctors specialising in respiratory problems by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) is shown in the table. Information on the number of specialist respiratory nurses is not held centrally.

Hospital and community health services: medical and dental staff working with respiratory medicine showing consultants by SHA showing PCTs. England as at 30 September 2005.

		Numbers (headcount)	
			of which:
		All staff	*Consultant*
England		1,358	608
of which:			
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	Q20	44	22

Hospital and community health services: medical and dental staff working with respiratory medicine showing consultants by SHA showing PCTs. England as at 30 September 2005.

		Numbers (headcount) of which:	
		All staff	Consultant
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	Q02	19	9
Birmingham and The Black Country	Q27	95	44
Cheshire and Merseyside	Q15	92	41
of which:			
Southport and Formby PCT	5T9	1	1
County Durham and Tees Valley	Q10	20	10
Cumbria and Lancashire	Q13	26	10
Dorset and Somerset	Q22	25	10
Essex	Q03	34	16
Greater Manchester	Q14	88	36
of which:			
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	5HG	1	1
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Q17	44	23
Kent and Medway	Q18	28	14
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	Q25	38	20
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	Q01	76	37
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	Q11	42	16
North Central London	Q05	88	33
North East London	Q06	39	15
of which:			
Redbridge PCT	5NA	1	1
North West London	Q04	126	50
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	Q09	53	24
Shropshire and Staffordshire	Q26	26	16
South East London	Q07	37	20
South West London	Q08	18	12
South West Peninsula	Q21	29	13
South Yorkshire	Q23	48	21
Surrey and Sussex	Q19	31	18
of which:			
East Surrey PCT	5KQ	1	0
Thames Valley	Q16	43	21
Trent	Q24	37	19
West Midlands South	Q28	44	15
West Yorkshire	Q12	68	23

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce census

Respite Care (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to improve the provision of respite care in Peterborough constituency; and if she will make a statement. [78037]

Andy Burnham: This Government introduced the carers grant in 1999 to support councils in providing breaks and other services for carers in England. The grant is worth £185 million in 2006-07 and will be worth £185 million in 2007-08. Councils can use their share of this money to support carers in a range of ways including the provision of short breaks or respite care.

Peterborough's share of the carers grant is £591,333.

Strategic Health Authorities (Information Officers)

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the chief information officer (CIO) in each strategic health authority since 2002; and what the IT experience was of each CIO. [75051]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained directly from the relevant strategic health authorities.

Study Leave (Doctors)

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether study leave budgets for doctors in training

cover management and leadership development programmes. [70157]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The use of study leave budget allocations is down to local discretion. There is no prescriptive guidance as to the content for which study leave budget allocations should be used. Its main function is to supplement the educational opportunities that are available through training programmes.

Tourists (Health Care)

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision her Department makes for tourist visitors in estimating likely numbers of patients served by NHS *(a)* hospital trusts and *(b)* strategic health authorities; and what advice her Department provides to strategic health authorities on allocating funding to hospitals with small local resident populations and high tourist visitor numbers. [78447]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The Department makes allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) based on the needs of their relevant populations. PCTs agree service level agreements with national health service providers to ensure the necessary healthcare is available for their populations. If activity is carried out by a NHS provider outside these agreements, for example when an individual is on holiday, then the NHS provider is expected to invoice the individual's PCT for the cost of that activity. No allocations are made to cover the cost of this activity as the cost is already funded from within PCTs' allocations.

For non-United Kingdom (UK) tourist visitors, entitlement to free NHS hospital treatment is based on whether they are ordinarily resident in this country. NHS providers are required to establish whether a patient is ordinarily resident, or exempt from charges. For charge-exempt non-UK tourist visitors, NHS providers invoice their local PCTs, which are subsequently reimbursed for this activity.

Waiting Times

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest waiting time for an (i) initial urology out-patient assessment, (ii) IVU investigation and (iii) in-patient surgery in the urology specialty has been over the last three years. [77232]

Andy Burnham: Data on the longest and average time waited for a first out-patient consultant-led appointment following GP referral for urology is shown in the table.

Quarter (March)	*21+ weeks*	*Median (weeks)*
2004	11	7.1
2005	5	7.1
2006	6	6.2

Source:
Department of Health form QM08R (Commissioner-based).

Data on the longest and average wait for an in-patient admission for urology are shown in the table.

Quarter (March)	*12+ months*	*Median (weeks)*
2004	1	9.1
2005	1	7.3
2006	3	6.2

Source:
Department of Health form QF01 (Commissioner-based).

Waiting times for intravenous urography investigation are not collected separately.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people experienced waits of longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* four hours in accident and emergency departments in each of the last five years. [77281]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

	Attendances	*Percentage > two hours*	*Percentage > four hours*
2002-03	8,909,024	—	20.8
2003-04	16,516,845	—	9.0
2004-05	17,837,180	33.8	3.8
2005-06	18,759,164	34.0	1.8

Source:
QMAE dataset, Department of Health

An operating standard of 98 per cent. has been introduced to allow for the minority of patients who clinically require more than four hours in accident and emergency (A and E).

The Department collects data on total time spent in A and E departments from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge. The first full set of data was published in quarter two (July to September) 2002-03 and was for major (type one) departments only. All types of A and E department were included in the collection from April 2003.

Data broken down into hourly time-bands were first collected in quarter one (January to March) 2004-05. Patients waiting more than two hours include patients in the time-bands two to three hours, three to four hours and more than four hours.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median waiting time for an in-patient procedure for the 50 most common specialties have been in each year since 1997. [78018]

Andy Burnham: Data on the mean and median waiting times for in-patient admission since 1997 for each specialty has been placed in the Library.

West Hertfordshire NHS Trust

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has received a capital investment plan from West Hertfordshire NHS trust since 26 January; and if she will make a statement. [77819]

Andy Burnham: The "Investing in Your Health" strategic outline case (SOC) for a reconfiguration of acute services in Hertfordshire was received by the Department in 2004. This covered developments to be taken forward by both East and North Hertfordshire national health service trust and the West Hertfordshire NHS trust. For West Hertfordshire NHS trust the options included scaling back services onto the Hemel Hempstead site and consolidating services on the redeveloped site at Watford.

Following external advice procured by the trusts and their strategic health authorities (SHAs), the projects are now being taken forward separately with both trusts aiming to submit the next stage of their plans, their outline business cases (OBCs), to the Department later this year or early next.

All major private finance initiative (PFI) schemes in procurement are subject to a revalidation exercise we announced in January 2006. Revalidation will involve comparing the schemes against a number of tests, to ensure that they properly take account of the new financial mechanisms operating in the NHS (such as choice and payment by results), and are properly taking account of activity of the shift away from the acute sector envisaged in the recent White Paper "Our health, our care, our say". The trust's OBC will need to take into account the findings of this work.

The announcement of decisions following the PFI revalidation will be in two waves. It is anticipated that the announcement for schemes which are most advanced, generally those that have already appointed their preferred bidder, will be in late July. Decisions on the remainder, including East and North Hertfordshire and West Hertfordshire, will be announced later.

Work Permits

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether job advertisements which mention the need for work permits will be required to be cleared with the Race Relations Commission. [74604]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no such requirements to clear job advertisements. We would expect recruiters to follow best practice when drafting advertisements for posts.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Freedom of Information

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether any private body providing services under contract to a public authority has been designated as a public authority by an order under section 5 of the Freedom of Information Act. [79245]

Vera Baird: No bodies have been designated as public authorities by order under section 5 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Voting Irregularities

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many police investigations of alleged voting irregularities in local government elections have exceeded 18 months in duration without charges being laid in the last five years; which local authorities are involved in such investigations; and if she will make a statement. [78396]

Bridget Prentice: The Government do not hold information centrally on where allegations of voting irregularities are being investigated by the police, or how long those investigations take.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Environment and Heritage Service

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints were lodged in 2005 relating to the ways in which Environment and Heritage Service officials carried out their maintenance of areas of special scientific interest. [78175]

David Cairns: EHS did receive correspondence and representation from a number of sources regarding designation, consenting and protection issues in 2005 although none specifically focused on the practices employed by officials when working towards the maintenance of ASSIs.

Cancer

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people *(a)* were diagnosed with and *(b)* died from (i) prostate cancer, (ii) breast cancer, (iii) bowel cancer, (iv) lung cancer, (v) ovarian cancer and (vi) all other cancers in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [78776]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 and 2 detail information on the incidence and deaths due to various cancers in Northern Ireland for the last 10 years for which data were available.

Table 1: Cancer incidence in Northern Ireland 1994-2003

	1994	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Prostate (C61)										
Male	481	510	452	485	492	493	574	543	648	715
Breast										
Male	6	10	8	2	6	8	6	9	8	7
Female	824	873	838	856	913	944	963	918	944	1,024

Table 1: Cancer incidence in Northern Ireland 1994-2003

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total	830	883	846	858	919	952	969	927	952	1,031
Bowel (C18-C21)										
Male	483	487	502	454	489	448	459	525	469	556
Female	433	496	466	456	442	459	421	425	454	439
Total	916	983	968	910	931	907	880	950	923	995
Trachea, Bronchus and Lung (C33,C34)										
Male	624	547	551	551	569	520	520	569	505	508
Female	311	331	308	324	337	360	344	316	364	337
Total	935	878	859	875	906	880	864	885	869	845
Ovary (C56)										
Female	155	156	150	184	195	183	166	175	187	205
All other cancers										
Male	2,559	2,520	2,710	2,659	2,674	2,729	2,726	2,714	2,931	2,818
Female	2,412	2,338	2,648	2,540	2,512	2,469	2,563	2,473	2,604	2,610
Total	4,971	4,858	5,358	5,5199	5,186	5,198	5,289	5,187	5,535	5,428
All other cancers[1]										
Male	1,502	1,495	1,634	1,537	1,566	1,540	1,561	1,588	1,643	1,527
Female	1,376	1,309	1,490	1,466	1,446	1,397	1,515	1,442	1,515	1,487
Total	2,878	2,804	3,124	3,003	3,012	2,937	3,076	3,030	3,158	3,014

Table 2: Cancer deaths in Northern Ireland 1994-2004

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Prostate (C61)											
Male	211	219	206	208	222	205	214	214	192	219	234
Breast (C50)											
Male	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Female	338	327	305	259	299	298	286	315	278	282	317
Total	338	329	305	261	301	298	286	317	279	286	317
Bowel											
Male	216	236	214	191	245	201	205	220	202	253	227
Female	225	219	202	221	205	208	221	180	179	214	192
Total	441	455	416	412	450	409	426	400	381	467	419
Trachea, Bronchus and Lung (C33,C34)											
Male	536	507	523	525	514	526	494	508	491	476	485
Female	271	272	278	281	310	315	346	270	319	327	320
Total	807	779	801	806	824	841	840	778	810	803	805
Ovary (C56)											
Female	90	99	89	96	89	116	101	117	109	130	120
All other cancers											
Male	895	881	907	924	947	935	927	979	1,018	949	932
Female	833	731	812	889	835	834	878	867	873	886	829
Total	1,728	1,612	1,719	1,813	1,782	1,769	1,805	1,846	1,891	1,835	1,761
All other cancers[1]											
Male	886	878	898	915	940	926	920	974	1,011	941	923

Table 2: Cancer deaths in Northern Ireland 1994-2004

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Female	831	727	809	885	830	831	875	852	868	876	822
Total	1,717	1,605	1,707	1,800	1,770	1,757	1,795	1,826	1,879	1,817	1,745

[1] Excluding non-melanoma skin cancer

This information has been provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry and is the most up to date currently available.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the mortality rate was for cancer in people under 75 years in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [78777]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the malignant neoplasms[1] mortality rate per 1,000 population of persons aged under 75 years in each of the last ten years.

[1] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes C00-C97 for years 2001-04 and Ninth Revision codes 140-208 for years 1995-2000.

Malignant neoplasms mortality rates per 1,000 population of persons aged under 75, 1995-2004[1]

Registration year	Mortality rate per 1,000 population
1995	1.34
1996	1.36
1997	1.30
1998	1.31
1999	1.28
2000	1.28
2001	1.30
2002	1.27
2003	1.26
2004	1.27

[1] Rate per 1,000 people aged under 75.

CCTV

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police-monitored CCTV cameras are in operation in Castlereagh District Command Unit. [78741]

Paul Goggins: Aside from the CCTV cameras situated in and around police establishments, there are no other police-monitored CCTV cameras in operation in Castlereagh District Command Unit.

Child Obesity

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children at *(a)* primary school, *(b)* high school and *(c)* other academic institutions in Northern Ireland are deemed to be (i) overweight and (ii) obese; and if he will make a statement. [78502]

Paul Goggins: Information relating to how many children are (i) overweight and (ii) obese in schools and academic institutions is not currently available for all children in Northern Ireland. However such information relating to Primary schools is available for all P1 pupils from the Northern Ireland Child Health Systems. The following table shows the percentage of primary 1 pupils in Northern Ireland, 2003-04, who were overweight or obese.

Northern Ireland 2003-04

P1 children	Percentage Overweight	Percentage Obese
Male	14.3	4.6
Female	19.8	6.9
NI	17.0	5.7

Source:
Child Health System (NI) 2003-04

Further information on the height and weight of children and young people was collected as part of the Northern Ireland Health and Social Well-being Survey and will be available later this year.

The report of the Fit Futures taskforce on tackling obesity in children and young people was published in March 2006. The report included over 70 recommendations designed to deliver the public service agreement target to stop the increase in levels of obesity in children by 2010. Responsibility for this target is shared by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the Department of Education and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure. A response from the Ministerial Group on Public Health to the Fit Futures report, including a comprehensive, cross-departmental implementation plan is currently being developed.

Civil Partnerships

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in local authorities in Northern Ireland have *(a)* refused and *(b)* resigned a post based on personal Christian principles following the introduction of the Civil Partnership legislation. [78552]

David Cairns: There have been no instances reported to the General Register Office where staff in local authorities have *(a)* refused or *(b)* resigned a post based on personal Christian principles following the introduction of the Civil Partnership legislation.

Contraception

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times in each of the last five years emergency contraception was given to under-age females in each health board in Northern Ireland. [78720]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, information is collected centrally on the number of times females under the age of 16 have obtained emergency contraception through

Health and Social Services Trust family planning services. Information for the last five years is contained in the following table:

	Eastern Board	*Northern Board*	*Southern Board*	*Western Board*
2001-02	147	45	23	13
2002-03	125	46	17	12
2003-04	104	28	23	17
2004-05	87	19	12	19
2005-06	98	35	26	11

Hormonal emergency contraception is also available in accident and emergency units and from G.P. practices. These figures have not been included in the table as (a) figures from accident and emergency units are not collected centrally and (b) figures from G.P. practices are not broken down by age. Emergency contraception is not available over the counter in Northern Ireland for girls under the age of 16.

Cosmetic Surgery

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how cosmetic surgery is regulated in Northern Ireland. [78766]

Paul Goggins: Doctors must be registered with the General Medical Council to practice medicine in the UK, regardless of the area in which they work. Similarly nurses and allied health professionals must be registered with the statutory regulatory body for their professions, i.e. the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Health Professions Council respectively. Those bodies are responsible for the registration and regulation of their professions.

In addition, independent hospitals and clinics in Northern Ireland providing cosmetic surgery services are regulated under The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005. Under these regulations, independent hospitals and clinics must be registered with the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority and are subject to regular inspection by the Authority.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1009W, on departmental expenditure, what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of advertising commissioned by Northern Ireland Departments, including the Northern Ireland Office. [77216]

Mr. Hanson: A comprehensive review of the procurement and management of government advertising has been undertaken and the final report, published in April 2006, is available in the House of Commons Library. The review considered every area of classified and campaign advertising across all media. The final report makes a series of recommendations aimed at improving value for money and effectiveness. These are now in the process of being implemented and progress against them will be monitored.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1243W, on departmental staff (vetting), what is being done to check information prior to August 2005 to ensure that no foreign nationals working in departments in Northern Ireland, including the Northern Ireland Office, would be disqualified for security reasons. [77215]

Paul Goggins: National security vetting information kept by the security vetting unit in the Northern Ireland Office in respect of the Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office was not recorded in a manner that would allow recall of the specific data prior to 1 August 2005. But this has no bearing on the appropriateness of national security vetting clearances given during the preceding four years and is not an indicator that further checks are now necessary.

Diabetes

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been refused *(a)* driving and *(b)* taxi licences as insulin-dependent diabetics in each of the last 10 years. [78727]

David Cairns: Insulin-dependent diabetes is not a prescribed condition and would not prevent an applicant from being granted a licence for a car or motorbike. It is a prescribed condition in respect of large good vehicles and all passenger carrying vehicles including taxis and prohibits the holding of licences for such vehicles. Information on the number of insulin-dependent diabetes who have been refused a licence is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people aged 16 years and over in Northern Ireland were diagnosed with diabetes in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [78785]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not available. However, figures are available on the number of registered patients, aged 17 and over, in each GP practice in Northern Ireland as recorded on the practice's Diabetes Register in each of the last two years.

At 14 February each year	*Number on Diabetes Register (aged 17 and over)*
2005	51,541
2006	54,950

Notes:
1. The figures in the table are a count of all GP registered patients with diabetes at a particular point in time and therefore do not represent just newly diagnosed cases.
2. The diabetes register exists to fulfil requirements for the Quality and Outcomes Framework section of the General Medical Services (GMS) Statement of Financial Entitlement. This has been in operation for 2004-05 and 2005-06 and prevalence are only made on the National Prevalence Day of each financial year.

Source:
Payment Calculation and Analysis System (PCAS).

Independent Monitoring Commission

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1601W, on dissident Republican paramilitaries, (1) whether the eighth report of the Independent Monitoring Commission provided evidence of which he was not already in possession on recruitment activities of dissident Republican groups; [77208]

(2) whether the Independent Monitoring Commission had access to security sources in preparing the eighth report that he has not had. [77209]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1601W.

Grammar Schools

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many grammar schools had exclusively A grade pupils in the September 2005 intake. [78982]

Maria Eagle: Only one grammar school in Northern Ireland admitted exclusively Grade A applicants to Year 8 in September 2005. This school was Lumen Christi College, Londonderry.

Elderly Mentally Ill Provision

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many elderly mentally ill (EMI) *(a)* nursing and *(b)* residential beds there were in each health trust area in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997; what plans he has to increase the number; and what research has been carried out by his Department into the demand for future EMI provision. [78542]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of *(a)* nursing and *(b)* residential places for the elderly mentally ill (EMI) is not available. The Health and Personal Social Services (HPSS) does not specify a number of nursing or residential home places dedicated solely to elderly mentally ill. The nature of placements may vary, according to demand.

There are no specific plans to expand the number of EMI residential or nursing home places. In line with the Government's programme of reform and modernisation, the HPSS is required to develop a range of care services in response to its assessment of need. The focus of those services must be upon rehabilitation and supporting independent living. Too many people are placed unnecessarily in residential or nursing homes without the prospect of rehabilitation.

Health and social services boards are responsible for assessing the care needs of their populations. Within that assessment, the future need for EMI residential places is kept under continuous review.

Emergency Doctor Service

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many calls to the out-of-hours emergency doctor service were recorded in each health board in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [78765]

Paul Goggins: Information on calls to out-of-hours services is held by health and social services boards from April 2005. Prior to this, information was held by individual GPs and GP Out-of-Hours Co-operatives and was not collated centrally.

The table shows the number of calls to the out-of-hours service in each health and social services board area for the period April 2005-March 2006. It should be noted that the period covered did not include an Easter period, when it is possible that there was a higher volume of calls than over a normal weekend.

	Number of calls
Eastern Health and Social Services Board	156,000
Western Health and Social Services Board	95,958
Southern Health and Social Services Board	106,532
Northern Health and Social Services Board	122,898

Epilepsy

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland died from epilepsy-related causes in each of the last five years. [78758]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland for each year between 2001 and 2005 where the primary cause of death was 'epilepsy'[1] or 'status epilepticus'[2].

	Number of deaths due to:	
	Epilepsy[1]	*Status epilepticus*[2]
2001	22	1
2002	22	4
2003	22	5
2004	31	1
2005[3]	30	1

[1] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision code G40.
[2] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision code G41.
[3] Provisional data.

Fair Employment and Treatment Order

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) whether an equality impact assessment will be carried out on the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's proposals to amend the Fair Employment and Treatment Order (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003; and what assessment has been carried out of the effect that these proposals will have on public housing allocation for individuals from each community in Northern Ireland; [76300]

(2) if he will make a statement on the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's proposals to amend the Fair Employment and Treatment Order (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 to assist the introduction of mixed housing schemes; [76301]

(3) what assessment he has made of the compliance of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's proposals to amend the Fair Employment and Treatment Order (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 with the EU Race Directive; [76787]

(4) if he will take steps to ensure that the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's proposals to amend the Fair Employment and Treatment Order (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 to facilitate mixed housing schemes do not adversely affect steps taken *(a)* to promote equality of opportunity and *(b)* to ensure the elimination of community differentials in the allocation of public housing in Northern Ireland. [76789]

Mr. Hanson: The signatories to the Good Friday Agreement rightly recognised that an essential aspect of the reconciliation process is the promotion of a culture of tolerance at every level of society, including initiatives to facilitate and encourage integrated education and mixed housing.

The Government have given a commitment to develop over the next 12 months, through the social housing development programme, two pilot schemes as part of a programme of actions under A Shared Future. The schemes will be promoted as "Housing through Choice" and will be taken forward only where it is practicable, desirable and safe to do so.

In the meantime, the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, having regard to the commitments in the Good Friday Agreement, has signalled that it will engage with the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and others to consider how best to facilitate mixed housing schemes in the future. That process will include an assessment of the existing legislation, including the Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, to see if it is necessary, and or appropriate, to amend legislation to facilitate the introduction of mixed housing schemes. Any subsequent proposals to amend the legislation will comply with our national and international obligations and will be subject to full equality, human rights and social need considerations.

Flags

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's policy is on flying the EU flag from his Department's buildings. [77666]

Mr. Hain: The flying of flags from Government buildings in Northern Ireland is governed by the Flags (Northern Ireland) Order 2000 and the Flags (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000. These provide for the European flag to be flown from Government buildings in Northern Ireland on Europe Day (9 May) on buildings with two or more flag poles provided they are flown alongside the Union flag with the Union flag in the superior position.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will ensure the Union Flag is flown on all working days from his Department's buildings. [77667]

Mr. Hain: The flying of flags from Government buildings in Northern Ireland is governed by the Flags (Northern Ireland) Order 2000 and the Flags (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000. These stipulate that the Union flag shall be flown on 15 specified days from seven designated Government buildings (which are, broadly speaking, the departmental headquarters of Northern Ireland Departments). Other Government buildings (which are defined as buildings which contain a workforce of over 50 per cent. Northern Ireland civil servants) may also fly the Union flag on the specified days. The regulations do not permit the Union flag to be flown from Government buildings on a daily basis.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the bed capacity of the *(a)* Ulster hospital and *(b)* Royal Victoria hospital was (i) at the latest date in 2006 for which figures are available and (ii) at the same date in 2005. [78757]

Paul Goggins: Bed capacity at the (i) end of May 2006 and (ii) end of May 2005 for *(a)* Ulster hospital and *(b)* Royal Victoria hospital are provided in the following table:

	Bed capacity at:	
Hospital	*(i) End of May 2006*	*(ii) End of May 2005*
(a) Ulster Hospital	609	636
(b) Royal Victoria Hospital	730	745

Notes:
1. Ulster Hospital figures are at 31 May 2005 to 31 May 2006
2. Royal Victoria Hospital figures are at 27 May 2005 to 26 May 2006

Source:
Ulster Community and Hospitals HSS Trust; Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust

The figures presented in the table include both in-patient beds (beds in wards that are open overnight) and beds for use during the day only.

Hospital Treatment

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints have been made about the quality of care and treatment in each hospital in Northern Ireland in the last five years. [78761]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not held centrally. Complaints statistics are collated at HSS Trust level only. It will take a number of days before this information can be obtained and collated at hospital level.

I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as the information becomes available and place a copy in the Library.

Knives

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many convictions there have been for illegal possession of a knife in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [76626]

Mr. Hanson: Offences for which statistics are available refer to the possession of an 'offensive weapon' or 'article with blade or point', within which knives are included. While offensive weapons may not solely be knives further detail relating to type of weapon is not recorded in conviction datasets.

The table provides the number of convictions relating to the possession of offensive weapons, for calendar years 1999-2003, the latter being the most up-to-date available.

Number of convictions for possession of offensive weapon offences 1999-2003

Offensive weapon offences	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*[1]
Armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence	28	1	[1]1	—	2
Possessing offensive weapon in public place	125	117	108	143	161
Possessing article with blade or point in public place	2	7	9	17	15
Possessing instrument with intent to commit offence	1	1	—	—	—
Possessing offensive weapon on school premises	—	—	—	—	—
Possessing article with blade or point on school premises	—	—	—	—	1
Total	156	126	118	160	179

[1] Figures include revisions on previously published statistics.

Note:
Figures are based on principal offence rule.

Litter/Dumping

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many reported incidents of illegal dumping there were along the border with the Republic of Ireland in the last six months. [77366]

David Cairns: The Environmental Crime section of the Environment and Heritage Service investigates all reports of illegal waste activity. Since 1 January 2006, 238 such reports have been received from the seven council areas adjoining the border with the Republic of Ireland, i.e. Armagh, Derry, Dungannon and South Tyrone, Fermanagh, Newry and Mourne, Omagh and Strabane). One offender has already been prosecuted, and there are 106 cases awaiting court hearings.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action has been taken against the owners of land upon which illegal dumping has taken place in Northern Ireland. [77367]

David Cairns: The Environment and Heritage Service investigates all reports of illegal waste activity. All significant sites are investigated with a view to prosecution, and over 120 individuals have been successfully prosecuted to date. Most of those convicted were the owners of land on which illegal dumps were situated.

Local Government Reorganisation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the effect on jobs in the local government sector of the planned reorganisation of local authorities in Northern Ireland. [78541]

David Cairns: It is not possible at this stage to give a reliable estimate of the number of jobs that will be affected in local government as a result of the planned reorganisation of local authorities in Northern Ireland. Final decisions on the structures of new organisations will rest with the councils themselves.

The Human Resources Sub Group of the Local Government Taskforce is currently considering the personnel issues arising from the implementation of the RPA within local government.

Manufacturing

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many manufacturing jobs there were in Northern Ireland in *(a)* each of the last four years and *(b)* the last period for which figures are available. [78734]

Maria Eagle: Estimates of the number of employee jobs in manufacturing at Northern Ireland level are available from the Quarterly Employment Survey and the latest figures relate to March 2006. The number of employee jobs in the manufacturing industry in Northern Ireland at March 2006 and in each of the previous four years is shown in the following table.

Employee jobs in manufacturing in Northern Ireland, 2002-06

March of each year	*Number*
2002	97,740
2003	93,520
2004	89,840
2005	87,430
2006	86,120

Note:
Figures are not seasonally adjusted and are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Quarterly Employment Survey, DETI.

Migrant Workers (Attacks)

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many attacks on migrant workers have been reported to the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and how many prosecutions there have been following such attacks, broken down by district command unit. [75423]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not available as the Police Service of Northern Ireland do not record attacks on migrant workers specifically. Incidents of this nature are included in the overall statistics for hate crime, which have been recorded since 2004. These statistics are available on the Police Service of Northern Ireland website at:
www.psni.police.uk

MOT Tests

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the waiting time for an MOT in Northern Ireland was on the most recent available date. [78722]

David Cairns: The average waiting time for an MOT appointment for the week ending 10 June 2006 was 34 days.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cars were waiting for an MOT in Northern Ireland on the most recent available date. [78723]

David Cairns: There were 66,356 cars awaiting an MOT in the week ending 10 June 2006.

Motoring Offences

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were convicted of motoring offences in each district command unit in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years for which information is available. [77355]

Mr. Hanson: The table provides the number of males and females convicted of motoring offences in each police district command unit (DCU), for the calendar years 2001-03. It should be noted that the statistics are collated based on the DCU in which an offender's address falls, rather than on the location of the offence. Data beyond 2003 are not yet available.

Convictions for motoring offences by district command unit 2001-03

	2001		2002		2003	
District command unit	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Antrim	334	51	318	61	342	60
Ards	413	79	417	68	448	96
Armagh	395	78	406	58	547	82
Banbridge	206	52	244	43	230	45
East Belfast	424	70	457	65	513	72
North Belfast	692	81	641	82	859	104
South Belfast	426	81	370	67	453	67
West Belfast	502	50	602	67	611	54
Ballymena	397	66	426	73	399	88
Ballymoney	161	34	189	46	246	50
Carrickfergus	279	51	217	61	248	38
Coleraine	295	59	352	55	372	79
Cookstown	245	44	233	38	288	59
Craigavon	541	91	558	100	700	126
Castlereagh	352	54	324	63	361	63
Dungannon and South Tyrone	485	93	330	80	428	81
Down	392	61	374	73	478	84
Fermanagh	459	77	530	68	548	93
Foyle	836	132	740	97	901	127
Larne	205	36	221	41	216	40
Limavady	219	37	247	35	290	48
Lisburn	658	117	663	106	795	124
Magherafelt	229	40	275	42	239	52
Moyle	101	18	140	34	131	22
Newtownabbey	507	79	392	73	487	53
North Down	452	99	556	116	539	95
Newry and Mourne	626	119	525	86	751	142
Omagh	518	83	488	80	531	84
Strabane	375	53	356	43	381	56
Missing	679	78	739	93	717	109
Total	12,403	2,063	12,330	2,014	14,049	2,293

Note:
Figures are based on a principal offence rule.

North Down and Ards Life Education Centre

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding has been made available by his Department for the work of the North Down and Ards Life Education Centre in each of the past five years; and what plans he has for future funding. [78267]

Paul Goggins: The Comber Drugs Awareness Group (CODAG) has received fixed term funding in respect of

the North Down and Ards Life Education Centre from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety as follows:

Financial Year	Amount (£)
2002-03[1]	20,149
2003-04	40,298
2004-05	43,967
2005-06	45,066
2006-07[2]	23,096
Total	172,576

[1] Figures for 2002-03 represent the six-month period from 1 October 2002 to 31 March 2003 when project commenced.
[2] Figures for 2006-07 represent the six-month period from 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006 when current funding stream ceases.

This funding was in support of the Drug and Alcohol strategies launched in 1999 and 2000 respectively. These strategies and their associated funding cease on 30 September 2006. On 1 October 2006 the New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs 2006-11 (NSD) published on 8 May 2006 will begin its implementation. The local Drug and Alcohol Co-ordination Team (EDACT) has developed local outcomes in support of the NSD covering areas such as education and prevention.

Funding is available in support of the delivery of these local outcomes, and a tendering process is currently under way in respect of this; it will be completed by 28 June 2006 when decisions will have been made and organisations informed.

The South Eastern Education and Library Board provided £9,000 per annum from 2000-01 to 2002-03 and 20,000 per annum from 2003-04 to 2005-06 to assist with the running of the centres.

The South Eastern Education and Library Board is unable to provide funding for the Centres in 2006-07 due to financial constraints.

CODAG has also received funding from the Ards and North Down Community Safety Partnerships. In 2004-05 this was £6,120, with no funding in 2005-06. Indicative allocations for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are £7,000 and £7,200.

Parenting

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which Northern Ireland Department has lead responsibility for taking forward the Parenting and Family Support Strategy and Positive Parenting programmes and activities; and which programmes and activities promoting positive parenting are ongoing. [78884]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) has the lead responsibility for taking forward the Family and Parenting Strategy and Positive Parenting programmes and activities.

DHSSPS, in conjunction with the area child protection committees recently published and distributed the 'Safe Parenting Handbook' which provides information and signposting to parents on a range of issues, including positive parenting.

DHSSPS also encourages the ongoing promotion of positive parenting, through Sure Start projects, which offer training and information to parents and workers on alternatives to physical punishment, and through funding to organisations, particularly the Parent's Advice Centre, which develops and runs parenting programmes that promote positive parenting.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the Parenting and Family Support Strategy referred to in the consultation on a Draft Strategy for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland is expected to be published. [78885]

Paul Goggins: It is envisaged that the Family and Parenting Strategy will be ready for consultation by summer of this year.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Department for Education plans to spend on the promotion of positive parenting over the next three years. [78886]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education's earmarked budget for parenting initiatives is currently £250,000 per annum and is allocated entirely to the education and library boards. It is primarily a matter for each board to determine how these earmarked resources should be used.

There are no plans to increase the current level of earmarked funding which the Department of Education makes available to education and library boards for this purpose. However, boards are free to supplement this funding by allocating further resources from within their overall block grant.

Funding has recently been made available to 471 schools from the children and young people funding package for the extended schools programme. This will enable schools to develop, initiatives some of which may involve parents. In addition, a further £10 million has recently issued directly to all schools and it is open to schools to determine whether some of this additional funding should be used to support parenting initiatives.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures his Department has introduced for the promotion of positive parenting in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; and at what cost in each year. [78887]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), in conjunction with the area child protection committees recently published and distributed the 'Safe Parenting Handbook' which provides information and signposting to parents on a range of issues, including positive parenting.

DHSSPS is also encouraging the ongoing promotion of positive parenting, through Sure Start projects, which offer training and information to parents and workers on alternatives to physical punishment, and through funding to organisations, particularly the Parent's Advice Centre, which develops and runs parenting programmes that promote positive parenting.

The cost of the 'Safe Parenting Handbook' was £67,570. However, it is not possible to break down the unit cost of each measure undertaken by the aforementioned projects and organisations and, for that reason, the cost of positive parenting could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Pharmaceuticals

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland suffered adverse reactions to pharmaceuticals in each of the last five years; and how many died as a result in each year. [78767]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of people who suffered adverse reactions to pharmaceuticals is not available. Information is available on those who were admitted to hospital and had a diagnosis of an adverse reaction to drugs[1].

Table 1 details the number of admissions[2] to hospital with a primary or secondary diagnosis of adverse reactions to drugs[1], for each year between 2000 and 2004 (the latest calendar year for which data is available). It should be noted that any individual could have been admitted to hospital more than once over the course of a year or over a number of years and would therefore be counted more than once in the table.

Table 1

	Admissions[2] due to adverse reactions to drugs[1]
2000	1,506
2001	1,781
2002	1,561
2003	1,551
2004	1,682

[1] Drugs refers to drugs, medicaments and biological substances causing adverse effects in therapeutic use.
[2] Discharges and deaths are used as an approximation to admissions.
Source
Hospital Inpatients System.

Table 2 details the number of people who have died as a result of adverse reactions to drugs[1], in each year between 2000 and 2004.

Table 2: Deaths due to drugs, medicaments and biological substances causing adverse effects in therapeutic use

	Number of deaths
2000	2
2001	1
2002	—
2003	3
2004	1

Source
Demography and Methodology Branch, NISRA, DFP.

Police Bodies (Security Incident)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what security checks were carried out in respect of *(a)* Mr. Desmond Clayton and *(b)* Mr. Thomas Hale prior to their appointment as staff of the (i) Northern Ireland Police Fund and (ii) Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust. [77634]

Paul Goggins: The appointment of members of staff to the Northern Ireland Police Fund and Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust is a matter for the fund and the trust respectively.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what references were taken up in respect of *(a)* Mr. Desmond Clayton and *(b)* Mr. Thomas Hale as part of the appointment process for their employment with (i) the Northern Ireland Police Fund and (ii) the Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust. [77635]

Paul Goggins: Appointment processes in the Northern Ireland Police Fund and Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust are matters for the board of directors of the fund and the trust respectively.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what names of previous employers *(a)* Mr. Desmond Clayton and *(b)* Mr. Thomas Hale submitted as part of the appointment process to (i) the Northern Ireland Police Fund and (ii) the Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust. [77636]

Paul Goggins: The appointment of members of staff to the Northern Ireland Police Fund and Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust is a matter for the board of directors of the fund and the trust respectively.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether any civil actions have been started by staff in the Northern Ireland Police Fund and Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust. [77637]

Paul Goggins: Civil actions by members of staff in the Northern Ireland Police Fund and Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust are matters for the board of directors of the fund and the trust respectively.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people had their details leaked to parliamentary organisations as a result of the breach of security in *(a)* the Northern Ireland Police Fund and *(b)* the Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust. [77638]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary, hon. Friend the Member for St. Helens, South (Mr. Woodward), on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 370W, to the hon. Member for Lagan Valley (Mr. Donaldson).

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what date Mr. Thomas Hale was detained in connection with terrorist offences. [77639]

Paul Goggins: The operational detail of the investigation is a matter for the Chief Constable.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many official complaints have been made by *(a)* members of staff and *(b)* serving and former police personnel and their families about Mr. Colin Ashe's role in the Northern Ireland Police Fund. [77645]

Paul Goggins: The employment of the acting chief executive of the Northern Ireland Police Fund is a matter for the directors of the Fund.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many *(a)* serving and former officers and family members and *(b)* members of staff at the Northern Ireland Police Fund were interviewed relating to the possible breach of security in the Northern Ireland Police Fund; [77646]

(2) how many *(a)* serving and former officers and family members and *(b)* members of staff in the Northern Ireland Police Fund were asked if they would be willing to give evidence in any prosecutions stemming from a breach of security in the Northern Ireland Police Fund; and how many (i) refused and (ii) initially agreed but later withdrew their statement. [77647]

Paul Goggins: A full investigation has been carried out in relation to alleged breaches of security within the Northern Ireland Police Fund. This investigation has now been completed and involved a comprehensive programme of interviews. No persons have been prosecuted as a result of this investigation. It would not be appropriate to comment on the operational detail of the investigation as such issues are a matter for the Chief Constable.

Police

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many temporary advances issued to police officers in Northern Ireland *(a)* attending courses outside Northern Ireland and *(b)* performing operational duty outside Northern Ireland are outstanding; and what is the total cost. [77312]

Paul Goggins: It is not PSNI practice to provide advances of pay, and both police and civilian pay branches have confirmed that they currently have no outstanding temporary advances of pay.

In terms of other advances, PSNI currently have 311 advances with a total value of almost £84,000. It would require a manual search of files at disproportionate cost to determine the details of each advance.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers in Northern Ireland have been retired on medical grounds in each of the last five years. [77094]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is provided in the table.

	PSNI	*PSNI FTR*
2001	135	138
2002	115	162
2003	87	84
2004	78	68
2005	45	56
Total	460	508

Prescription Charges

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was received through payment of prescription charges in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [78746]

Paul Goggins: Income from prescription charges comes from over the counter payments at point of dispensing and the purchase of prepayment certificates. The following table presents this information.

Total receipts from prescription charges, 1996-97 to 2005-06

£

	Receipts from prescription charges	*Receipts from the sale of prepayment certificates*	*All receipts*
1996-97	6,224,271	1,106,957	7,331,228
1997-98	6,784,485	1,205,398	7,989,883
1998-99	7,007,487	1,271,548	8,279,035
1999-2000	8,182,594	1,616,757	9,799,351
2000-01	8,499,127	1,802,610	10,301,738
2001-02	9,074,172	1,977,431	11,051,603
2002-03	9,597,446	2,205,758	11,803,204
2003-04	9,798,405	2,336,186	12,134,591
2004-05	10,261,870	2,455,706	12,717,576
2005-06	10,675,802	2,669,544	13,345,346

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of prescription charge exemption in each health board in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [78768]

Paul Goggins: The information requested cannot be answered strictly in the format requested because the information is not routinely collected in that form. However, it has been estimated that, at Northern Ireland level, 89 per cent. of prescription items are dispensed annually free of charge. The following table shows the associated estimated cost of not collecting the prescription charge on these items. This estimate is only available from 1997-98, is produced at a regional level and cannot be broken down by health board.

Estimated cost of prescription charge exemption, 1997-98 to 2005-06

	Northern Ireland (£)
1997-98	107,860,766
1998-99	114,356,445
1999-2000	119,943,080
2000-01	125,872,359
2001-02	131,852,368
2002-03	115,685,772
2003-04	147,007,662
2004-05	153,550,657
2005-06	161,772,423

Prison Service

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in total have been employed in the Prison Service in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [78709]

Paul Goggins: The number of staff employed in the Northern Ireland Prison Service at 31 December for each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

As at 31 December	*Number*
2001	2112
2002	2092
2003	2034
2004	2054
2005	2061

Prisoners

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications made by prisoners for home leave were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected in each of the last five years. [77360]

Paul Goggins: The table shows the total number of home leave applications, further broken down to show the number of applications accepted, rejected and cancelled for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 to date. The great majority were in respect of prisoners completing their sentences at Magilligan prison.

Information for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 plus the cancelled and rejected breakdown for 2003-04 is not readily available. I regret that to provide this would incur disproportionate costs.

	Number of applications	*Accepted (approved)*	*Rejected or withdrawn*
2003-04	2,947	2,030	917
2004-05	2,531	1,817	714
2005-06	2,790	2,173	617
2006-07 (to date)	512	377	135

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners have failed to return to prison following *(a)* weekend and *(b)* compassionate release in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [77093]

Paul Goggins: The table shows the number of prisoners who failed to return to prison following periods of pre-release home leave including at weekends and compassionate release in Northern Ireland for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 to date.

The information sought for the previous years is not available without incurring disproportionate costs.

	(a) Weekend Leave	*(b) Compassionate Release*
2004-05	4	13
2005-06	11	12
2006-07 (to date)	2	6

The great majority of these prisoners have been returned to prison—only two prisoners remain unlawfully at large following periods of pre-release home leave and two following release by courts on compassionate bail.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners have escaped from accompanying prison staff while released on compassionate leave in each of the last five years. [77221]

Paul Goggins: Three prisoners have absconded from accompanying staff while released on compassionate leave over the last five years as shown.

	Details	*Number of absconds*
2001-02	Accompanied by two probation officers	1
2002-03	Accompanied by a prison chaplain	1
2003-04	—	0
2004-05	—	0
2005-06	—	0
2006-07 (to date)	Accompanied by a prison chaplain	1

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much compensation has been paid out to prisoners in Northern Ireland following *(a)* accidental injury and *(b)* a successful claim of assault by a member of staff. [77092]

Paul Goggins: The following table indicates compensation paid to prisoners due to *(a)* accidental injury and *(b)* successful claim of assault by a member of staff.

Category	*Period*	*Number of claims*	*Amount (£)*
Accidental injury	2005-06	12	14,150
Successful claim of assault by a member of staff	2005-06	7	2,500

Note:
Social security agency payments for reimbursement of benefits in relation to alleged injuries are not included.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many mandatory drug tests were carried out in prisons in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many were *(a)* positive and *(b)* negative in each year. [77358]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Prison Service does not currently have a programme of mandatory drug testing, although its planned to make the necessary changes to the prison rules later this year. In the meantime there is extensive drug testing of prisoners, on a voluntary basis, mainly as part of the Progressive Regime and Earned Privileges Scheme.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average cost of housing a prisoner was over the last financial year in prison in Northern Ireland. [77362]

Paul Goggins: The latest published cost per prisoner place figures relate to the 2004-05 financial year, when they totalled £85,935.

The NI Prison Service publishes the average cost per prisoner place in its annual report and accounts. The 2005-06 annual report and accounts will be laid before Parliament in July.

Procurement

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) when the Department of Education will confirm the procurement route for capital projects announced on 1 March 2006; [74342]

(2) which schools in Northern Ireland he expects to be built using private finance initiative arrangements; and what progress has been made on each site since the announcement was made. [76403]

Maria Eagle: The procurement routes for the schools announced for capital funding on 1 March 2006 are being announced today. None of these schools will be built using the private finance initiative. Confirmation of the procurement routes will enable planning of the schools to proceed.

Public Sector Staff

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* party affiliation, *(b)* sex and *(c)* religion is of each member of each associated public body in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [78550]

Mr. Hanson: Individuals appointed to the boards of non-departmental public bodies in Northern Ireland are not required to declare their party affiliation or religion, however, they are asked to indicate their gender and declare their community background and if they have undertaken any significant political activity in the five years prior to the date of their application. In addition, they are asked to provide details of their age, disability and ethnicity.

Appointments are made solely on merit. Political activity, gender, community background and other personal details are recorded for monitoring purposes only and play no part in the selection process.

Disclosure of information on community background by reference to each public body in Northern Ireland would contravene the data protection principles set out in the Data Protection Act 1998.

An overview of the political activity, gender and community background of both applicants and appointees to bodies sponsored by Northern Ireland's 11 Government Departments, as well as details of their age, disability and ethnicity can be found in the Public Appointments Annual Report. Similar information in respect of NIO sponsored bodies is included in the NIO Departmental Report. Copies of the latest versions of both these reports are available from the Library of the House and can be found on the Internet at www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/public-appointments and www.nio.gov.uk/nio_departmental_report_2006.pdf respectively.

Racially Motivated Crime

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what change there was in the incidence of racially motivated crime in each Police Command Unit in Northern Ireland between 2003 and 2005. [76320]

Paul Goggins: During 2004-05, the Police Service of Northern Ireland established a baseline measure of crimes with a racial motivation and these figures together with those for 2005-06 are contained in the table.

Racial Motivation: Incidents and Recorded Crimes by District Command Unit., 2004-05 and 2005-06

	Total number of incidents				*Total offences recorded*			
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*Change*	*Percentage change*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Change*	*Percentage change*
Antrim	23	37	+14	+60.9	21	23	+2	+9.5
Ards	25	28	+3	+12.0	22	23	+1	+4.5
East Belfast	54	74	+20	+37.0	32	48	+16	+50.0
North Belfast	76	62	-14	-18.4	49	31	-18	-36.7
South Belfast	159	106	-53	-33.3	108	73	-35	-32.4
West Belfast	13	13	0	0.0	15	8	-7	-46.7
Carrickfergus	21	6	-15	-71.4	14	3	-11	-78.6
Castlereagh	12	21	+9	+75.0	4	16	+12	+300.0
Larne	0	2	+2	—	0	2	+2	—
Lisburn	28	43	+15	+53.6	19	44	+25	+131.6
Newtownabbey	15	52	+37	+246.7	15	49	+34	+226.7
North Down	19	20	+1	+5.3	14	11	-3	-21.4
Urban Region	445	464	+19	+4.3	313	331	+18	+5.8
Armagh	14	20	+6	+42.9	13	19	+6	+46.2
Ballymena	52	53	+1	+1.9	39	51	+12	+30.8
Ballymoney	8	7	-1	-12.5	8	7	-1	-12.5
Banbridge	1	4	+3	+300.0	0	2	+2	—
Coleraine	22	37	+15	+68.2	21	31	+10	+47.6
Cookstown	16	21	+5	+31.3	24	15	-9	-37.5

Racial Motivation: Incidents and Recorded Crimes by District Command Unit., 2004-05 and 2005-06

	Total number of incidents				Total offences recorded			
	2004-05	2005-06	Change	Percentage change	2004-05	2005-06	Change	Percentage change
Craigavon	79	78	-1	-1.3	74	69	-5	-6.8
Down	8	13	+5	+62.5	4	6	+2	+50.0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	69	102	+33	+47.8	55	91	+36	+65.5
Fermanagh	18	29	+11	+61.1	11	28	+17	+154.5
Foyle	40	27	-13	-32.5	29	22	-7	-24.1
Limavady	7	7	0	0.0	6	5	-1	-16.7
Magherafelt	9	17	+8	+88.9	10	20	+10	+100.0
Moyle	1	7	+6	+600.0	1	6	+5	+500.0
Newry and Mourne	15	35	+20	+133.3	17	33	+16	+94.1
Omagh	6	13	+7	+116.7	5	8	+3	+60.0
Strabane	3	2	-1	-33.3	4	2	-2	-50.0
Rural Region	368	472	+104	+28.3	321	415	+94	+29.3
Total	813	936	+123	+15.1	634	746	+112	+17.7

Note:
Figures available prior to April 2004 are not directly comparable with incident figures collated from April 2004 and could not be used to measure/gauge changes in the incidence of such crimes.

Residential Care

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what changes there have been in the number of beds for elderly people in residential homes in Northern Ireland between May 1998 and the latest available date. [78759]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of beds for elderly people in residential homes is available as at 31 March each year, and figures are shown in the following table for the years 1998-2005. The table also shows the annual change in the numbers of beds and the change between 1998 and 2005.

		Change from previous year	
	Number of beds	Number	Percentage
1998	4,876	—	—
1999	4,836	-40	-0.8
2000	4,517	-319	-6.6
2001	4,579	+62	+1.4
2002	4,596	+17	+0.4
2003	4,706	+110	+2.4
2004	4,624	-82	-1.7
2005	4,492	-132	-2.9
Change 1998-2005	—	-384	-7.9

Road Programmes

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans there are for major road improvements on the coastal route of the Lower Ards Peninsula at Ballywalter and Portavogie in 2006-07. [78564]

David Cairns: The Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service (Mr. Geoff Allister) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Mr. Geoff Allister, dated 21 June 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a parliamentary question regarding what plans there are for major road improvements on the coastal route of the Lower Ards Peninsula at Ballywalter and Portavogie in 2006-07.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

The A2 coast road between Ballywalter and Portavogie is inspected regularly in accordance with Roads Service's inspection and repair procedures. The road is considered to be in a generally good condition, although the section between Ballywalter and Ballyhalbert, which is just under 5km in length, is subject to flooding at some locations during periods of heavy rainfall. Roads Service intends to commence drainage improvement works on this section during 2006-07, however, given the overall length of this section of road, it is likely that this work will continue over the next few years, with a longer-term aim to resurface the road. I would add that all proposed works will of course be subject to the availability of funding and other pressures.

The section of the route between Ballyhalbert and Portavogie was resurfaced and had new drainage installed approximately 6 years ago and there are no proposals to carry out major improvement works in 2006-07.

Road Safety

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pedestrians have been killed using properly designated crossings in Northern Ireland in the last three years, broken down by Westminster constituency. [77337]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI do not record statistics by Westminster constituency and to provide the information in that format could be supplied only at disproportionate cost. However, the number of pedestrians killed using properly designated crossings during the last three years, by each District Command Unit, is shown in the table.

Number of pedestrian fatalities by pedestrian crossing and DCU, 2003-05

Crossing on pedestrian crossing	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2003-05*
Armagh	0	1	0	1
East Belfast	0	0	0	0
North Belfast	1	0	0	1
West Belfast	1	0	0	1
Fermanagh	1	0	0	1
Total	3	1	0	4

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the frequency is of *(a)* recalibration and *(b)* other maintenance for static speed detection devices in Northern Ireland; and who undertakes this work. [77378]

Paul Goggins: Static speed cameras are calibrated on an annual basis or more often as required following repair or upgrading work, which is carried out as and when required. All calibration, repair and maintenance works are carried out by Redspeed International, who are based in Kidderminster.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of speed cameras on main roads in Northern Ireland in reducing the incidence of speeding. [77380]

Paul Goggins: The provision of safety cameras on Northern Ireland roads accounts for only one of the many strands of road safety initiatives conducted by both police and other statutory agencies.

While police activity is concentrated upon enforcement, they also engage with the public to educate and inform, and also liaise with the Department for Regional Development to ensure that the road infrastructure in Northern Ireland is as safe as possible.

In the last five years, there has been a downward trend in the numbers of injury collisions from 8,388 in 2000, to a total of 4,947 in 2005. As approximately 44 per cent. of the injuries received are directly attributable to collisions in which excess speed is the major causation factor, targeting excess speed remains a priority for the PSNI.

Initial findings into the evaluation of the effectiveness of the fixed site safety cameras shows that in the two years immediately preceding the launch of the Safety Camera Scheme, there were 11 killed and seriously injured (KSI) collisions at the locations of the four fixed site safety cameras. In the two years post-launch, this number had fallen to six KSI collisions at the same sites.

Further evaluation into the effectiveness of fixed and mobile safety camera operation at sites throughout Northern Ireland is being carried out by the PSNI and the findings will be included in a report that will be made available in due course on the PSNI website.

School Buildings

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland further to the answer of 19 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 2596-98W, on school buildings, what progress has been made in relation to the commencement of building work for the new *(a)* Foyle and Londonderry college and *(b)* Ebrington primary school. [74277]

Maria Eagle: A comprehensive redevelopment master plan for the former military lands at Clooney will be published by the Department for Social Development. The master plan involved public consultation and liaison with key stakeholders, including Foyle and Londonderry college and Ebrington primary school. The procurement routes for the schools announced for capital funding in March are being announced today and this will enable planning of new schools for Foyle and Londonderry college and Ebrington primary school to go forward.

School Violence

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many school children in Northern Ireland have been suspended for *(a)* attacks on teachers and *(b)* bullying other school children in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [78518]

Maria Eagle: From the 2002-03 school year, statistics on the reasons for suspension have been gathered annually from each education and library board and relate to the number of individual suspensions not to the number of pupils suspended.

The following table details the number of suspensions for physical attacks on staff and bullying of other school children in the 2002-03 to 2004-05 school years:

Reason for suspension	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Physical attacks on staff	365	320	262
Bullying other school children	289	341	322

Seatbelts

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what advice he has provided to education and library boards in Northern Ireland regarding the wearing of seatbelts on school buses. [74319]

Maria Eagle: European Union legislation requires that all new non-urban buses (such as those in education and library board fleets) must be fitted with seatbelts as standard. Boards have, since 2000, been purchasing all new vehicles fully fitted with seatbelts. At present 65 per cent. of all board fleet vehicles have seat belts fitted. That figure should rise to 70 per cent. of the fleet once the latest order for new buses has been met. In addition, all new vehicles purchased by the boards have a recorded safety announcement fitted as standard, which reminds pupils of the need to wear their seatbelts.

When hiring private operator vehicles, boards also endeavour to ensure that they are fitted with seat belts. All taxi operator services, including black taxis, must have seatbelts fitted to be eligible to provide home to school transport services.

Finally, parents and pupils are advised of the requirement to wear seatbelts in the Safe School Travel booklet, produced jointly by boards and Translink. This booklet clearly indicates that seatbelts, when provided, must be worn at all times whether the pupil travels by bus or taxi.

Smoking Restrictions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what preparations his Department is making for the introduction of the restrictions on smoking in public places in Northern Ireland. [78117]

Paul Goggins: Preliminary discussions with a range of agencies have taken place to assess the implications of smoke-free legislation, which is scheduled to be introduced in April 2007. Once the draft Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 has completed its legislative process, further discussions will take place and guidance will be issued to employers, enforcement officers and the general public.

Special Advisers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1776W, on special advisers, how much of the spending on travelling expenses was for air travel. [77212]

Mr. Hain: Pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1776W, of the £42,536.18 spent on travelling expenses for special advisers, £28,662.61 was spent on air travel in the financial year 2005-06.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent *(a)* on travel and subsistence and *(b)* on air travel for special advisers in the Northern Ireland Office in each of the last five years. [77213]

Mr. Hain: The information requested by the hon. Member is not readily available for all of the five years. Prior to financial year 2005-06, payments in respect of special advisers in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) were not separated out from civil servants. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In 2005-06, the NIO restructured the ministerial expenditure codes in order to separately identify Ministers', ministerial support staff and special advisor costs.

The amount spent in 2005-06 on special advisers' travel and subsistence was £44,177.41, of which £28,662.61 relates to air travel.

Special Needs Children

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the ratio is of care attendants to special needs children in each Education and Library Board area. [78562]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sure Start

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland where funding for the Sure Start initiative in Northern Ireland is being targeted; which groups have received funding; and how much each has received. [78549]

Paul Goggins: The information is as follows.

1. There are currently 25 Sure Start programmes across Northern Ireland. The programmes are targeted in areas of need and cover a wide geographic spread with a good urban/rural mix.

2. The following table outlines each of the groups funding position in 2005-06.

Childcare partnership/Sure Start project	*2005-06 expenditure (£)*
Eastern Childcare Partnership	
Clan Mor (Lower Falls)	362,242
Colin (Twinbrook/Poleglass)	462,778
Downpatrick	375,013
Inner City East Belfast	360,291
Lower Ards	226,179
Shankill	385,463
Inner City South Belfast	472,689
SMILE (New Lodge)	365,650
Upper North Belfast	338,353
Total	3,348,658
Western Childcare Partnership	
Dungiven	297,515
LAST (Omagh)	297,697
CHERISH (Irvinestown)	292,522
Shantallow (Derry)	344,558
Strabane	387,485
Crevagh/Springtown (Derry)	291,017
Total	1,910,794
Northern Childcare Partnership	
Ballymena South	296,570
Dalriada (Bushmills)	297,336
Coleraine	488,977
G-Old (Cookstown)	349,965
Newtownabbey	334,201
Total	1,767,049
Southern Childcare Partnership	
Blossom (Portadown)	338,094
Dungannon	300,937
Orana (Newry)	476,021
South Armagh	318,949
Total	1,722,963
Grand total	8,749,464

3. There will be an expansion of Sure Start under the Children and Young People's package as announced by the Secretary of State on 7 March 2006. The expansion will target areas within the 20 per cent. most disadvantaged wards in Northern Ireland. The precise details of groups and associated funding for the expansion are to be agreed.

Teacher Training

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many teacher training places were available in each of the last 10 years; how many people entered training in each year; and how many qualified. [78764]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education determines the number of students to be admitted each year to initial teacher education (ITE) courses in Northern Ireland. This is achieved by means of the teacher demand model—a statistical exercise which takes account of a number of factors, including: projected pupil enrolments in the various sectors; teacher wastage rates; and, pupil teacher ratios. The end product provides a projection of teacher vacancies and the consequent requirements for intakes into ITE courses.

Data on students enrolled and gaining qualifications from Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions have been obtained from the Higher Education Statistics Agency. Data for the 2005-06 academic year will not be available until early 2007, the latest available data refer to 2004-05.

The approved intakes, first year enrolments and the numbers qualifying from the four locally established Higher Education Institutions are as follows:

Initial Teacher Training Statistics—Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions

	Approved intakes	Enrolled	Qualified
1996-97	687	683	753
1997-98	680	644	644
1998-99	726	680	649
1999-2000	787	750	635
2000-01	825	798	700
2001-02	830	833	716
2002-03	851	858	772
2003-04	856	873	779
2004-05	850	840	804
2005-06	816	[1]	[1]

[1] Not yet available.

Terrorist Attacks

Rev. Ian Paisley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* residential, *(b)* industrial and *(c)* commercial premises were damaged by terrorist attack by (i) Republican paramilitary groups and (ii) Loyalist paramilitary groups in each of the last 30 years. [78971]

Paul Goggins: Statistical information on security-related incidents including bombings and incendiary attacks in Northern Ireland between 1969-2006 is as follows:

Security-Related Incidents 1969- 2006 (updated on 9 May 2006)

		Bombings[2]		Incendiaries[3]	
	Shooting[1] incidents	Incidents	Devices used	Incidents	Devices used
1969	73	n/a	10	n/a	0
1970	213	n/a	170	n/a	0
1971	1,756	n/a	1,515	n/a	0
1972	10,631	n/a	1,853	n/a	0
1973	5,019	n/a	1,520	n/a	0
1974	3,208	n/a	1,113	n/a	270
1975	1,803	n/a	635	n/a	56
1976	1,908	n/a	1,192	n/a	236
1977	1,081	n/a	535	n/a	608
1978	755	n/a	633	n/a	115
1979	728	n/a	564	n/a	60
1980	642	n/a	400	n/a	2
1981	1,142	n/a	529	n/a	49
1982	547	n/a	332	n/a	36
1983	424	n/a	367	n/a	43
1984	334	n/a	248	n/a	10
1985	238	n/a	215	n/a	36
1986	392	n/a	254	n/a	21
1987	674	n/a	384	n/a	9
1988	538	n/a	458	n/a	8
1989	566	n/a	420	n/a	7
1990	557	236	286	26	33
1991	499	312	368	144	237
1992	506	318	371	86	126
1993	476	257	289	45	61
1994	348	207	222	88	115
1995	50	2	2	10	10
1996	125	17	25	4	4
1997	225	78	93	9	9
1998	211	127	243	20	20
1999	125	82	100	7	7

Security-Related Incidents 1969- 2006 (updated on 9 May 2006)

		Bombings[2]		Incendiaries[3]	
	Shooting[1] incidents	Incidents	Devices used	Incidents	Devices used
2000	302	117	135	9	22
2001	355	349	444	5	6
2002	350	188	239	3	3
2003	229	77	88	8	8
2004	185	64	69	21	28
2005	167	83	105	9	9
2005[4]	34	5	5	8	8
2006[4]	23	3	3	0	0

[1] The following types of shooting incidents are included:
Shots fired by terrorists
Shots fired by the security forces
Paramilitary-style attacks involving shootings
Shots heard (and later confirmed)
Other violent incidents where shots are fired (e.g. armed robbery)
[2] An individual bombing incident may involve one or more explosive devices. Incidents recorded include explosions and defusings (devices used). Incidents involving hoax devices, petrol bombings or incendiaries are excluded.
[3] Incidents recorded include explosions and defusings (devices used).
[4] To 31 March.
Note:
2006 statistics are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.

Rev. Ian Paisley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost of compensation paid to *(a)* industrial, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* residential premises as a result of terrorist attacks by (i) Republican paramilitary groups and (ii) Loyalist paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland was in each of the last 30 years. [78968]

Mr. Hain: The Compensation Agency cannot provide information about the cost of compensation stemming specifically from terrorist attacks as there is often no way of ascertaining the motives of an individual or group who have damaged property unless a prosecution follows. Additionally where the perpetrator is unknown, or where no prosecution has taken place, the agency could only speculate about potential motive. Therefore any figures provided would be very unreliable.

Rev. Ian Paisley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost of compensation paid to individuals as a result of injury through terrorist attack by *(a)* Republican paramilitary groups and *(b)* Loyalist paramilitary groups was in Northern Ireland in each of the last 30 years. [78969]

Mr. Hain: The Compensation Agency cannot provide information about the cost of compensation stemming specifically from terrorist attacks as there is often no way of ascertaining the motives of a victim's assailants unless a prosecution follows. In many cases where the assailant(s) are unknown, or where no prosecution has taken place, the agency could only speculate about the perpetrator's motives and consequently figures provided on that basis would be very unreliable.

Truancy

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils truanted for at least one day from secondary school in each education board in Northern Ireland in each academic year since 2001. [78745]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education does not collect the requested information. However, information about referrals of pupils to the Education Welfare Service is collected from each of the Education and Library Boards on an annual basis. Referrals can be for a variety of reasons, including truancy.

The following table shows the number of pupils in secondary level schools referred to the Education Welfare Service (EWS) in Northern Ireland for school years 2000-01 to 2004-05:

Number of pupils in secondary level schools referred to EWS

	Pupils referred				
Board area	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Belfast	1,732	1,463	1,600	1,690	1,581
Western	1,751	1,122	1,975	1,090	684
North Eastern	1,094	2,078	2,116	1,296	538
South Eastern	2,167	1,892	1,433	1,392	771
Southern	1,273	1,908	1,608	644	640

Vandalism

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much vandalism has cost the Department of Regional Development over the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [78504]

David Cairns: The information is not held centrally.

Vehicle Registration

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer to question 73861, whether a valid vehicle inspector's certificate issued by the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency of Northern Ireland in respect of a car registered in the UK covers the use of that car on roads in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* England, Wales and Scotland. [78115]

David Cairns: A vehicle inspection certificate issued by the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency in Northern Ireland is valid for use anywhere in the United Kingdom.

Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the current average waiting time is for each category of vehicle test and driving test carried out for the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency; what the Agency's performance target is for each category of test; and if he will make a statement. [76456]

David Cairns: Waiting times are only measured against an overall target for vehicle tests and driving tests carried out by the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency. The current average waiting time for all categories of vehicle test is 37 days and for all categories of driving test, 38 days. The target average waiting times are 21 days and 23 days respectively.

Visually Impaired People

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assistance is offered to visually impaired people in Northern Ireland to ensure their access to services available to them. [78118]

Paul Goggins: Health and social services provide a wide range of services to visually impaired people including: full needs assessments; low vision clinics; rehabilitation workers; a range of equipment; community development workers and a number of services are provided through partnership with the voluntary sector.

Accessibility to health and social care provision has been improved through disability awareness training and adaptations to premises.

Waiting Lists

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland are waiting for a heart bypass operation. [78762]

Paul Goggins: At 31 May 2006, there were 152 people waiting for a heart bypass operation in Northern Ireland.

Waste Management

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to use incineration in waste management policy in Northern Ireland. [30765]

David Cairns: There are no plans for an incineration policy in Northern Ireland. In June 2005 The Department of the Environment published guidelines on the 'Best Practicable Environmental Option' for the development of facilities to recover, treat and dispose of waste materials. 'Waste to Energy' options for up to 12 per cent. of municipal solid waste and 17 per cent. of commercial and industrial wastes by 2013 were included. However, the choice of facilities will be left to the discretion of the three district council waste management partnerships—arc21, the South West Management Partnership and the North West Region Waste Management Group.

Their statutory plans are currently under review and will take account of the new Waste Management Strategy, 'Towards Resource Management', which was published in March 2006. The Strategy states that Government continues in its firm belief that energy from waste will be a necessary component of the preferred infrastructure, both in terms of its policies on renewable energy and to ensure that Northern Ireland meets its landfill diversion targets.

Water Pollution

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been prosecuted for polluting Northern Ireland waterways in each of the last five years. [77305]

David Cairns: The number of prosecutions for water pollution offences which occurred during each of the years 2001-05 are as follows.

Because it can take over a year for a case to come to court, a number of prosecution cases from 2005 and some from 2004 are still pending a verdict in court. These pending prosecutions are included in the figures provided.

Year in which pollution offence occurred	*Number of prosecutions*
2001	109
2002	101
2003	123
2004	[1]65
2005	[2]42

[1] Plus 15 cases pending
[2] Plus 28 cases pending

It should be noted that, between 1996 and 2005, there was a reduction in the number of water pollution incidents from 2,055 to 1,175, a reduction of some 43 per cent.

Water Poverty

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the impact on those defined in Northern Ireland as water poor as measured by the percentage of income spent on water of changes in charges for water over the period 2009-10; and what his estimate is of the change in the percentage of the population paying more than 3 per cent. of their income on water charges in each year of that period. [78928]

David Cairns: Government have recognised that the introduction of water and sewerage charges in Northern Ireland will have an impact on low-income households. To ease the transition, and in recognition of the relatively high levels of poverty and disadvantage in Northern Ireland, the Government's broad objective is to ensure that low-income households, particularly pensioner households, should not need to spend more than 3 per cent. of their income on water and sewerage services.

To achieve this objective, a special affordability tariff has been developed for those households who are entitled to certain social security benefits (housing

benefit or rate rebate) or equivalent provision for "relevant children" as defined in the Children (Leaving Care) Act NI 2002, or the new Special Rate Relief Scheme being developed within the context of the reform of rates policy in Northern Ireland. The affordability tariff is a capped tariff which has been calculated by reference to the single person's pension credit guarantee, which is updated by Parliament each year. In 2007-08 this means there will be a maximum water and sewerage bill, for properties valued at £100,000 of approx £180 (which is 3 per cent. of the estimated pension credit guarantee in that year—around £6,000) with additional protection in the form of lower levels of capped charges set for those with properties valued at less than £100,000.

Those occupying property valued at less than £70,000 will pay 50 per cent. of the full affordability tariff, while those in property valued between £70,000 and £100,000 will pay 75 per cent. of the tariff. As the charges will be phased in over three years this will mean that the maximum bill for eligible low-income customers in 2007-08 will be £30, £45 or £60, linked to the value of the property, rising to around £95, £145 and £190 in 2009-10, depending on the pension credit guarantee income level at that time.

The affordability tariff for 2009-10 will be calculated on the basis of the uprated level of the single person pension credit guarantee income level thus continuing to ensure that eligible households will pay no more than 3 per cent. of their income on water and sewerage charges. Many households will pay significantly less.

Data linking individual properties to household income are not available. It is therefore not possible to determine precisely the proportion of the population whose water bill will represent any given percentage of their household income. However it is estimated that around 200,000, close to 30 per cent. of all households will benefit from the affordability tariff and that this number will not change significantly each year. The implementation of the affordability tariff will be closely monitored and reviewed when charges are fully phased in by 2009-10 and the Department will collate all relevant data to assess the scheme against income levels at that time.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Autism

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will consider introducing compulsory training for teachers in autism. [79323]

Jim Knight: In order to be awarded Qualified Teacher Status, all trainee teachers must demonstrate that they understand their responsibilities under the statutory Special Educational Needs Code of Practice, know how to seek advice from specialists on less common types of SEN, can differentiate their teaching to meet the needs of pupils, including those with SEN, and can identify and support pupils who experience behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

The current standards for teachers are under review. Once revised, it is proposed that they will be strengthened to include a standard which requires teachers to know and comply with current legislation on well being of children and young people, one which requires teachers to know and understand the role of others when dealing with children who have special needs and/or disabilities, and one which requires teachers to communicate effectively with parents and carers.

Induction standards require newly qualified teachers to demonstrate that they can plan effectively to meet the needs of pupils in their classes with SEN, with or without a statement, and in consultation with the SEN co-ordinator (SENCO), can contribute to the planning for individual needs.

Once qualified, all teachers are expected to identify their development needs through performance management arrangements, and to address identified needs by undertaking appropriate professional development. This could include strengthening knowledge of autism.

All schools receive a school development grant which they are able to use to support improvements in any aspect of teaching and learning. Local authorities may retain a proportion of this grant, under certain conditions, to provide specific training and development of SEN.

In 2002 we published jointly with the Department of Health, Autistic Spectrum Disorders Good Practice guidance which offered a series of pointers to good practice aimed at schools and SENCOs.

The Department's published SEN Strategy, 'Removing Barriers to Achievement' recognised the importance of training and committed us to work closely with the Training and Development Agency for Schools to ensure that initial teacher training and programmes of continuing professional development provide a good grounding in core skills and knowledge of SEN. We have commissioned the TDA to carry forward a range of initiatives designed to improve and strengthen the SEN skills and confidence of trainees, newly qualified and established teachers. These initiatives will be implemented over the period 2005-08 at a cost of approximately £1.1 million.

Children's Centres

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when the guidance on the governance of children's centres will be published. [78511]

Beverley Hughes: We aim to issue a consultative paper on governance, management and leadership of children's centres and extended schools this summer. We will be seeking views from key stakeholders and interests in order to inform the final guidance which will be published later in the year.

Children's Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which off-school site centres deal with children with *(a)* emotional, behavioural and other difficulties and *(b)* excluded children; and which schools and areas each serves. [78606]

Jim Knight: There are 290 maintained special schools recorded on the Department's database of educational institutions which cater specifically or primarily for children with behavioural, emotional, and social difficulties (BESD). Also, although we do not have suitable data on any specific needs addressed by each pupil referral unit (PRU), many cater for pupils with a mixture of needs, including those with BESD and those who have been excluded from mainstream schools.

A list of BESD maintained special schools and a list of PRUs have been placed in the House Libraries.

Connexions

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people have signed up to the Connexions card scheme in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough. [79153]

Beverley Hughes: There are 71 young people who hold Connexions cards in Lewisham, Deptford constituency and 4,086 in Lewisham borough.

Education Act 1996 (Prosecutions)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many prosecutions were brought under section 7 of the Education Act 1996 in each year between 2001 and 2003. [79214]

Jim Knight: Home Office data for the period 2001-03 show:

In 2001, there were 6,622 prosecutions in England and Wales under the Education Act 1996. These include:

2,243 prosecutions for truancy under section 444(1);

4,379 prosecutions for various offences under the Education Act. These are likely to include some prosecutions under sections 444(1) and (1A).

In 2002, there were 7,075 prosecutions in England and Wales under the Education Act 1996. These include:

3,445 prosecutions for truancy under section 444(1);

3,625 prosecutions for various offences under the Education Act. These are likely to include some prosecutions under sections 444(1) and (1A);

four prosecutions for child employment offences;

one prosecution for neglecting the cleanliness of a pupil.

In 2003, there were 7,264 prosecutions in England and Wales under the Education Act 1996. These include:

3,732 prosecutions for truancy under section 444(1);

387 prosecutions for truancy under section 444 (1A) (the aggravated offence);

3,142 prosecutions for various offences under the Education Act. These are likely to include some prosecutions under sections 444(1) and (1A);

three prosecutions for child employment offences.

Prosecutions for truancy related to section 7 are brought under section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

Financial Education

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what aspects of personal financial education are included in the compulsory elements of the national curriculum for 11 to 16 year olds. [78796]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The Government recognises the importance of personal finance education for all young people. The National Curriculum for Citizenship, which is compulsory at key stages 3 and 4 (11 to 16 year olds), includes teaching pupils about how the economy functions, including the role of business and financial services. Pupils are also taught about how public services are financed. In addition, the DfES has asked the QCA, as part of the wider review of GCSE maths and the emphasis on improving functional skills, to consider including financial capability more explicitly in the maths curriculum. In September 2004 we made work-related learning a statutory element of the curriculum, and from September 2005 are funding schools to develop a new focus on enterprise education, defined as enterprise capability supported by better financial capability and economic and business understanding.

Horticultural Courses

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what Government *(a)* funding has been made available and *(b)* initiatives have been undertaken for (i) in-service and (ii) full-time funding for horticultural courses for 16 to 18-year-olds since 1997. [76937]

Jim Knight: Full data for the funding made available for horticulture for 16 to 18-year-olds are available for 2004/05 only. In that year the Learning and Skills Council, which provides Government funding for 16-18 education spent £225,000 on horticulture courses through further education provision and £2,425,000 through work-based learning provision, including apprenticeships—a total of £2,650,000. This figure cannot be broken down into full-time and in-service figures. Other land-based and environmental provision, which may include aspects of horticulture has also been funded by the LSC.

The Government have also invested £1.4 million since 2001 in the Growing Schools initiative, which encourages all schools to provide learning activities which enable pupils to gain knowledge and understanding about the outdoor environment through first-hand experience of growing, farming and the countryside—within and beyond the school. The expenditure on this cannot be broken down to show 16 to 18-year-olds separately.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Learning and Skills Council spent on consultants in each year since 2003; and how many were hired in each year. [68606]

Bill Rammell: I have overall responsibility for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). However the operations of the LSC are managed and overseen by Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive. Details of the number of consultants and the amount spent on them are a matter for the LSC and Mark Haysom has written to the hon. Member with further information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 20 June 2006:

Further to your question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on the above subject and my subsequent response, I am pleased to be able to write to you with further details.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has not previously distinguished, in its accounts, between expenditure with bodies providing consultancy services to the LSC and expenditure with bodies providing professional services as part of the planning and delivery of post 16 learning funded by the LSC. I have set in place measures to maintain this analysis.

The short delay in responding to your query was caused by the need to analyse expenditure between consultants and services.

The LSC's expenditure on management consultancy was £9.4 million, £6.7 million and £3.8 million in the financial years[1] 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

The LSC does not maintain records of the number of consultants employed to provide the associated activities. The internal management of bodies providing consultancy services to the LSC, or funded by the LSC for the benefit of stakeholders/ learners, is a matter for the consultancy provider. The LSC does not, in normal circumstances, review the allocation of external organisations' resources, unless there is a demonstrable risk to the quality of service being delivered.

I trust you will find this information useful.

[1] The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) financial year covers the period 1 April to 31 March.

Pupil-Teacher Ratios

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the secondary school pupil to teacher ratio was in *(a)* England and *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [78994]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the following table.

Pupil teacher ratios in maintained secondary schools in England and East Riding of Yorkshire local authority, January of each year

	England	East Riding of Yorkshire
2002	16.9	17.7
2003	17.0	17.7
2004	17.0	17.7
2005	16.7	17.3
2006[1]	16.6	n/a

n/a = not available
[1] Provisional
Source:
Annual school census

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the secondary school pupil to teacher ratio was in *(a)* Torbay, *(b)* Plymouth and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [77867]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the following table:

Pupil teacher ratios in maintained secondary schools in Torbay and Plymouth local authorities and England

January of each year	Torbay	Plymouth	England
1997	n/a	n/a	16.7
1998	n/a	n/a	16.9
1999	17.0	17.5	17.0
2000	17.0	17.5	17.2
2001	17.0	17.1	17.1
2002	16.6	16.7	16.9
2003	17.0	16.9	17.0
2004	17.0	17.5	17.0
2005	16.4	17.0	16.7
2006[1]	n/a	n/a	16.6

n/a = Not available.
[1] Provisional.
Source:
Annual school census.

RAISEonline

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what consultation his Department has conducted with school governors regarding the replacement of performance and assessment reports with RAISEonline; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect on governors of the change. [78643]

Jim Knight: The main purposes of the RAISEonline system being developed jointly by my Department and Ofsted are to assist in school self evaluation, to provide the data to underpin school improvement and to inform the school inspection process. Consultations so far, involving around 750 schools, have concentrated on the presentation, data management and training aspects of the system.

RAISEonline will be available to all schools on a trial basis in July, but will not be used to inform inspections until the 2006 data are available in the autumn. During that period we will be consulting national governor organisations on the information which will be available in the system and the ways in which information can be shared with them by head teachers. Ofsted encourages heads to share their performance and assessment (PANDA) report with their governors. RAISEonline will include a full report similar to the PANDA which will be easy to print off and distribute to governors.

School Administration

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many tasks identified by the Making a Difference-Red Tape and Bureaucracy In Schools Second Report have been removed; [78571]

(2) whether he plans to publish a further report pursuant to Making a Difference-Red Tape and Bureaucracy in Schools 2003, which reviews the impact of initiatives introduced since this publication. [78579]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The DfES Simplification Plan that will be published later in the year will detail reductions in bureaucracy and administrative burdens that are referred to in this report, some of which have been superseded. The Simplification Plan will detail policies for reducing burdens on 'front line' staff working in the area of education and training

across all sectors: public, voluntary, businesses and charities. In schools, our intention is that the Simplification Plan will cover reduced communications from the centre; the New Relationships with Schools programme; funding rationalisation; simplified inspection; less data requests and simplification arising from the Education Act.

As a Department, we remain determined to make sure our policies have the maximum impact on standards with the minimum burden on schools. That is why we set up the Implementation Review Unit in April 2003 to review the implementation of existing and new policy initiatives, covering all organisations that impact on schools in England. The panel provides feedback on policy implementation, challenges existing systems, and is a sounding board on innovation.

The Department is also developing the New Relationship with Schools. This has led to a new framework for school inspection and introduced School Improvement Partners to work with headteachers to raise standards and attainment. We have also developed a data protocol with many external partners, to ensure that only essential data is collected, that they are collected by sample wherever possible and that they are collected only once and then used many times.

School Budgets

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total schools budget is of each local authority for 2005-06; and what proportion is delegated to schools in each authority. [78617]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not yet available. The Department is due to collect the section 52 Outturn data relating to the 2005-06 financial year from August 2006.

Schoolchildren

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children there are in mainstream schools in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [79324]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the table.

Maintained mainstream schools: Number (headcount) and percentage of pupils[1] position in January each year—2005 and 2006 (Provisional)

	2005		2006 (Provisional)	
	Number of pupils in mainstream schools[2]	*Percentage of pupils in mainstream schools[3]*	*Number of pupils in mainstream schools[2]*	*Percentage of pupils in mainstream schools[3]*
Middlesbrough and South East Cleveland Constituency	12,640	91.1	12,470	90.6
Tees Valley[4]	105,390	92.8	103,660	92.8
North East	396,380	94.1	390,060	94.2
England	7,557,960	91.3	7,493,930	91.4

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Includes pupils in maintained nursery schools, primary schools and secondary schools; excludes pupils in independent schools, city technology colleges, academies, special schools and pupil referral units.
[3] The number of pupils in maintained mainstream schools expressed as a percentage of pupils across all schools.
[4] Includes Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington local authorities.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Schools' Census

Schooling (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of secondary school aged children who normally reside in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* Peterborough city council area were educated outside the state sector in each year since 1997. [77916]

Jim Knight: We are unable to provide residency based figures for children educated outside of the state sector as the Department does not collect this type of information for independent schools or home educated children.

The numbers of secondary age[1] pupils attending independent schools[2] in Peterborough has been provided in the following table.

	Peterborough parliamentary constituency	*Peterborough local authority*
1997[1]	0	n/a
1998[1]	124	n/a
1999	127	127
2000	124	124
2001	114	114
2002	133	133
2003	143	143
2004	167	167
2005	176	176
2006[2]	146	146

n/a = not available.
[1] Figures for Peterborough local authority are available after local government re-organisation in April 1998.
[2] Provisional.
Source:
Schools; Census
[1] Pupils aged 11 to 15 at start of the academic year (as at 31 August in previous year).
[2] Does not include independent special schools.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school class size was in (i) Peterborough constituency, (ii) Peterborough city council area and (iii) England in each year since 1997. [77925]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: average class size[2] 1997-2006[3]

Position in January each year	Peterborough parliamentary constituency		Peterborough local authority area[4]		England	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
1997	28.6	20.5	—	—	27.5	21.7
1998	28.9	20.3	—	—	27.7	21.7
1999	28.8	20.7	28.3	20.8	27.5	21.9
2000	27.4	20.8	27.0	20.9	27.1	22.0
2001	27.5	20.6	27.0	20.9	26.7	22.0
2002	27.3	20.4	27.1	21.0	26.3	21.9
2003	27.4	21.1	27.0	21.2	26.3	21.9
2004	27.7	20.8	27.3	21.3	26.2	21.8
2005	27.5	20.6	27.0	21.1	26.2	21.7
2006[3]	27.6	20.1	27.2	20.7	26.3	21.5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Classes taught by one teacher during a single selected period on the Census day in January.
[3] Provisional.
[4] Peterborough local authority was formed in April 1998 as part of local government reorganisation.

Schools

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many small schools in England were amalgamated in the last three years for which figures are available. [78880]

Jim Knight: We have been informed that 238 small primary schools, and 10 small secondary schools, have been amalgamated since January 2003. Amalgamation means either the closure of two or more schools and the establishment of one new school; or the closure of one school and the expansion of another to accommodate displaced pupils. The Department regards a small primary school as a school that has 200 pupils or less and a small secondary school as one that has 600 pupils or less.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects head teachers to receive the direct payments to their schools announced in the 2006 Budget. [78501]

Jim Knight: Additional funding for schools of £220 million in 2006-07, rising to £365 million in 2007-08, was announced in the 2006 Budget, to support personalised learning at key stages 1-4. The funding will be paid to schools in September as an addition to their Schools Standards Grant. An interactive calculator is available on the Teachernet website to enable schools to calculate their share of this new grant.

Student Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many individuals had been in arrears for *(a)* less than one month, *(b)* less than three months, *(c)* less than six months and *(d)* more than six months to the Student Loans Company at the end of each financial year from 1997-98 to 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [75319]

Bill Rammell: There are two loan schemes for higher education students. Income-contingent loans were introduced in 1998: prior to that support was delivered through the mortgage-style loan scheme.

Most income-contingent loan repayments are collected by employers through the tax system and current policy ensures that deductions keep pace with earnings so borrowers do not become overdue on their accounts.

There are currently 592,500 borrowers with publicly-owned mortgage style loans issued before 1998. The following table shows UK borrowers by length of arrears[1] at the end of financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

	Financial year	
	2004-05	2005-06
In arrears, no repayment schedule[1]	52,900	59,900
Less than one month in arrears	2,600	2,200
From one month to less than three months in arrears	6,600	5,300
From three months to less than six months in arrears	4,900	3,600
Six months or more in arrears	53,600	43,600

[1] Borrowers in arrears with no repayment schedule include those with a very small balance remaining, and those subject to litigation. In both cases the borrower is required to repay the whole amount outstanding.
Source:
Student Loans Company

[1] Borrowers with loans in more than one category are counted in each relevant category.

This level of detail is not available for earlier years. Note that figures exclude borrowers who are deferring repayment because their income is currently below the repayment threshold, but who have arrears outstanding from the past.

Supply Teachers

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on supply teaching staff in schools in each of the past three years, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local education authority. [78563]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following tables:

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*[1]
England	872,199,207	857,659,959	841,153,918
London	192,504,775	174,210,241	165,741,453
Barking and Dagenham	6,342,071	6,480,794	5,021,157
Barnet	5,822,726	5,932,850	6,732,767
Bexley	6,902,854	6,003,924	5,717,575
Brent	5,904,467	6,308,898	6,466,188
Bromley	4,168,166	3,725,692	3,615,931
Camden	3,692,664	2,959,824	3,073,579
City of London	196,180	159,346	60,808
Croydon	6,483,707	5,792,979	5,242,878
Ealing	6,087,907	6,304,299	5,265,439
Enfield	7,455,614	6,688,768	6,272,253
Greenwich	7,730,532	6,926,381	6,301,807
Hackney	11,163,874	6,732,779	5,796,796
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,040,697	2,775,313	2,729,385
Haringey	5,850,256	6,089,639	6,406,035
Harrow	4,815,210	4,572,858	4,657,817
Havering	5,163,048	4,291,674	3,884,137
Hillingdon	6,213,610	6,622,047	5,745,498
Hounslow	6,669,159	5,575,702	5,062,690
Islington	6,157,939	5,079,742	5,247,734
Kensington and Chelsea	2,205,818	1,935,375	1,854,282
Kingston-upon-Thames	2,047,981	1,708,962	1,772,918
Lambeth	6,058,555	5,798,520	5,605,090
Lewisham	6,483,772	5,470,784	6,182,798
Merton	4,793,535	4,016,431	3,742,865
Newham	14,831,074	12,148,516	9,934,621
Redbridge	4,633,562	5,595,180	4,884,340
Richmond-upon-Thames	2,732,449	2,678,863	2,888,739
Southwark	7,940,104	6,961,532	7,257,142
Sutton	3,440,677	3,294,255	3,484,733
Tower Hamlets	10,829,854	9,711,020	8,792,489
Waltham Forest	7,291,731	7,424,228	7,115,083
Wandsworth	4,523,888	4,223,139	4,404,458
Westminster	4,831,094	4,219,927	4,521,421
South East	105,864,154	106,688,199	106,942,938
Bracknell Forest	1,401,952	1,323,772	1,334,443
Brighton and Hove	3,342,287	3,387,953	3,264,822
Buckinghamshire	6,796,477	6,997,431	6,682,161
East Sussex	6,711,979	6,440,541	6,859,342
Hampshire	16,801,192	17,987,049	17,986,262
Isle of Wight	1,869,054	1,714,479	1,602,236
Kent	20,349,846	19,716,876	19,009,416
Medway	4,485,826	4,357,296	4,649,416
Milton Keynes	2,532,398	2,616,343	2,949,245
Oxfordshire	5,143,555	5,383,188	6,809,794
Portsmouth	2,626,911	2,883,436	2,717,442
Reading	1,802,193	1,599,611	1,606,863
Slough	2,488,676	2,370,157	2,371,687

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05[1]
Southampton	3,085,938	2,898,124	2,970,360
Surrey	9,399,379	10,343,822	10,855,936
West Berkshire	1,771,194	2,256,493	2,031,289
West Sussex	11,208,980	10,755,034	9,534,002
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,829,103	1,774,269	1,834,608
Wokingham	2,217,214	1,882,325	1,873,614
South West	67,647,040	68,368,861	72,714,824
Bath and NE Somerset	3,061,260	2,833,222	2,931,259
Bournemouth	2,171,960	1,790,616	1,613,186
City of Bristol	7,102,974	6,921,092	7,343,507
City of Plymouth	3,546,601	3,451,275	3,582,614
Cornwall	6,649,523	6,859,549	7,582,987
Devon	7,835,761	8,977,190	9,280,069
Dorset	4,433,056	3,606,389	4,647,667
Gloucestershire	6,536,756	7,738,693	7,853,824
Isles of Scilly	32,497	61,078	40,421
North Somerset	3,018,743	3,288,513	3,220,563
Poole	1,735,653	1,542,539	1,760,102
Somerset	7,100,814	6,528,222	7,262,664
South Gloucestershire	4,734,913	4,543,255	5,074,801
Swindon	2,305,219	2,673,858	2,909,325
Torbay	1,773,257	1,894,133	1,915,623
Wiltshire	5,608,053	5,659,237	5,696,212
Eastern	82,180,217	77,541,424	77,106,055
Bedfordshire	5,607,774	5,184,011	4,959,144
Cambridgeshire	6,905,401	6,454,550	6,868,461
City of Peterborough	2,582,505	2,428,294	2,517,556
Essex	19,589,160	18,419,234	17,708,263
Hertfordshire	18,166,803	16,497,068	16,481,292
Luton	4,294,695	4,251,126	3,878,987
Norfolk	10,163,524	10,286,700	10,213,619
Southend	2,103,972	2,079,350	2,125,689
Suffolk	9,898,766	9,475,736	9,802,709
Thurrock	2,867,617	2,465,355	2,550,335
East Midlands	73,453,669	73,741,762	73,261,151
City of Nottingham	5,797,100	6,166,563	4,735,269
Derby	3,952,051	4,808,404	4,491,402
Derbyshire	11,828,650	11,616,492	11,399,443
Leicester City	7,018,378	6,248,946	6,507,097
Leicestershire	11,298,811	10,263,408	9,975,798
Lincolnshire	10,420,464	10,924,325	11,347,712
Northamptonshire	8,876,182	8,774,484	9,503,745
Nottinghamshire	13,848,266	14,502,534	14,935,496
Rutland	413,767	436,606	365,189
West Midlands	95,426,992	97,680,708	96,328,244
Birmingham	24,553,860	24,261,256	23,591,556
Coventry	5,534,249	5,371,232	5,420,226
Dudley	4,526,555	4,429,604	4,801,524
Herefordshire	1,986,692	2,049,539	2,301,238
Sandwell	6,745,291	6,963,451	7,244,263
Shropshire	3,979,666	4,836,590	4,445,178
Solihull	3,212,881	3,624,289	3,925,505
Staffordshire	11,810,709	11,499,359	11,241,740
Stoke	3,659,563	4,956,489	4,482,632

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05[1]
Telford and Wrekin	3,130,647	3,010,022	2,795,281
Walsall	6,792,923	5,916,253	6,042,019
Warwickshire	9,047,430	9,307,806	8,239,812
Wolverhampton	3,148,503	3,612,131	3,921,609
Worcestershire	7,298,023	7,842,687	7,875,661
North East	40,976,320	45,062,152	44,643,332
Darlington	1,649,698	1,820,237	1,752,690
Durham	7,685,966	8,030,415	7,439,158
Gateshead	3,360,930	2,807,159	3,087,005
Hartlepool	1,635,187	2,033,102	1,497,256
Middlesbrough	1,847,403	2,026,766	1,667,624
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,143,697	4,697,454	4,772,143
North Tyneside	3,627,185	3,348,164	3,237,132
Northumberland	6,070,706	5,778,782	6,589,125
Redcar and Cleveland	2,417,405	2,565,833	2,361,027
South Tyneside	2,773,456	3,447,248	3,005,467
Stockton-on-Tees	3,294,656	3,335,945	3,300,609
Sunderland	4,470,031	5,171,047	5,934,096
North West and Merseyside	121,556,703	120,771,433	112,718,773
Blackburn and Darwen	2,587,758	2,392,816	2,592,427
Blackpool	1,750,793	2,002,330	1,937,385
Bolton	4,907,139	4,600,682	4,367,810
Bury	343,228	3,666,116	3,431,305
Cheshire	8,357,141	9,488,781	8,836,571
Cumbria	4,864,140	9,276,272	6,439,682
Halton	1,796,927	1,837,141	596,473
Knowsley	3,313,105	3,583,136	2,772,226
Lancashire	17,483,688	18,584,742	17,751,458
Liverpool	19,111,246	9,263,148	7,899,266
Manchester	7,179,109	7,186,609	6,843,899
Oldham	4,695,222	4,781,450	4,672,029
Rochdale	3,937,158	4,108,215	4,198,012
Salford	3,607,949	4,121,234	4,206,410
Sefton	6,766,986	5,633,750	5,576,310
St Helens	3,108,740	3,186,598	3,533,601
Stockport	3,332,827	3,394,973	3,938,980
Tameside	3,446,930	3,342,267	3,173,763
Trafford	2,905,049	2,754,734	2,571,819
Warrington	4,462,554	3,295,558	2,723,370
Wigan	5,820,517	6,707,078	7,327,009
Wirral	7,778,497	7,563,803	7,328,968
Yorkshire and Humberside	92,589,337	93,595,179	91,697,148
Barnsley	2,998,751	4,076,932	4,519,890
Bradford	10,942,510	11,668,785	11,727,653
Calderdale	4,066,230	4,080,759	4,020,693
City of Kingston-upon-Hull	5,264,822	4,872,398	4,244,467
Doncaster	5,048,004	4,794,200	5,169,487
East Riding of Yorkshire	5,524,437	4,750,238	4,715,274
Kirklees	7,451,331	7,518,373	8,075,906
Leeds	12,538,977	12,689,947	9,914,878
North East Lincolnshire	3,042,650	2,903,235	2,763,872
North Lincolnshire	2,577,469	2,773,134	2,781,530
North Yorkshire	10,383,371	10,098,780	9,858,887
Rotherham	5,608,483	5,908,972	5,773,272
Sheffield	9,909,905	10,129,855	10,064,397

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05[1]
Wakefield	4,600,695	4,865,454	5,470,721
York	2,631,702	2,464,117	2,596,221

[1] The figures are taken from the section 52 outturn data set for 2004-05. Cash term figures are as reported at 15 June and are subject to change by the local authority.

Notes:

1. Includes: (a) salaries and wages for supply teaching staff employed directly by the school who are covering curriculum release, long term absence, sickness absence and training absence; (b) the cost paid to an agency for teaching staff that have been brought in to cover teacher absence, (c) and the cost of insurance premiums for supply staff less any receipts from supply teacher insurance.
2. Includes only expenditure by LA maintained primary, secondary and special schools. Nursery school expenditure was not collected in full until 2004-05. The comparable nursery school figure for England for 2004-05 was £4.3 million. Central local authority expenditure on supply teachers is not recorded separately and is therefore excluded from this table.

Sure Start

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many under-fives entitled to free nursery places on the Sure Start scheme are on waiting lists in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough. [79164]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Since April 2004, local authorities have had a statutory duty to secure sufficient nursery education places for all three and four-year-olds whose parents want one. The free nursery education entitlement consists of a minimum of 12. 5 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year and will be extended to 15 hours a week by 2010. By that time, parents who wish to do so will also be able to access the free entitlement flexibly across a minimum of three days.

Provisional national figures show that, in January 2006, almost all four-year-old children benefit from some free provision. The figure for three-year-olds is 96 per cent. The provisional figures for January 2006 were published in Statistical First Release 17/2006 "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2006 (provisional)" on 27 April 2006 and are available on my Department's website www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/

The available information on the number of free places taken up by three and four-year-olds in Lewisham local authority area is shown in the following table.

Number of free nursery education places[1] taken up by three and four-year-olds, Lewisham local authority

	3-year-olds			4-year-olds		
Position in January	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[2]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 3-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 4-year-olds*
2005	1,700	810	2,510	2,600	300	2,900

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 as appropriate.
[2] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.
[3] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.

Notes:

1. Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools Census.
2. Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.

Related information on the number of free places taken up by three and four-year-olds in Lewisham, Deptford parliamentary constituency area is shown in the following table.

Number of free nursery education places[1] taken up by three and four-year-olds, Lewisham, Deptford parliamentary constituency

	3-year-olds			4-year-olds		
Position in January each year	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[2]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[3]*	*Total 3-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[5]*	*Total 4-year-olds*
2005	640	300	940	890	120	1,000

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 as appropriate.
[2] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.
[3] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime Figures

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed in the five *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived wards in England in each of the last 10 years. [73342]

John Reid: Information at ward level is not collected centrally. The lowest level for which the Home Office collects data is for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership areas.

Drug Offences

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there have been for drug offences in Peterborough city council area in each of the last five years. [77923]

Mr. Coaker: Drug offenders data cannot be broken down to local authority level. Available information relates to persons found guilty of drug offences at Peterborough's crown and magistrates courts. There were 137 in 2000,156 in 2001,160 in 2002, 220 in 2003 and 147 in 2004. Many offenders convicted in Peterborough courts will not be resident in the area covered by Peterborough city council.

Drug Trafficking

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the amount of heroin trafficked into the United Kingdom in 2005 which came through Scotland. [78865]

Mr. Coaker: We estimate that about 25 to 35 tonnes of heroin enters the UK each year. The bulk is believed to enter through the English Channel ports and is subsequently distributed to all parts of the UK, including Scotland. Small amounts of cocaine are believed to be imported directly into Scotland, but there are no reliable estimates of the amounts.

Early Retirement

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Department's employees have taken early retirement due to ill-health in each of the past five years for which figures are available. [46869]

Joan Ryan: The figures from the centrally managed Home Office and the Agencies, Identity and Passport Service, Public Sector Prison Service Agency, and Criminal Records Bureau are in the following table.

Number of staff taken early retirement due to ill-health

Year (fiscal)	*Number*
Home Office (including Immigration and Nationality Directorate)	
2005-06	15
2004-05	29
2003-04	32
2002-03	16
2001-02	23
Identity and Passport Service (formerly UKPS)	
2005-06	[1]
2004-05	[1]
2003-04	5
2002-03	[1]
2001-02	[1]
Public Sector Prison Service Agency	
2005-06	147
2004-05	185
2003-04	246
2002-03	219
2001-02	233
Criminal Records Bureau (formerly part of UKPS)	
2005-06	0
2004-05	0
2003-04	0

[1] Less than 5.

Identity Cards

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure that the biometric technology to be used in the proposed identity cards will prevent fraudulent copies being made. [78626]

Joan Ryan: One of the main uses of biometric technology in the National Identity scheme is to make it much easier to detect unauthorised attempts by an individual to register more than one identity with the scheme.

The Government are taking specialist advice with regard to the specification for and implementation of biometric technologies. We are working with leading biometric experts from a number of world-leading institutions in the field, including the US National Institute for Standards and Technology, Cambridge University, San Jose University, the UK National Physical Laboratory and staff from the Communications-Electronic Security Group (CESG, part of GCHQ). This work is further supported by experience gained from colleagues in other schemes internationally, such as those in Hong Kong and the Philippines, as well as those parts of UK Government already using biometric technology, such as the Police Information Technology Organisation and the Immigration and Nationality Directorate.

In addition, there is an assurance process to ensure that advice taken on biometrics is robust and appropriate. Sir David King, the Government Chief Scientist, chairs a Biometric Assurance Group which includes other specialists in the biometric field that reviews such matters in relation to the National Identity scheme. Biometric processes will be supervised as well as supported by other more traditional security procedures. For example, during the enrolment process,

biometric checks are supported by checks on public and private databases to verify the information provided by applicants. A number of pieces of key supporting documentation may also be examined for consistency by trained examiners equipped to identify forgery. A fraud investigation unit will exist that will supervise enrolment and work with law enforcement agencies to investigate suspicious activities. It is the combination of both biometric technologies and such more traditional checks that will provide greater assurance of identity than exists today.

A specialist team has been employed to prepare both the security principles and requirements across the National Identity scheme, including biometrics. Their work is being supported by internationally recognised bodies from the fields of national security and law enforcement to technical experts in cryptography and electronic security. In particular, we are working closely with experts from CESG on such issues. This group of experts is highly experienced in dealing with processes and systems that require a high level of security. Security risk assessments have been undertaken on issues such as the physical, logical, procedural, personnel and systems aspects of the National Identity scheme as part of this work and such assessments are updated as the National Identity scheme develops.

Finally, the National Identity Register will need to pass an independent security accreditation process under Cabinet Office guidelines before the National Identity scheme can be launched, thus providing a further layer of independent scrutiny .

Identity Fraud

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many cases of identity fraud using the details of a deceased person were recorded in each of the last five years; [78604]

(2) what percentage of impersonation cases involved the use of identities belonging to deceased people in the last year that figures are available. [78605]

Joan Ryan: The Government takes the problem of identity fraud very seriously and there is a range of criminal offences in place to combat this problem, such as the deception offences in the Theft Act 1968 and 1978. On 7 June 2006 we also brought into force sections 25 and 26 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 which creates new criminal offences of being in possession or control of false identity documents. These offences relate to a wide range of identity documents, including passports, driving licences, ID cards and immigration documents. The maximum penalty is 10 years imprisonment for an offence of possession with intent to use the document for establishing registrable facts (about the individual), and two years imprisonment for possession without reasonable excuse.

The number of criminal offences committed each year using the identity of a deceased person is not recorded centrally. But identity fraud questions have been incorporated into the British Crime Survey and the results should give us more information on the number of victims and the types of fraud that are being committed. In addition, CIFAS, the UK's Fraud Prevention Service for the private sector (mainly financial services companies), has conducted research into the extent of impersonation of deceased person fraud and has estimated that there were approximately 17,500 cases in 2001, 35,000 in 2002, 56,000 in 2003 and 70,000 in 2004. The 2004 figure represents 58 per cent. of the estimated 120,000 incidents of identity and impersonation fraud identified by CIFAS members in 2004.

The Government have been working with the public and private sector to look at ways to reduce impersonation of deceased person fraud. An amendment to the Police and Justice Bill was introduced at Report stage in the House of Commons on 10 May 2006, which will allow Registrars General in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to supply timely death registration information in bulk to the police and other organisations for use in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of offences.

Khalid Rashid

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the answer of 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 908W, on Khalid Rashid, whether an employee of the Government was *(a)* involved in or *(b)* present at the removal of Khalid Rashid from South Africa following his arrest on 31 October 2005 in Estcourt, Kwazulu Natal, on immigration grounds; and if he will make a statement. [63882]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 April 2006]:* It is a matter for the South African authorities.

Knives

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the reasons for the trend in the rate of knife crime among young adults; and what steps are being taken to reduce the incidence of such crime. [78584]

Mr. McNulty: Lemos and Crane's study: "Fear and Fashion: The use of knives and other weapons by young people" which was published in 2004, provided an insight into these issues. The Communities that Care Safer London Youth Survey, published in 2005, includes data on the use of weapons by young people. The Youth Justice Board also commissioned a MORI Youth Survey in July 2004, containing information about young people and the carrying of knives.

On 24 May, we launched a nationwide knife amnesty, the first for 10 years. We are also taking steps to tighten legislation through measures in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill, which will raise the age at which someone can be sold a knife from 16 to 18, introduce a new offence of using someone to mind a weapon, and give head teachers power to search pupils for knives. We are also supporting community work and education programmes which teach young people about the risks and consequences of knife carrying.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many incidents of knife crime were reported in 2005; and how many resulted in conviction; [78863]

(2) what percentage of knife crime in Wales resulted in a conviction in each year since 1996. [78868]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally. Crimes specifically involving the use of a knife cannot be separately identified in the recorded crime statistics or the court proceedings data.

People Trafficking

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many safe-houses there are in the UK for trafficked children who have escaped or are found; and in which cities they are located. [75973]

Mr. Coaker: We are not aware of there being any safe houses specifically for accommodating victims of child trafficking. However, there are accommodation facilities in many locations that will cater for children in need who it is believed may have been trafficked.

Planning for children's services is carried out on a locality basis throughout the UK. It is the statutory duty of local authorities under the 1989 Children Act to ensure that safe arrangements are in place to look after individual children at risk, including children from abroad. It is also the responsibility of the local authority to assess any risk of harm and to arrange for the provision of a suitable range of accommodation for all the children in their area. Any lone child in the UK in contact with any statutory or child welfare agency will be urgently referred to the appropriate local authority.

The Home Office National Asylum Support Service (NASS) reimburses local authorities who receive unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) into their care with a total of £140 million p.a. Partnership plans to provide safer arrangements for children who have been trafficked are being incorporated in a Home Office/DfES joint review of how local authorities accommodate children from abroad. The review will aim to deliver improvements by ensuring UASC are placed in local authority areas where specialist services are in place—including local authority social workers who can recognise and deal appropriately with UASC who may have been trafficked to the UK. The review is also designed to increase specialisation, end inconsistencies in treatment and enable the retention and development of expertise.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many traffickers of children have been *(a)* charged, *(b)* convicted and *(c)* deported in each of the last five years. [75978]

Mr. Coaker: While there is no specific offence of child trafficking, prosecutions involving child victims of human trafficking have been pursued under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

The most up-to-date information provided to the Home Office by the Crown Prosecution Service, indicates that at least 12 defendants were charged in three separate cases that involved female victims between the ages of 15 and 18. Of these 10 were convicted and received lengthy sentences. All were recommended by the trial judge for deportation on release.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money was seized by the Assets Recovery Agency from those offenders charged with crimes relating to human trafficking in each year since its inception. [78975]

Mr. Coaker: The Assets Recovery Agency (ARA) is currently investigating two cases where the alleged criminality relates to human trafficking. In the first investigation ARA have frozen assets to the value of £1.4 million. In the second case the subject is currently serving a prison sentence and the value of any potential assets has yet to be determined. ARA have not recovered money from civil or taxation cases relating to human trafficking to date.

Separately, a multi-agency task force set up to combat organised immigration crime, known as Reflex, seized criminal assets totalling £5.57 million in 2004-05. Figures for 2005-06 are not yet available.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the UN report Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns; and what steps are being taken by his Department to tackle people trafficking. [70020]

Mr. Coaker: The UN report Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns, is an informative fact based report on the process of human trafficking from source and transit countries with the aim of providing an unbiased picture of the global extent of trafficking in human beings.

The Home Office has recently conducted a public consultation on tackling human trafficking which ended on 5 April. A summary of responses report was published on 21 June and the responses obtained used to develop a National Action Plan on Trafficking which will be published later in the year. The action plan will take a comprehensive end-to-end approach covering the different elements of our anti-trafficking strategy: from prevention (including demand reduction); investigating and prosecuting the traffickers; through to protecting and supporting the victims. We will consider whether any of the information contained in the UN report can assist with the development of this action plan or with other strategies designed to combat human trafficking and the organised criminals who benefit from it.

We continue to tackle trafficking through Reflex a multi-agency task force aimed at tackling organised immigration crime. Operation Pentameter a Reflex funded multi-agency initiative involving all UK police forces and immigration service aimed at tackling the Trafficking of Human Beings for Sexual Exploitation was launched in February and has already made a real impact rescuing 84 women from traffickers and made 232 arrests.

The Home Office announced on 7 April 2006 additional funding of £2.4 million over two years to expand the provision of support services for victims of trafficking

currently provided through the POPPY Scheme. Not only are we delivering on our commitment to continue funding for the core service (25 crisis spaces), we are also funding 10 additional step-down places

Police

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints were made to the Independent Police Complaints Commission in respect of each police force in each year since the Commission's inception; how many were *(a)* upheld and *(b)* rejected; and if he will make a statement. [77251]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 June 2006]:* The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is responsible for the management of the police complaints system. I will ensure that the Chairman receives a copy of the question and replies to the hon. Member directly. Copies of the letter containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the Library.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours of safety training was provided per police officer in each of the last five years. [75900]

Mr. McNulty: Under the foundation training programme delivered by the Central Police Training and Development Authority (Centrex) all police recruits received 27 hours of personal safety training under the Centrex personal safety programme. This training has now been incorporated within the Initial Police Leaning and Development Programme (IPLDP), which moves probationer training away from regional centres and back into force so that officers are trained in the community that they serve.

Under the new programme, refresher training is provided to each officer on an annual basis. Advanced personal safety training may be provided by individual forces. The nature of this training will largely be determined by the specific demands of the role being performed by the officer in question and it is not therefore possible to provide a per officer figure.

Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the availability of class A drugs in category D prison establishments; what action he is taking to reduce the availability of drugs in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [75468]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The best measure of drug misuse in prisons is provided by the random mandatory drug testing programme. The percentage positive rate for Class A drugs in category D prisons' in 2005-06 was 4.4 per cent. A comprehensive series of measures is in place to reduce the availability of drugs, from which establishments draw, based on local need.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have *(a)* committed suicide and *(b)* been murdered while being in prison since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [77483]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Between 1 January 1997 and 11 June 2006 there were 790 apparent self-inflicted deaths (all deaths where it appears the person may have acted specifically to take his/her own life and not only those that receive a 'suicide' or 'open' verdict at inquest) and 14 apparent homicides involving prisoners in England and Wales.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many managed moves at senior operational level in the Prison Service there were in each of the last three years; and for what reasons policy was changed in July 2005 to require all such moves to be approved by the Director of operations. [78212]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of managed moves at senior operational level over the period in question is contained in the following table. These figures relate to senior operational managers (senior governor grades in paybands A to D). There are no figures available before April 2004. The policy of all managed appointments at senior operational level being approved by the director of operations or the deputy director general was introduced in a Prison Service order on 5 July 2004. The order was published to advise staff of the appropriate levels of authority for the approval of managed appointments. Decisions about managed moves at this level are taken by operational directors acting as members of the Prison Service succession planning committee. There have been no changes to the managed appointment policy since this date.

Number of managed moves at senior operational level in the public sector Prison Service for England and Wales between April 2004 and May 2006

Period	*Number of managed moves*
April-December 2004	13
January-December 2005	52
January-May 2006	29

Respect Areas

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to designate 'Respect Areas' in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales; how those areas will be defined; and which locations he plans to designate. [77862]

John Reid: Over the next 12 months, we will be inviting areas from across England and Wales (not designating them) to demonstrate their commitment to their communities to tackling antisocial behaviour by signing up to key components of the Respect Action Plan.

Security Industry

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether security guards who have

applied for but not received their Security Industry Authority identity cards will be allowed to work. [62432]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 30 March 2006]:* Under licensing arrangements which came into force across England and Wales on 20 March 2006, security guards working as contract staff are required to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority (SIA).

Companies that have been awarded approved contractor status by the SIA are able to legally deploy a proportion of security staff while their licence applications are being processed.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 359W, on the security industry, if he will provide the most recent figures for *(a)* the number of applications received for licences in the security industry, *(b)* the number issued and *(c)* the average time taken to process applications. [75350]

Mr. Coaker: As of 7 June 2006:

(a) 162,706 complete applications had been received by the SIA;

(b) 109,021 licences had been issued;

(c) the SIA do not calculate average processing times. Some, such as those involving overseas criminal records checks, unavoidably take a considerable time. The SIA have a published target of processing 80 per cent. of all applications within six weeks, measured from the date that a properly completed application enters the processing system to the date that a licence is issued.

From April 2004 until August 2005 the SIA processed 62 per cent. within six weeks and 88 per cent. within nine weeks.

Since September 2005, there has been a backlog of applications that have been waiting to enter the system. These have added an additional time of between two and four weeks to the process, so it is now taking up to 10 weeks to process most applications.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a small firms impact test was undertaken as part of the regulatory impact assessment for the Private Security Industry Act 2001; and what guidance officials used to determine whether to undertake such a test. [71145]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 16 May 2006]:* A small firms impact test was carried out as part of the approved contractor scheme regulatory impact assessment (RIA) published in February 2006, in consultation with the Small Business Service. Officials followed standard guidance on preparing regulatory impact assessments provided to all Government Departments (available on the Cabinet Office website at http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/ria/) and liaised with the better regulation executive at the Cabinet Office and the Small Business Service in writing the RIA.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has issued to other Government Departments on how to proceed in the event that their suppliers of security staff fail to meet the Security Industry Authority's licensing deadline of 20 March 2006. [59554]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 March 2006]:* On 10 March, the Security Industry Authority (SIA) wrote to all purchasers and providers of security services in England and Wales, including Government Departments. The letter included the following advice for purchasers of security:

"We again encourage buyers of security to assure themselves that their supplier deploys only licensed guards from 20 March and/or that the company has achieved ACS [Approved Contractor Scheme] approval."

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into his Department in each of the last three years. [77436]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the number of people over age 55 years that have been recruited into the Home Office in each of the last three years.

Home Department: Recruitment of people over the age of 55 for three latest years

	Number over the age of 55		
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Centrally managed Home Office	167	[1]102	308
UK Passport Service	13	24	27
CRB	[2]1	1	1
Public sector prisons	383	308	307
Total	564	435	643

[1] For year 2004-05 some data may be unrecorded centrally due to the changeover from the old Home Office personnel system (PIMMS) to the new Adelphi system

[2] Non-executive director (not Home Office staff).

Teenage Drug Use

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure teenagers are made aware of the possible dangers associated with illegal drug use. [70173]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is working in partnership with DfES and the Department of Health to ensure young people are made aware of the effects and risks associated with drug use. The FRANK campaign targets young people and their parents with information about drugs. Young people are encouraged to get further information and advice at the comprehensive drug information website which has received over six million visits, or via the helpline which receives around 1,200 calls a day. A range of FRANK literature has been produced for young people and distributed via the helpline and stakeholders and an understanding drugs schools pack will be available for teachers at the start of the next school year.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 22 June 2006

TREASURY

Breast Cancer

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will authorise the recording of inflammatory breast cancer on death certificates where appropriate instead of a general description of advanced breast cancer. [78986]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 June 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question the recording of inflammatory breast cancer on death certificates where appropriate instead of a general description of advanced breast cancer. (78986)

Guidance for doctors on completion of the medical certificate of cause of death is available at www.gro.gov.uk/medcert/. This guidance follows that set out by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). It does not dictate or constrain the terminology used by doctors.

All breast cancer deaths are coded to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50, which only identifies the site of the tumour. Neither of the terms 'advanced' or 'inflammatory' would change the ICD coding of the cause of death.

Although WHO are currently reviewing the ICD, the change proposed in the question would be a fundamental change in the axes used for classification and more crucially, would have no impact on the way that breast cancer deaths were coded and hence reported.

Causes of Death

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged 16 to 24 years died as a result of (i) road traffic accidents, (ii) suicide, (iii) sexually transmitted diseases, (iv) drug misuse, (v) alcohol misuse and (vi) murder/manslaughter during each year since 1990. [79500]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 22 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) males and (b) females aged 16 to 24 years died as a result of (i) road traffic accidents, (ii) suicide, (iii) sexually transmitted diseases, (iv) drug misuse, (v) alcohol misuse and (vi) murder/manslaughter during each year since 1990. I am replying in her absence. (79500)

ONS routinely publishes numbers of deaths for causes which may be sexually transmitted, such as HIV or Hepatitis B infection. Information is not however normally available from the death certificate on the actual method of transmission for deaths from these causes and so figures for sexually transmitted diseases cannot be provided.

The most recently available information is for deaths in 2004. Figures for deaths in males and females aged 16 to 24 years for land transport accidents, suicide or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent, alcohol-related causes, and assault are shown in the table below for each year from 1990 to 2004. Figures for drug misuse are only available from 1993 onwards.

Number of deaths for males and females aged 16 to 24 by selected causes, England and Wales, 1990-2004[1]

	Land transport accidents[2]	*Suicide or injury /poisoning of undetermined intent[3]*	*Drug misuse[4]*	*Alcohol-related[5]*	*Assault[6]*
Male					
1990	1,096	615	..	14	82
1991	973	563	..	9	77
1992	814	566	..	12	76
1993	617	549	136	14	93
1994	609	522	204	11	85
1995	589	477	222	12	98
1996	608	446	239	12	96
1997	614	497	260	19	83
1998	497	454	230	19	85
1999	501	433	251	15	100
2000	526	386	208	18	124
2001	561	375	234	26	112
2002	557	342	234	9	98
2003	595	366	141	15	100
2004	546	316	136	12	128
Female					
1990	221	117	..	5	32
1991	240	134	..	5	46
1992	207	118	..	3	40
1993	153	115	29	10	46
1994	174	94	38	1	48

Number of deaths for males and females aged 16 to 24 by selected causes, England and Wales, 1990-2004[1]

	Land transport accidents[2]	*Suicide or injury /poisoning of undetermined intent*[3]	*Drug misuse*[4]	*Alcohol-related*[5]	*Assault*[6]
1995	148	112	35	1	30
1996	139	114	46	4	32
1997	143	105	43	3	28
1998	139	122	61	3	40
1999	140	108	45	4	27
2000	115	109	60	5	41
2001	124	90	58	3	40
2002	133	91	38	3	31
2003	121	94	41	5	43
2004	131	103	44	4	35

[1] Data are for registrations of death in each calendar year from 1990 to 1992 and for occurrences of death in each calendar year from 1993onwards.

[2] The cause of death for land transport accidents was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E800-E829for the years 1990 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004, the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes V01-V89.

[3] The cause of death for suicide (intentional self-harm) or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent was defined using ICD-9 codes E950-E959 and E980-E989 excluding E988.8for the years 1990 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004, ICD-10 codes X60-X84 and YJO-Y34 excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending.

[4] The cause of death for drug misuse was defined using ICD-9 codes 292, 304, 305.2-305.9, E850-E858, E950.0-E950.5, E962.0 and E980.0-E980.5 for the years 1990 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004JCD-10 codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y14, where the underlying cause was drug-related poisoning and a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death record.

[5] Alcohol-related deaths were defined using ICD-9 codes 291, 303, 305.0,425.5, 571 and E860 for the years 1990 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004, ICD-10 codes F10, 142.6, K70, K73, K74 and X45.

[6] The cause of death for assault was defined using ICD-9 codes E960-E969 and E988.8for the years 1990 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004, ICD-10 codes X85-Y09 and Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children aged between 11 and 18 years died as a result of *(a)* road traffic accidents, *(b)* suicide, *(c)* sexually transmitted diseases, *(d)* drug misuse, *(e)* alcohol misuse and *(f)* murder or manslaughter in each year since 1990. [79579]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 22 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) males and (b) females aged 11 to 18 years died as a result of (i) road traffic accidents, (ii) suicide, (iii) sexually transmitted diseases, (iv) drug misuse, (v) alcohol misuse and (vi) murder/manslaughter during each year since 1990. I am replying in her absence. (79579)

ONS routinely publishes numbers of deaths for causes which may be sexually transmitted, such as HIV or Hepatitis B infection. Information is not however normally available from the death certificate on the actual method of transmission for deaths from these causes and so figures for sexually transmitted diseases cannot be provided.

The most recently available information is for deaths in 2004. Figures for deaths in males and females aged 11 to 18 years for land transport accidents, suicide only, suicide or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent, alcohol-related causes, and assault are shown in the table below for each year from 1990 to 2004. Figures for drug misuse are only available from 1993 onwards.

It is assumed that most deaths from injury/poisoning of undetermined intent at ages 15 and over are cases where the harm was self-inflicted, but there was insufficient evidence to prove that the deceased deliberately intended to kill themselves. This cannot be assumed in deaths at ages under 15 and therefore deaths from injury/poisoning of undetermined intent are not included when examining suicide (intentional self-harm) in children. The table below shows the number of suicides in children aged 11 to 14, and the number of suicide or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent deaths in those aged 15 to 18.

Number of deaths in males and females aged 11 to 18 by selected cause, England and Wales, 1990-2004[1]

	Land transport accidents[2]	*Suicide*[3] *(aged11-14)*	*Suicide or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent*[4] *(aged 15-18)*	*Drug misuse*[5]	*Alcohol-related*[6]	*Assault*[7]
Male						
1990	481	2	98		3	31
1991	414	2	93		1	28
1992	352	1	74		2	19
1993	234	5	76	31	3	29
1994	274	5	75	26	1	21
1995	279	1	74	35	1	36
1996	310	3	87	40	2	38
1997	275	2	79	44	8	34
1998	209	1	86	35	3	30
1999	226	2	87	45	2	43
2000	253	2	80	29	2	39
2001	247	3	82	24	5	34

Number of deaths in males and females aged 11 to 18 by selected cause, England and Wales, 1990-2004[1]

	Land transport accidents[2]	*Suicide*[3] *(aged11-14)*	*Suicide or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent*[4] *(aged 15-18)*	*Drug misuse*[5]	*Alcohol-related*[6]	*Assault*[7]
2002	231	3	69	30	2	43
2003	244	0	63	20	3	37
2004	242	3	63	18	1	38
Female						
1990	149	0	25	—	3	11
1991	139	1	31	—	0	19
1992	131	0	19	—	1	18
1993	111	2	25	5	1	18
1994	111	2	13	10	0	11
1995	77	4	30	11	0	14
1996	103	0	32	9	2	17
1997	109	3	24	15	0	12
1998	92	2	28	14	1	20
1999	96	0	34	8	1	11
2000	68	1	37	15	1	20
2001	78	2	17	18	1	15
2002	72	2	29	11	0	17
2003	72	3	20	5	1	17
2004	87	2	29	7	1	12

[1] Data are for registrations of death in each calendar year from1990 to 1992 and for occurrences of death in each calendar year from 1993 onwards.

[2] The cause of death for land transport accidents was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E800-E829for the years 1990 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004, the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes VQ1-V89.

[3] The cause of death for suicide (intentional self-harm) was defined using the ICD-9 codes E950-E959 for the years 1990 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004, ICD-10 codes X60-X84.

[4] The cause of death for suicide (intentional self-harm) or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent was defined using ICD-9 codes E950-E959 and E980-E989 excluding E988.8for the years 1990 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004, ICD-10 codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34 excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending.

[5] The cause of death for drug misuse was defined using ICD-9 codes 292, 304, 305.2-305.9, E850-E858, E950.0-E950.5, E962.0 and E980.0-E980.5for the years 1990 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004,ICD-10 codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y14, where the underlying cause was drug-related poisoning and a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death record.

[6] Alcohol-related deaths were defined using ICD-9 codes 291, 303, 305.0,425.5, 571 and E860for the years 1990 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004, ICD-10 codes F10, 142.6, K70, K73, K74 and X45.

[7] The cause of death for assault was defined using ICD-9 codes E960-E969 and E988.8for the years 1990 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004, ICD-10 codes X85-Y09 and Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending.

Flight Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* aircraft flights and *(b)* helicopter flights have been made by him on official business since 5 May; what was the (i) cost and (ii) purpose of each flight; and if he will make a statement. [77261]

John Healey: The Prime Minister releases details of ministerial travel annually via a written statement to the House. It is expected that information relating to the 2006-07 financial year will be released shortly before the 2007 summer recess.

Minimum Wage (Lewisham, Deptford)

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged (a) 22 years and over, *(b)* 18 to 21 years and *(c)* under 18 years are receiving the minimum wage in (i) Lewisham, Deptford constituency and (ii) Lewisham borough. [79159]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

Earnings data at the parliamentary constituency level are not available.

However, earnings data are available by Government office region. Although it is not possible to estimate the number of jobs paid exactly at the National Minimum Wage, the DTI estimates that in April 2005 there were 28,000 jobs held by employees aged 16 or over in the London region paid a wage within a 5p range of the National Minimum Wage. This estimate is based on data from the Office for National Statistics Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2005.

NHS Deficits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has given to the Department of Health on the financial recovery of NHS deficits. [79620]

Mr. Timms: The Treasury agrees budgets with Departments and it is the responsibility of Departments to ensure they remain within these budgets.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on deficits in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [79621]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials have regular discussions with Ministers and officials in the Department of Health as part of the process of policy analysis, development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

NHS Funding

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his spending plans are for the NHS in the next two years; and what he expects growth in spending on the NHS to be in each year to 2009-10. [79613]

Mr. Timms: As published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2006, the spending plans for the NHS are shown in the following table:

		£ million
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Resources	79,997	87,062
Capital	5,227	6,199

As the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced on 19 July 2005, a second Comprehensive Spending Review, reporting in 2007, will set departmental allocations for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Pension Contributions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate *(a)* the number of people who received and *(b)* the amount of income tax relief granted on pension contributions given to (i) basic rate taxpayers and (ii) higher rate taxpayers in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [79309]

Ed Balls: Estimates of the annual cost of tax relief on private pensions are available on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/7_9_sep05.pdf.

We estimate that around 55 per cent. of tax relief on pension contributions is received by around 2.5 million higher rate taxpayers. But it is not possible to give a time series for this split by taxpayer band.

Poverty Reduction

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to reduce poverty in Coventry, South since 1997. [79028]

Dawn Primarolo: The Treasury has, in partnership with other Government Departments, tackled poverty and promoted economic opportunity through:

Promoting macroeconomic stability

Supporting work for those who can and ensuring that work pays, through the new deals, a national minimum wage and the working tax credit

Providing financial support for groups at particular risk of poverty, such as child benefit and the child tax for families, and the pension credit for pensioners.

Across the UK, these measures have helped lift more than a million people out of poverty since 1997. Tax credits are benefiting more than 420,000 families in the West Midlands region, and in Coventry, South claimant unemployment has fallen by over 30 per cent., youth unemployment has fallen by 63 per cent. and long-term unemployment has fallen by 82 per cent.

Science City Initiative

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider how the city of Durham's science expertise can be better recognised within the Science City Initiative. [79182]

John Healey: In the 2004 pre-Budget report and in Budget 2005, the Government supported plans by the regional development agencies (RDAs) to develop six "science cities" in Manchester, Newcastle, York, Birmingham, Nottingham and Bristol. It is for RDAs to take the lead role in identifying science cities and detailed implementation plans, in line with their wider strategies for regional economic development, science and innovation.

Smuggled Illegal Meat

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value of smuggled illegal meat seized by UK enforcement officials was in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland in each of the past five years. [79358]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs record seizures of illegal meat by the numbers and overall weight rather than by value. Information on the numbers and overall weight of illegal meat seizures is as follows:

	Great Britain		*Scotland*	
	Number of seizures	*Weight in kilos*	*Number of seizures*	*Weight in kilos*
2003-04	6,473	69,927	658	1,929
2004-05	10,792	77,087	778	2,186

Information on the number of seizures made prior to April 2003 can be found in DEFRA's Annual Review of Controls on Imports of Animal Products last published in July 2005. Seizure statistics for 2005-06 will be included in the next DEFRA Annual Review of Controls on Imports of Animal Products due to be published next month.

Stakeholder Pensions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average employee stakeholder pension contribution was in each year since its introduction. [79308]

Ed Balls: Estimates of the average employee stakeholder pension contribution by tax year since the introduction of stakeholder pensions in 2001 are published in Table 7.10, "Personal and Stakeholder Pensions: Number of individuals contributing and average contribution by status and earned income", on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/menu-by-year.htm.

Suicide

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many farmers committed suicide in each of the last 10 years. [79499]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 June 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many farmers committed suicide in each of the last 10 years. (79499)

The most recently available information is for deaths in 2004. Figures for deaths of farm workers and farm owners from suicide (intentional self-harm) or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent are shown in the table below for each year from 1995 to 2004.

Number of deaths from intentional self-harm[1] or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent[2] in farm workers and farm owners[3], aged 20-74, England & Wales, 1995-2004[4]

	Number of deaths
1995	54
1996	64
1997	59
1998	72
1999	70
2000	58
2001	55
2002	45
2003	55
2004	42

[1] The cause of death for intentional self-harm was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959for the years 1995 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004, the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84.

[2] The cause of death for injury/poisoning of undetermined intent was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E980-E989 excluding E988.8for 1995 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004, the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes Y10-Y34 excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending.

[3] The occupation coded at death registration is the last gainful occupation of the deceased, as supplied by the informant who registers the death. Occupation is not coded by ONS for deaths of persons aged over 74. ONS Standard Occupational Classification 1990 (SOC90) codes 900, 901 and 160 were selected for data from 1995 to 2000, and ONS Standard Occupational Classification 2000 (SOC2000) codes 8223, 9111, 1211 and 5111 were selected for data from 2001 to 2004.

[4] Data are for occurrences of death in each calendar year.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of suicide was among people in *(a)* areas with a population below 10,000 inhabitants and *(b)* England in each of the last 10 years: [79498]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 22 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the rate of suicide was among people in (a) areas with a population below 10,000 inhabitants and (b) England in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (79498)

ONS does not produce suicide rates for areas smaller than local authorities as meaningful figures cannot be calculated for very small populations. The latest available suicide rates for local authorities in England and Wales are for the period 2000-2003 and these can be found on the National Statistics website: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13618

The most recent year for which figures are available for England is 2004. The table below shows rates for deaths with a verdict of suicide or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent in England for the years 1995 to 2004.

Death rates[1] from suicide or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent[2], England, 1995 to 2004[3]

	Rate
1995	9.2
1996	9.1
1997	9.3
1998	9.6
1999	9.5
2000	9.0
2001	8.5
2002	8.4
2003	8.2
2004	8.1

[1] Rates per 100,000 population standardised to the European Standard Population.

[2] The cause of death for suicide (intentional self-harm) and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989 excluding E988.8 for the years 1995 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2004, the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34 excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending.

[3] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

Teenage Pregnancies

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many girls under the age of 16 years *(a)* became pregnant and *(b)* gave birth in (i) Bury St. Edmunds constituency and (ii) Suffolk county council area in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age. [79394]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 June 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many girls under the age of 16 years *(a)* became pregnant and *(b)* gave birth in (i) Bury St. Edmunds constituency and (ii) Suffolk county council area in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age. (79394)

Numbers of conceptions in Suffolk County for the years 1995-2004 (the most recent year for which figures are available), and numbers of maternities in Suffolk County for the years 1995-2005 are shown in the table. Figures for 2004 are provisional.

Information on conceptions is routinely published for local authorities and strategic health authorities. Figures cannot be provided by parliamentary constituency because of the risk of

disclosing individual's information, due to small differences between the parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries.

ONS does not publish figures by single year of age below the age of 16 by either local or health authority because of the risk of disclosing individual's information.

Maternity counts are for girls aged under 16 in each year at which either one or more live birth or stillbirth occurred.

Birth figures cannot be provided for Bury St. Edmunds parliamentary constituency for the same reason as provided for conceptions.

Number of conceptions and maternities to girls aged under 16, Suffolk 1995-2005

	Conceptions	Maternities
1995	63	14
1996	82	12
1997	89	12
1998	71	12
1999	58	14
2000	62	5
2001	73	12
2002	75	13
2003	93	19
2004[1]	73	12
2005[2]	—	9

[1] Conceptions for 2004 are provisional.
[2] Conceptions data are not yet available for 2005.

Vehicle Excise Duty

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* petrol cars and *(b)* diesel cars there were in each vehicle excise duty band for private vehicles in each of the last four years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [79310]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

The two tables indicate the number of petrol and diesel cars registered in each vehicle excise duty (VED) band for the years 2002 to 2005.

Table 1 outlines the number of cars whose keepers pay graduated VED. Graduated VED was brought into effect in March 2001. Cars attract a rate of VED dependant upon their CO_2 emissions per kilometre driven. There have been a number of changes to the banding system since it was introduced. These are outlined in table 1.

Combined with the new vehicle CO_2 labelling scheme and company car tax, graduated VED raises awareness of CO_2 and provides incentives for consumers to purchase more fuel efficient vehicles.

Table 2 outlines the number of cars whose keepers pay VED by the old system. Cars that were purchased before March 2001 attract VED according to their engine size. A car with an engine capacity above 1549cc pays the higher rate. Those with engines under 1550cc pay the lower rate.

Table 1: GRAD VED registered cars

VED Band	Emissions (gCO_2/km)	Total petrol cars	Total diesel cars
2002			
AA	<121	6,508	52,584
A	121-150	728,149	419,201
B	151-165	921,579	206,523
C	166-185	767,145	121,323
D	>185	1,230,804	179,656
2003			
AAA	<101	147	204
AA	101 to 120	20,337	107,640
A	121 to 150	1,221,308	651,777
B	151 to 165	1,295,818	346,905
C	166 to 185	1,120,724	205,371
D	>185	1,748,129	319,788
2004			
AAA	<101	154	213
AA	101 to 120	39,891	162,611
A	121 to 150	1,691,220	933,605
B	151 to 165	1,657,889	526,889
C	166 to 185	1,466,738	283,189
D	>185	2,183,370	487,779
2005			
A	<101	163	211
B	101 to 120	59,130	211,168
C	121 to 150	2,117,940	1,205,039
D	151 to 165	1,992,343	760,541
E	166 to 185	1,785,602	355,671
F	>185	2,543,108	673,547

Table2: pre GRAD VED registered cars

VED Band (by engine capacity)	Total petrol cars	Total diesel cars
2002		
<1550cc	8,220,734	176,990
>=1550cc	9,964,559	2,756,098
2003		
<1550cc	7,314,428	166,322
>=1550cc	9,084,579	2,601,601
2004		
<1550cc	6,576,637	155,029
<=1550cc	8,360,707	2,461,268
2005		
<1550cc	5,819,412	138,479
<=1550cc	7,558,301	2,251,445

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer why there are different levels of vehicle excise duty for diesel cars and petrol cars; and if he will make a statement. [79311]

John Healey: As announced in Budget 2000, from 1 March 2001 a graduated VED system for new cars was introduced. Under this system, all new cars first registered from that date have the rate of VED payable determined according to their rate of carbon dioxide emissions.

Within each band, there is a £10 discount for cars using cleaner fuels and technology, including those

powered by road fuel gas, bi-fuel and dual fuel, and cars using hybrid technology. Within each band, there is also a supplement for diesel cars to reflect their higher emissions of particulates and other pollutants which damage local air quality.

TRANSPORT

Bus Drivers' Working Hours

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans his Department has to bring into force the European Union legislation on applying the 11-hour rule to bus drivers' shifts; [79207]

(2) if he will make a statement on recent changes to the legal and regulatory framework governing bus drivers' working hours. [79208]

Dr. Ladyman: There are two sets of rules governing drivers' hours in the UK. Many bus drivers operate under domestic drivers' hours rules rather than the EU drivers' hours rules. This is because buses on routes less than 50 kilometres are specifically exempted from the EU Regulations.

A new EU Regulation on drivers' hours has recently been adopted by the EU institutions—it was published in the Official Journal in April 2006 and will, for the most part, come into force in April 2007. We expect to consult later this year on any necessary consequential amendments to existing UK legislation.

Although, during negotiation of the new EU Regulation, consideration was given to extending the scope to include buses on routes less than 50 kilometres, this change was not made.

We will keep under review the need to bring the domestic rules into line with the EU rules, but will not be in a position to consult on any such changes before the bulk of the new EU Regulation comes into force next year.

Crossrail

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how the budget of £154 million allocated to Crossrail in 2001 was spent. [78610]

Derek Twigg: Of the £154 million allocated in 2001, Cross London Rail Links Ltd. (CLRL) had spent £140 million by the end of May 2006. This supported development of the scheme set out in the Hybrid Bill. The most substantial costs have been incurred employing staff, and carrying out transport, engineering and environmental studies.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on the Crossrail project since its inception. [78615]

Derek Twigg: Since 2001, Cross London Rail Links Ltd.—the company responsible for Crossrail design—has spent a total of £161 million on the Crossrail project.

Highways Agency

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what salaries are paid to the board of directors of the Highways Agency. [78872]

Dr. Ladyman: The salary information for Highways Agency board directors for the financial year 2004-05 is published in the Highways Agency's annual report and accounts, a copy of which is available from the House Libraries and at: http://www.highways.gov.uk/aboutus/documents/annl_rept 2004 05.pdf.

Marine Environment High Risk Areas

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what criteria the Marine Environment High Risk Areas were determined. [79353]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 8 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1519-21W given to the hon. Member for St. Ives (Andrew George).

Nuclear Waste Transportation

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to consult Colchester residents about the transportation by rail through the town of nuclear waste from Sizewell Power Station; and if he will make a statement. [78958]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Transport has recently taken over responsibility for making regulations covering the transport of radioactive materials by rail from the Health and Safety Executive. In November 2004 the Department undertook a consultation on the proposals for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment (Amendment) Regulations 2005, SI 2005:1732. These regulations include provisions for the control of the carriage of radioactive materials by rail.

The consultation document was sent out to over 800 addresses across the U.K. and it was published on the Department's website. There were three responses from addresses in Colchester but none of these were concerned with the transport of radioactive materials.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Private Members' Bills were drafted by his Department in each Session since 1997; and which subsequently received Royal Assent. [77844]

Gillian Merron: Members will consider a range of possible subjects before introducing their Private Members' Bills.

Government draftsmen do draft some Bills in advance which are available as one of the options for Members to consider before they make their selection.

However, Members may make subsequent amendments or revisions to a Government drafted Bill, or use it as the basis for a Private Member's Bill in the future.

The information requested is therefore not collected.

Rail and Cycle Travel Integration

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans the Government have to improve integration of rail and cycle travel. [79190]

Derek Twigg: Each train operating company (TOC) is responsible for both their policy on the carriage of bikes on trains and the provision of cycle parking at stations.

The Government have inherited the Cycling Policy document produced in 2004 from the Strategic Rail Authority. This encourages all TOCs to carry folding bikes at all times, to carry non folding bikes wherever possible, while recognising that in peak periods there may be circumstances where it is in the best interests of the majority of passengers not to do so, and to supply cycle parking at most rail stations. The policy recommends to TOCs that they provide sufficient cycle parking at stations so that 95 per cent. of all rail journeys start from a station with adequate cycle parking by 2009. To support this policy the DfT recently funded an additional 2,900 cycle parking spaces at stations where demand exceeded capacity.

As part of our ongoing commitment to bike and rail journeys I am discussing with our advisory body on cycling, Cycling England, how we might further encourage such journeys.

Rural Transport Services

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rural rail *(a)* services and *(b)* stations have ceased to operate in each year since 1997, broken down by location. [78203]

Derek Twigg: No rural rail services have ceased to operate since 1997, only two small stretches of passenger network at Maindee Loop (near Newport) in 2005 and Sheepcote Lane Curve in 2004 (near Clapham Junction) have closed.

Four stations have ceased to operate since 1997 and 14 stations have been replaced by either light rail, tram, or a station in a new location.

The four stations which have ceased to operate are:

Etruria in 2005;

Sinfin North, Sinfin Central and Pendleton stations in 1998.

Temporary Parking Exemption Blue Badges

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce temporary parking exemption blue badges for those suffering short-term impairment for less than 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [77112]

Gillian Merron: Following a review of the blue badge scheme, the Department for Transport has accepted a recommendation made by the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC), the Department's statutory advisers on the transport needs of disabled people, that the scheme should be extended to people with temporary mobility impairments which severely affect their walking ability and are likely to do so for at least 12 months. This reflected the consensus of opinion during the review and there are therefore no plans to extend the eligibility criteria to people with impairments lasting less than 12 months at the present time.

Transport Schemes (Cost-Benefit Ratios)

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which major transport schemes agreed over the last two years in London have cost-benefit ratios below 2. [78141]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* In the past two years the Department has approved two London projects that have a benefit-cost ratio below 2: the fit out of the Thameslink Midland Road box; and the King's Cross LUL Northern ticket hall. Both projects fall within the medium value for money category (benefit-cost ratios in the range to 1.5 to 2).

The Department does not hold comprehensive benefit-cost information on projects approved by Transport for London.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Rural Disadvantage

18. **Mr. Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the findings of the Commission for Rural Communities' report on rural disadvantage. [79361]

Barry Gardiner: I welcome the report and its emphasis on meeting the needs of disadvantaged people living in rural areas.

This is the first major output from the Commission for Rural Communities, demonstrating early action on its mandate to act as a watchdog and advocate for rural people and communities, especially those suffering disadvantage.

Household Waste

19. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to reduce household waste. [79362]

Mr. Bradshaw: Historically, year-on-year, the increase of municipal waste has been reduced to 1.5 per cent. and we have also achieved an overall reduction of waste going to landfill of 10 per cent. since 2000.

The review of the waste strategy has, as one of its prime objectives, to reduce the amount of waste generated in the first place.

Radioactive Waste Disposal

20. **Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues about the environmental impact of radioactive waste disposal. [79363]

Ian Pearson: The independent Committee of Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) are currently considering the long-term management options for higher level radioactive wastes. As part of their assessments—which have been open and transparent, and in the public domain—they have considered the environmental impacts of the options. The Government look forward to receiving their final report shortly.

Regional Food Specialities

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote local food networks and regional food specialities. [79364]

Barry Gardiner: We are helping to facilitate local sourcing by providing funding to address issues such as distribution, marketing and the encouragement of new outlets and by working with other bodies to highlight and spread best practice. Food from Britain (FFB) takes the lead in the delivery of a national programme of activity to support the quality regional food sector in England which includes many local food producers.

Wild Flowers

22. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action has been taken since May 2005 to protect wild flower meadows and to encourage the planting of wild flowers. [79365]

Barry Gardiner: Earlier this week we published the 2005 highlight report on progress on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. It shows that 22 per cent. of priority habitats and 11 per cent. of priority species are increasing, and that more priority species are showing improved trends, including the Deptford pink.

Energy White Paper

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to paragraph 3.41 of the 2003 Energy White Paper, what steps he plans to take to extend the energy efficiency commitment beyond the domestic sector. [78451]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA commissioned studies on the possible extension of the domestic energy efficiency commitment (EEC) to those businesses that do not pay the climate change levy.

The Government concluded that the inclusion of small business within the domestic EEC is not practicable at this point. Options continue to be considered, but in the immediate period support for energy efficiency improvement in this sector will continue via other programmes, notably those of the Carbon Trust, as outlined in "Energy Efficiency: The Government's Plan for Action", published in April 2004.

The Government will introduce further measures to encourage and assist Small and Medium Sized Enterprises to take up energy saving opportunities. DEFRA has commissioned work to examine different policy options. This work will draw on the experience of the EEC mechanism in the household sector in informing our views of the best way forward.

Milk Imports

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much milk was imported in the last period for which figures are available. [79348]

Barry Gardiner: Figures from HM Revenue and Customs show that in 2005, just over 48,000 tonnes of liquid milk were imported into the UK. This represents about 0.4 per cent. of UK milk production.

Sakhalin II Project

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which rivers were crossed with *(a)* gas and *(b)* oil pipelines (i) during and (ii) outside the designated winter period as part of the Sakhalin II project. [79334]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* The designated winter period for crossing rivers as part of the Sakhalin II project is 1 December to 30 April.

Dates on which the rivers were crossed with oil and gas pipelines are available at the Sakhalin Energy website at:

http://www.sakhalinenergy.com/en/project.asp?p=rc_list

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which rivers were crossed with *(a)* gas and *(b)* oil pipelines as part of the Sakhalin II project; [79336]

(2) which rivers were crossed with *(a)* gas and *(b)* oil pipelines on non-consecutive construction days as part of the Sakhalin II project; [79338]

(3) what the average time period is between the installation of gas or oil pipelines across each river as part of the Sakhalin II project. [79450]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* This information is available on the Sakhalin Energy website at:

http://www.sakharinenergy.com/en/project.asp?p=rc_list

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information he has gathered on the effect of the Sakhalin II project on salmon spawning habitat; and what action he is taking to ensure that there is no loss of such habitat as a result of the project. [79337]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 21 June 2006]*: The information gathered on the effect of the Sakhalin II project on salmon spawning habitats includes:

Official and ministerial meetings with Shell;

Information included in Sakhalin Energy's River Crossing Strategy;

Monitoring information published by Sakhalin Energy on its website;

Information gathered during site visits carried out by Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), other potential lenders and their independent consultants.

Sakhalin Energy has committed itself to ensuring no net loss of habitat.

DEFRA will be monitoring performance through its close working relationships with relevant departments such as ECGD, who, together with other agencies such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, have commissioned independent monitoring of the project.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the potential impact of an oil spill on the feeding grounds of the Western Pacific Grey Whale in the event of a major incident at the Sakhalin II project; and what assessment has been made of the potential impact of such a spill on those feeding grounds in *(a)* summer conditions and *(b)* winter ice conditions. [79449]

Ian Pearson: Information on the potential impact of oil spills on the Western Gray Whales' feeding grounds has been included in a number of assessments, including the Sakhalin Energy Investment Company's (SEIC's) Environmental Impact Assessment (2003) and Addenda (2005), and its Comparative Environmental Assessment (2004). A number of reports on this subject have also been produced for meetings of the IUCN (World Conservation Union) Independent Scientific Review and successor bodies, including a report from the Independent Interim Science Group (IISG), which made a number of specific recommendations to SEIC.

SEIC is developing oil spill response plans that will include measures intended to address the potential impact of a spill on the feeding grounds of the Western Gray Whale in different conditions. These will be reviewed by both Russian authorities and an independent international oil spill response consultancy. The former will address compliance with appropriate elements of Russian Law, whilst the latter will assess the adequacy of plans against a number of recognised and robust international standards.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* the Sakhalin Energy Investment Company's oil spill plan response methods and *(b)* the potential impact of an oil spill on biodiversity in the Sakhalin island area. [79451]

Ian Pearson: Sakhalin Energy Investment Company (SEIC) is developing oil spill response plans, which must be approved by the Russian authorities before oil production can start. These plans will also be reviewed against Russian and international standards by consultants acting for the potential lenders. We will review the conclusions of this work.

We have kept in close touch with SEIC on the issue of oil spills. In recent meetings with SEIC/Shell we have stressed the importance of having adequate measures in place to address the risks, and of SEIC's implementing the Independent Interim Science Group's recommendations.

WALES

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many of his staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77303]

Mr. Hain: At 31 December 2005 Wales Office staff were split as follows:

(a) 45 staff (76.3 per cent.) under 55 years of age and

(b) 14 staff (23.7 per cent.) over the age of 55.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into his Department in each of the last three years. [77304]

Mr. Hain: Between April 2004 and March 2005, there were 14 people over the age of 55 working for the Wales Office. This represented a quarter of the staff at the time.

A further member of staff over the age of 55 was recruited in 2005-06, representing 10 per cent. of the total staff recruited during that period.

Information relating to 2003-04 is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many websites there are within his responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79067]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has responsibility for www.walesoffice.gov.uk and its parallel Welsh language site www.swyddfa.cymru.gov.uk.

The cost of running both sites was £5,875 in 2005, with an additional £58.75 charged to renew the domain names.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which Private Members' Bills were drafted by his Department in each session since 1997; and which subsequently received Royal Assent. [78844]

Mr. Hain: Members will consider a range of possible subjects before introducing their Private Members' Bills.

Government draftsmen do draft some Bills in advance, which are available as one of the options for Member's to consider before they make their selection.

However, Members may make subsequent amendments or revisions to a Government drafted Bill, or use it as the basis for a Private Member's Bill in the future.

The information requested is therefore not collected.

Renewable Energy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps the Government are taking to increase the supply of renewable energy in Wales. [78867]

Mr. Hain: With up to 24 onshore and offshore windfarms either under construction or in planning, Wales has the potential to supply a huge amount of energy from renewable sources.

The Renewables' Obligation is the Government's main policy measure for supporting renewable energy, establishing a target of securing 10 per cent. of electricity from renewable sources by 2010. Programmes such as the Micro-generation Strategy and the Wave and Tidal Energy Demonstration Scheme support these actions.

Policies put in place by the Welsh Assembly Government complement these commitments. For example, the Assembly Government have set targets for renewable energy generation and has published Technical Advice Note 8 (TAN 8) to facilitate the development of renewable energy in the most appropriate locations.

Wales also offers significant opportunities for harnessing the renewable energy of waves and tides and the Assembly Government are supporting two projects through the Objective 1 programme: Wavedragon and Marine Current Turbines, including the Severn Barrage.

Work and Pensions Select Committee

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what action has been taken by his Department to implement Work and Pensions Select Committee recommendations since the 2001-02 session; and if he will make a statement. [78847]

Mr. Hain: Responsibility for the implementation of Work and Pensions Select Committee recommendations rests with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The Wales Office has no executive responsibility in this area.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Re-branding

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the total costs at current prices of re-branding *(a)* the Department of the Environment as the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, *(b)* the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions as the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions and *(c)* the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions as the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [71585]

Angela E. Smith: The costs for re-branding:

(a) the Department of the Environment as the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions was £176,690;

(b) the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions as the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions was £25,250;

(c) the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions as the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was £52,117.

Deputy Prime Minister

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants worked in the Deputy Prime Minister's private office at 10 April 2006; and what the cost of running his private office was in 2005-06. [71069]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

Staff numbers and costs for my private office in 2005-06 will be accounted for in the usual way in the Department's annual report and accounts.

Mineral Planning

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the public inquiries on decisions by mineral planning authorities to reject applications for opencast mining since the MPG3 planning guidelines were revised in 1999; and what the outcome of each inquiry was. [72627]

Yvette Cooper: Since revision of Mineral Planning Guidance note 3 (coal mining and colliery spoil disposal) in March 1999 there have been 11 local public inquiries into decisions by mineral planning authorities to reject applications for opencast coal mining. The information requested by my right hon. Friend is listed in the table.

Description	*Local authority*	*Decision type*	*Decision by Secretary of State*	*Date of decision*
Windsor site	Kirklees MBC	Appeal	Dismissed	20 December 1999
Hoodcroft II site	Derbyshire CC	Appeal	Dismissed	20 December 1999
Dawley II	Telford and Wrekin BC	Appeal	Dismissed	19 March 2001

Description	Local authority	Decision type	Decision by Secretary of State	Date of decision
Orchard site	Warwickshire CC	Appeal	Dismissed	19 March 2001
Santingley	Wakefield MBC	Appeal	Dismissed	19 March 2001
Cutacre	Bolton, Salford and Wigan	Appeal and call-in	Allowed	30 July 2001
Reclamation of spoil heaps	Doncaster	Appeal	Allowed	2 October 2001
Old Quarrington	Durham CC	Appeal	Dismissed	22 December 2003
Thieveley Colliery	Lancashire CC	Appeal	Dismissed	1 April 2004
Wheatley Head	Durham CC	Appeal	Dismissed	17 October 2005
Long Moor surface mine	Leicestershire	Appeal	Allowed	25 May 2006

Supported Housing

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on consultants' services relating to Supporting People in the last two financial years; what amount has been allocated for these services for 2006-07; and how much of this expenditure has been for services for work on the Distributed Formula in each year. [76228]

Yvette Cooper: In 2004-05 £2.4 million was spent on consultancy services and in 2005-06 £1.1 million was spent on consultancy.

Valuation Office Agency

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency holds *(a)* dwelling house code and *(b)* value significant code data for (i) 10 Downing Street, (ii) 11 Downing Street, (iii) Flats 1-3, Admiralty House, Whitehall and (iv) Dorneywood. [78655]

Mr. Woolas: Yes.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by his Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77439]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office records its hospitality expenditure in accordance with the principles of Government accounting. It keeps no separate record of expenditure by category of provision, and there are no plans to begin keeping any such detailed record.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many of his staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77440]

David Cairns: As at 31 December 2005, the Scotland Office had 48 staff under the age of 55 and six staff over that age.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into his Department in each of the last three years. [77441]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not recruit staff directly; its officials are on loan from the Scottish Executive or the Department for Constitutional Affairs. One member of staff in 2003, two in 2004 and one in 2005 were over 55 years of age when they joined the Office.

Disability Access

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether any building in his Department falls short of disability access regulations. [73057]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office's main buildings—Dover House in London and Melville Crescent in Edinburgh—are listed buildings and cannot be altered without the consent of the relevant heritage body. Both buildings were initially assessed for compliance with the Act.

In the light of this assessment, all reasonable and practicable efforts have been made to adapt Dover House for use by the disabled. Subsequently, an access audit was commissioned to advise on longer term improvements that were required; these have been included in a programme of works which is due to be carried out during 2006-07. Where the audit drew attention to an issue that could not be remedied by building works, a management procedure has been introduced.

In Melville Crescent, all improvements and refurbishment works were completed, where reasonably practicable, and in accordance with Part 4 of the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004, while also in conjunction with British standard—BS 8300:2001.

Sickness Absence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [73055]

David Cairns: All Scotland Office staff are on loan from the Scottish Executive or the Department for Constitutional Affairs and those Departments maintain sickness absence records. A complete picture, in the form requested, is however not available.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Switchover

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the results of the digital switchover trial in Bolton; what the effect of switchover was on *(a)* individuals on low incomes and *(b)* the elderly; how much switchover cost per (i) household and (ii) vulnerable household; and if she will make a statement. [79572]

Mr. Woodward: The purpose of the trial was to test the process for supporting elderly and severely disabled consumers through switchover. The majority of people in the digital television trial thought switching over was easy and liked watching digital television.

The trial also highlighted the importance of support from family and friends in installing and using the equipment and the need to give older and disabled people time to adapt to using new television equipment.

The full Bolton trial report was published in May; copies are available in both Houses and at www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk. We are considering the findings from the Bolton trial and other research. This will help to inform work on the detailed design and costs of the digital switchover assistance schemes.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Government has allocated for support to *(a)* individuals on low incomes and *(b)* the elderly (i) to purchase equipment and (ii) to obtain help with installation in preparation for the switch to digital television in each year up to 2012; and if she will make a statement. [79573]

Mr. Woodward: The costs of the digital switchover assistance scheme are being assessed as part of work to determine the licence fee settlement for the new Charter period. This work will draw upon a variety of sources including outputs from the Bolton Digital television trial which considered the needs of the elderly and disabled groups who will be entitled to help from the assistance scheme.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to ensure that the small slave transmitter on ordinance survey reference SX802596, at the junction with the Ashprington turn-off at Totnes Hill, will be converted from analogue to digital transmission; and if she will make a statement. [77517]

Mr. Woodward: I understand that there is no record of a transmitter sited at OS reference SX802596, either for television transmission or telecommunications. However the Totnes television relay transmitter is situated at reference SX805594, which is very close to the above location.

During switchover, which takes place in the Westcountry region in 2009, all transmitters (including the Totnes relay) will be converted for digital transmission. After switchover, UK digital terrestrial television coverage will match the current analogue coverage of 98.5 per cent.

Library Facilities

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding the Government are providing for the improvement of library facilities. [79185]

Mr. Lammy: Government funding for public libraries is paid, un-ringfenced, as part of the Local Government Financial Settlement administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

It is for the 149 library authorities in England to decide upon the level of funding required to sustain and improve their services bearing in mind their statutory responsibility to make comprehensive and efficient provision.

The public library statistics published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy show that library authorities made net expenditure (excluding capital charges) of £817,216,604 in 2004-05 (the latest figure available). The comparable figure for the previous year was £781,990,546.

Additional examples of funding for improved public libraries from within my Department's portfolio are the £120 million of National Lottery support for the People's Network, around £130 million of DCMS Private Finance Initiative Credits for library or part library projects, and the ongoing DCMS funding of £2 million per annum for the Framework for the Future Action Plan programme. I also look forward to the Big Lottery Fund's £80 million community library funding programme which will be launched later this year.

My Department is also responsible for sponsorship of the British Library, the UK's national library. Grant in aid funding to the British Library over the 2004 Spending Review period is as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	
Estimated outturn	96.3
2006-07	
Planned	102.2
2007-08	
Planned	104.4

Source:
DCMS Annual Report 2006

London Olympics

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what committees have been established within the *(a)* Cabinet, *(b)* London Organising Committee for the Olympic games and *(c)* Olympic delivery authority to examine the legacy for (i) the site of the London 2012 games and (ii) the International Olympic Committee. [79566]

Mr. Caborn: The legacy of the Olympic games, including its wider economic, social, health and environmental legacy, is included in the remit of MISC 25 (the Cabinet Committee on the Olympic games) and in that of the Olympic Board (comprising the Government; the Greater London authority; the London Organising Committee for the Olympic games; and the British Olympic Association; with the Olympic delivery authority attending as observers).

Museums (Public Funding)

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public funding is available from the Government for the improvement and modernisation of museums. [79186]

Mr. Lammy: DCMS annual funding for museums in 2005-06 was £444,828,000. This was made up of two streams: £414,828,000 was provided to national museums and £30 million to the Renaissance in the Regions programme.

In addition, the Department provides funding to the DCMS/Wolfson Fund for Museums and Galleries and the Designated Challenge Fund. Both have two year funding rounds and between 2004-06 the DCMS provided £2 million to DCMS/Wolfson Fund and £3,799,991 to the Designated Challenge Fund. The Subject Specialist Networks received £248,000 for 2004-05.

Museum and Gallery statistics published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance show local authority museums, through the Local Government Financial Settlement, had a net expenditure of £177,250,000 in 2005-06.

However, the majority of this museum funding is not ring fenced for specific improvement work. Although DCMS is encouraging museums to improve their services across the board, it is for the museum itself to decide what funding is needed to sustain ongoing services and what can be spent on special improvement and modernisation.

New Opportunities Fund

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to her answer of 30 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 59W, on the New Opportunities Fund, if she will update the information on the number of *(a)* awards and *(b)* payments made from the New Opportunities Fund for physical education and sport since 2004-05. [79703]

Mr. Caborn: The table shows awards and payments made by the New Opportunities Fund for physical education and sport since 2004-05. These figures do not include awards for all activities for young people and other grants which have funded sport indirectly.

	Awards made (£)	*Payment made (£)*
2005-06	114,710,314	253,055,683
Year to date	1,974,080	63,906,755

The Public

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what Caroline Felton's remit was in carrying out her recent study of The Public arts organisation in West Bromwich on behalf of Arts Council England; and what conclusions her report came to. [79234]

Mr. Lammy: Caroline Felton was commissioned by Arts Council England to produce a stocktake report on The Public in January 2006. She was asked to make recommendations about a range of issues relating to the organisation's current situation and its future challenges. The report's recommendations covered changes to the management team and other key personnel.

DEFENCE

Defence Establishment Closures (Support)

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on financial support for *(a)* economic development, *(b)* training and *(c)* environmental improvements in an area in which a defence establishment has been (i) closed and (ii) mothballed; and if he will make a statement. [79461]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence keeps its estate under constant review to meet present and planned future requirements, with a view to disposing of surplus assets as quickly as possible. Pending a final decision and subsequent disposal action, any redundant sites will normally be closed and/or mothballed to reduce unnecessary expenditure. The need for financial support to assist the disposal of a site is considered on a case by case basis, usually to maintain the property to an appropriate standard to meet environmental and health and safety requirements, consistent with the most likely disposal strategy. Limited opportunities may also exist for temporary commercial or military training uses while in disposal.

Other Departments provide direct financial support for economic development regionally or to communities. However, the closure of defence establishments can often provide new opportunities for civilian re-use and development. It is therefore the usual practice of the Ministry of Defence to work closely with the local authority and other stakeholders—amongst others English Partnerships, Regional Development Agencies, and in Scotland the Scottish Executive, the Enterprise bodies and the Welsh Assembly in Wales—to consider the most appropriate future use.

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much financial assistance his Department gave to the Cowal area after the closure of the US Navy base at the Holy Loch for *(a)* economic development, *(b)* training, *(c)* environmental improvements and *(d)* other purposes. [79494]

Mr. Watson: Holy Loch closed over a decade ago and a substantive answer will take a little time to research from archive. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Merlin Helicopters

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the trials which will allow RAF Merlin helicopters to land on naval ships are expected to be complete. [77608]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* Trials are being carried out into the feasibility of extending the operating capability of the RN Merlin Mk1 helicopters from Carrier Vertical Striker (CVS) platforms (HM Ships Illustrious and Ark Royal). Information from these trials will also be used to assess the feasibility of operating RAF Merlin helicopters from naval platforms.

There is no fixed completion date for these trials.

RG31

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what evaluation his Department has made of the RG31 vehicle; and what assessment has been made of the possible advantages of this vehicle compared with the Snatch armoured Land Rover. [78216]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1528W, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth). Compared to Snatch, the RG31's size means it cannot access areas of the urban environment that Snatch is able to.

Search and Rescue Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 46WH, on MOD search and rescue services, whether the alternative military unit will be based at RNAS Culdrose; whether his statement that the squadron needs to remain at Culdrose referred to the *(a)* 771, *(b)* all squadrons presently based there and *(c)* the future search and rescue squadron; and what his plans are for the 771 Squadron. [77476]

Mr. Ingram: The statement of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 146WH, on MOD Search and Rescue Services, referred only to the future of the roles currently carried out by 771 Squadron RNAS Culdrose and can be further clarified as follows. The Search and Rescue role will be part of the joint MOD and Maritime and Coastguard Agency future UK helicopter Search and Rescue Capability. The use of Culdrose itself as a future Search and Rescue base will be fully assessed taking into account all relevant factors. The best means for ensuring the continuation of the separate Maritime Counter Terrorism role will be fully assessed in due course and the future basing of this role will be part of that assessment.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the percentage of people in Burma living in poverty. [77799]

Mr. Thomas: Reliable data about poverty in Burma are scarce, but Burma is one of the poorest countries in Asia, comparable to Cambodia and Laos on available measures and is almost certainly not on track to achieve any of the Millennium Development Goals. A household survey from 1997 found that 23 per cent. of people (11.2 million) had an income below subsistence level. The percentage of poor people earning less than $1 US a day is likely to be significantly higher than this. The same Government survey found that 70 per cent. of household expenditure was on food, an indicator of the vulnerability of poor people in Burma. There is widespread malnutrition, with one in three children aged 5 being moderately to severely malnourished. In 2001, 109 of every 1,000 children died before they reached the age of 5, double the East Asia and Pacific regional average. Maternal mortality is among the highest in the region. Only 40 per cent. of children complete five years of primary education.

Social sector spending in Burma fell steadily during the 1990s and the authorities now spend less than $1 per person each year on basic health care and education combined. This is one of the lowest levels of public investment in the world. Public sector salaries are a long way below a living wage and teachers, doctors and other public servants are forced to either supplement their income through unofficial charges or undertake additional income earning activities. Most poor people rely on informal, private healthcare providers, often receiving poor quality or ineffective treatment as a result. Although education has traditionally been highly valued in Burma, its quality is being undermined by under-investment in the crumbling public education system. HIV/AIDS is a major public health risk in Burma. Burma is one of three countries in Asia with a generalised HIV/AIDS epidemic: 420,000 people are estimated to be infected with the virus and prevalence continues to rise. Prevalence in pregnant women exceeds 2 per cent. indicating that the epidemic has spread from high-risk groups into the general population.

Many of the poorest and most vulnerable people live in the border areas and ethnic nationalities are among the poorest and most socially excluded people in Burma but there is considerable poverty throughout the country, in both rural and urban areas.

China

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the amount of aid China distributes in relation to the size of its gross domestic product; and what discussions he has held with the Chinese authorities of its joint aid programmes. [79427]

Hilary Benn: There are no Government figures available for China's official development assistance. DFID has established close contact with the Department for Aid to Foreign Countries within the Ministry of Commerce. This Department leads on China's aid programme. Along with the United Nations Development Programme, we have made it clear that DFID would be prepared to provide assistance and advice should China decide to establish a formal aid agency. We have not yet had a response from the Chinese Government. Our main discussions with China on international development issues have focused on its growing role in Africa. These discussions cover not only aid, but also trade and investment. There is a possibility that a joint UK/China aid project will be implemented in Ghana.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of his Department's budget was spent on disaster risk reduction in each region in each of the last three financial years; what percentage is planned to be spent in each region in the next three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [79276]

Hilary Benn: Much of DFID's support for disaster risk reduction (DRR) is integrated into wider development programmes so we do not have specific data detailing the percentage of DFID's budget spent on DRR.

In my speech on humanitarian reform in December 2004, I committed DFID to giving higher priority to DRR. DFID is providing significant bilateral assistance for DRR programmes in countries susceptible to disasters. For example, we are providing over £60 million to support disaster preparedness in Orissa, India, and we are supporting the Government of Bangladesh's Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme. We have committed to allocating 10 per cent. of the value of our humanitarian response to each major natural disaster to prepare for and mitigate the impact of future disasters, where this can be done effectively. Under this policy, DFID has committed £7.5 million in the tsunami-affected region.

DFID is also increasing funding to the international DRR system. We have provided £3 million to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and have recently agreed a £4 million programme with the World Bank on mainstreaming DRR into the Poverty Reduction Strategies of several disaster-prone countries. In 2005, we committed £15 million to support the community level DRR work of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and several international non-governmental organisations in Africa and Asia.

International Development Committee

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what International Development Committee recommendations his Department has *(a)* accepted and *(b)* implemented since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [77508]

Hilary Benn: DFID does not keep a central record of all those recommendations by the International Development Committee which it has accepted or implemented and to obtain this information would incur a disproportionate cost. However, copies of DFID's responses to IDC reports are available in the Libraries of the House and in these responses, the Government make clear whether they accept the Committee's recommendations.

Kashmir

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures he is taking to avoid deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Kashmir as a result of withdrawal of funding to non-governmental organisations. [76735]

Hilary Benn: DFID funding for NGOs, the United Nations and the Red Cross Movement was not withdrawn, but ended after the disbursement of £54.3 million for humanitarian relief. Immediate relief needs have largely been met and the longer-term recovery and reconstruction phase, which we are supporting through our office in Islamabad, began at the end of March 2006.

The Government of Pakistan are making contingency plans for the coming monsoon season and winter period. We have been reassured by the Government of Pakistan that they will keep transport lines open and use all civil and military means to cope with any problems. We are monitoring the situation closely.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what plans he has for legislation in the next Session of Parliament; and if he will make a statement; [77507]

(2) which Government Bills sponsored by his Department are still to be introduced during the current Session; and when, and into which House, each will be introduced. [77506]

Hilary Benn: I refer the hon. Member to the response given by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1432W.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Aerospace

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to *(a)* maintain and *(b)* maximise the UK's capability within the aerospace sector. [78625]

Margaret Hodge: The Government are working in partnership with the aerospace industry on implementing the agenda set by the industry-led Aerospace Innovation and Growth Team report in 2003. This established a vision for the future success of the industry that by 2022,

"The UK will offer a global Aerospace Industry the world's most innovative and productive location, leading to sustainable growth for all its stakeholders".

The key areas of implementation work are technology, process excellence, skills, and environmental issues. This work is overseen by the Aerospace Innovation and Growth Leadership Council, which I chair jointly with Mike Turner, CEO of BAE Systems.

In regard to the defence air sector, the Government's Defence Industrial Strategy published in December 2005 provided clarity to industry on our military capability requirements, and set out a requirement to work with companies to ensure a sustainable long-term industrial base.

Co-firing Activity

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) if he will ensure that energy crops continue to be a mandatory component of co-firing activity from April 2009. [79541]

(2) if he will re-instate the co-firing cap to the 25 per cent. level that was in place prior to 1 April. [79543]

Malcolm Wicks: Co-firing is being reviewed as part of the ongoing Energy Review. All options are open for consideration at this stage and no decisions have yet been made. We anticipate that we will make an announcement on co-firing as part of the Energy Review announcement later in the summer.

Any changes to the co-firing rules would require full statutory consultation.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many of his staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77263]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Staff in the Department of Trade and Industry as of 1 January 2006:

(a) under 55 years: 3,107

(b) over 55 years: 569.

Flag Flying

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will ensure that the Union flag is flown from his Department's buildings on every day the offices are open. [77741]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Trade and Industry follows the rules and guidance on flag flying issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). These rules are approved by the Queen on advice from DCMS. There are no plans at present to change the number of days flags can be flown from Government buildings.

Funding (London)

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which organisations in each London *(a)* borough and *(b)* constituency are receiving funding from (i) his Department and (ii) the London Development Agency in 2006-07; and what total amount of funding is being made available in each case. [77660]

Margaret Hodge: Figures are not yet available about the organisations which will receive funding from the Department of Trade and Industry in 2006-07, broken down by London borough or constituency. According to the latest figures available, DTI spent £559 million in London in 2004-05, mainly on enterprise, economic development, and science and technology. Further details can be found in "Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2006" published by the Treasury in May 2006.

The London Development Agency, a functional body of the Mayor of London which receives a block grant from DTI, is responsible for promoting economic development in London. The following table provides a breakdown of the LDA's expected expenditure by London borough in 2006-07. Data on the organisations receiving this funding are not available.

Borough	*2006-07 Forecast (£ million)*
Barking and Dagenham	6.3
Barnet	0.4
Bexley	1.9
Brent	15.9
Bromley	0.2
Camden	4.9
City of London	1.1
Croydon	0.9
Ealing	2.7
Enfield	1.2
Greenwich	5.3
Hackney	56.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	3.1
Haringey	5.6
Harrow	0.6
Havering	4.2
Hillingdon	1.1
Hounslow	1.2
Islington	1.8
Kensington and Chelsea	0.4
Kingston upon Thames	0.5
Lambeth	2.9
Lewisham	8.8
Merton	0.5
Newham	61.6
Redbridge	0.5
Richmond upon Thames	0.5
Southwark	5.6
Sutton	0.5
Tower Hamlets	61.9
Waltham Forest	48.3
Wandsworth	2.1
Westminster	1.9
Total	310.5

Gas and Electricity

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the importance of ensuring there is sufficient peak gas capability in the UK. [78519]

Malcolm Wicks: The Joint Energy Security of Supply Working Group (JESS) under joint-chairmanship of the DTI and Ofgem routinely assesses the security of energy supply in the UK. The sixth JESS report, published in April 2006, shows the assessment of winter supply capability against average and peak winter demand. This report can be found at http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file28800.pdf?pubpdfdload=06%2F331. It is clearly very important to national well-being that there is sufficient gas to meet daily demand.

Green Tariffs

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the take-up is of green tariffs to domestic electricity customers; and if he will make a statement. [79242]

Malcolm Wicks: Figures from the National Consumer Council suggest that of the order of 200,000 households are currently on green electricity tariffs.

Marketing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has made an assessment of the effectiveness of industry marketing standards; and if he will make a statement. [78087]

Margaret Hodge: The DTI has made no such assessment.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will meet the Chartered Institute of Marketing to discuss forthcoming legislation which will affect the marketing sector; and if he will make a statement. [78086]

Margaret Hodge: If the Chartered Institute of Marketing writes to me setting out what issues in relation to what legislation they would like to discuss, I will consider the matter.

Post Office Closures

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices were closed in *(a)* Nottingham, South and *(b)* the East Midlands in 2005-06. [79223]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The question the hon. Member has asked relates to operational matters for which Post Office Ltd. is directly responsible.

There have been no closures of Post Office branches in 2005-06 in Nottingham, South. There has been a net reduction of 20 branches over the year 2005-06 in the region of the East Midlands.

Information relating to post office branches for each parliamentary constituency is placed in the Libraries of the House on an annual basis.

Promotion Boards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what promotion boards have been held in his Department in each of the last five years. [72902]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Trade and Industry no longer runs promotion boards for posts below the senior civil service. These posts are advertised on a job specific basis through our weekly vacancy bulletin.

The selection process for promotion to the senior civil service is normally run annually. Four have been held in the last five years.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* solar hot water systems, *(b)* solar photovoltaics and *(c)* wind power systems were installed in the United Kingdom in 2005; and if he will make a statement. [78943]

Malcolm Wicks: Full details of renewable energy generation for 2005 will be published in the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2006 on 27 July 2006. A copy of which will be available from the Libraries of the House.

We do not have definitive figures for solar water heating; however in the "Microgeneration Strategy and Low Carbon Buildings Programme" consultation document, issued by the Department in June 2005, we estimated that the total number of existing installed domestic systems in the UK at over 70,000 with about 5,000 new domestic systems installed each year.

The latest confirmed figures that we have from DUKES 2005 show installed capacity of 8.2 MW for solar photovoltaics and 933.2 MW for wind power: 123.8 MW offshore and 809.4 MW onshore.

According to the British Wind Energy Association the current installed capacity for wind is 1,694.56 MW: 1,480.76 MW onshore and 213.80 MW offshore.

Small Business Service

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the budget of the Government's Small Business Service was in each financial year since its establishment; how many staff it employs; how many offices it *(a)* owns and *(b)* rents; what the annual rent paid on rented properties was in each year; and to which Minister in the Department the Small Business Service reports. [78164]

Margaret Hodge: The chief executive of the Small Business Service reports, through the Minister of State for Industry and the Regions, to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The information requested is detailed as follows:

	Budget (£ million)				
	Programme	Administration	Staff numbers[1]	Offices owned and rented (on a notional basis)	Notional annual rent paid[3] (£ million)
2000-01	244	10	203	[4]3	1.04
2001-02	268	13	326	[4]5	0.74
2002-03	336	18	440	[4]3	1.66
2003-04	378	19	427	[4]3	1.45
2004-05	386	18	355	[4]2	1.35
2005-06	216	13	240	[4]3	1.49

[1] Staff numbers are those employed on SBS work, including agency staff, inward secondees and regional based staff.
[2] The SBS does not own any properties.
[3] The DTI are the legal tenants of the properties housing the SBS and the SBS shows these figures in its annual accounts on a notional charge.
[4] Rented.
Source:
SBS Annual Reports and accounts, with the 2005-06 figures being on a provisional basis.

Supply-Demand Balance

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether his Department has assessed the possibility of measuring supply-demand balance in millions of cubic metres per day. [78520]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department generally assesses supply and demand in terms of the energy content of gas (GWh), as this is what is important for ensuring that supply and demand are balanced. However, an analysis of the projected supplies and demand in million cubic metres per day for winters up to 2024-25 can be found in the sixth report of the Joint Energy Security of Supply Working Group (JESS) (http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file28800.pdf?pubpdfdload=06%F331). For information concerning the forthcoming winter, an analysis of the supply-demand balance in millions of cubic metres can be found in National Grid's Winter Outlook consultation document, available at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/temp/ofgem/cache/cmsattach/15058_8406b.pdf

In addition, daily assessments of supply and demand, displayed in millions of cubic metres per day, can be found on the National Grid website at:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/Data/DSR

Sustainability and Carbon Impact Accreditation Scheme

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will support a sustainability and carbon impact accreditation scheme for all biomass consumed in the UK. [79540]

Malcolm Wicks: This is a complex area, given the vast array of potential biomass sources and the different end uses. The right balance has to be struck in terms of supporting environmentally beneficial energy generation while avoiding over-regulation in what is still a relatively embryonic industry.

The Government are interested in such accreditation schemes where they could be practical Currently we are looking at these as part of the co-firing review and the development of the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation [RTFO]. The RTFO will place a mandatory reporting requirement on companies supplying biofuels from day one of the obligation to report in detail on the carbon savings of the biofuels supplied, as well as the impact on sustainability.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pension Credit

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough receive pension credit. [79156]

James Purnell: As at February 2006, the number of pension credit individual beneficiaries for *(a)* Lewisham Deptford constituency was 3,900 and *(b)* Lewisham borough local authority area was 11,940.

Notes:

1. These figures are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figures provided are the latest available figures which are taken from the GMS scan at 17 February 2006. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure. Average amounts are displayed as at the scan reference data of 17 February 2006.

2. Numbers of individual beneficiaries are rounded to the nearest ten.

3. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

4. The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners and may include partners aged less than 60.

Source: DWP: 100 per cent data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS). Pension credit scan taken as at 17 February 2006.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in each electoral ward in Beverley and Holderness receive pension credit; and if he will make a statement. [78995]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table:

Pension credit individual beneficiaries for wards in Beverley and Holderness parliamentary constituency, November 2005

Ward name	*Individual beneficiaries*[1]
Beverley Rural	445
Cottingham North[2]	345
East Wolds and Coastal[2]	865
Mid Holderness	700
Minster and Woodmansey	845
North Holderness	830
St. Mary's	700
South East Holderness	1,420
South West Holderness	765
Beverley and Holderness constituency total	5,700

[1] The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.
[2] Only part of Cottingham North and East Wolds and Coastal wards are in Beverley and Holderness Parliamentary Constituency
Notes:
1. Numbers of individual beneficiaries are rounded to a multiple of five.
2. Because of '1' and '2' wards will not always sum to constituency totals.
3. Wards are based on 2003 ward boundaries.
Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100 per cent. data.

Compulsory Work-focused Interviews

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people starting on incapacity benefits in Liverpool and Wirral attended an initial work-focused interview since it became compulsory. [77087]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available.

The pathways to work regime only commenced on 24 April in the Liverpool and Wirral district. The first work-focused interviews do not take place until at least week eight, namely the end of June 2006. Early work-focused interviews data are only available three months after the first interviews. It will therefore be September/October before any are available for the Liverpool and Wirral district.

Employment (Rotherham)

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action his Department is taking to increase the number of people in work aged 50 years and over in Rotherham. [76873]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Like all other customers, people aged 50 and over can benefit from the range of services provided by Jobcentre Plus, including access to jobs and help and support to find work.

Additional help is provided to older people who do not find work quickly. New deal 50-plus is a voluntary programme that provides people with advice and guidance from personal advisers, and access to in-work financial help through the 50-plus element of the working tax credit. Since April 2000, the programme has been successful in helping more than 150,000 older workers into employment, including 280 people in Rotherham. Once in work, new deal 50-plus customers can claim a training grant of up to £1,500 for training of which up to £300 can be used for life-long learning.

People aged 50 and over, including those in Rotherham, are also eligible for help from new deal 25-plus. People who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for 18 months and who have not previously participated on new deal 25-plus, are already required to attend the gateway stage of the new deal 25-plus programme. This is a period of up to four months of intensive job search and specialist help and support to improve job prospects. This is followed by the intensive activity period (IAP) which is currently voluntary for people aged 50 and over. The IAP provides further support and pre-work training to help people return to work.

Since April 2004, we have been piloting mandatory participation in the new deal 25-plus IAP for people aged 50-59 who have been claiming JSA for 18 months. The pilot has offered people in this age group more extensive help back to work. Rotherham was not part of the pilot, however. Interim pilot data have yielded positive results and, as announced in our Welfare Reform Green Paper, we will be commencing a phased national rollout.

Between 1979 and the mid 1990s, the number of people on incapacity benefits trebled. Growth in the caseload has since slowed significantly, and in November 2005, there were 2.71 million people claiming incapacity benefits, a fall of 61,000 over the year. Although 46 per cent. of those claiming incapacity benefits are aged between 50 and state pension age, between 2000 and 2005 the number of people in the 50-plus age group fell by 52,000. This has contributed to the overall reduction in the incapacity benefits caseload.

Like other age groups, people aged 50 and over will be able to benefit from the rollout of the successful pathways to work service across the whole country which will be completed by 2008. Pathways offers new IB customers early support from skilled personal advisers and direct access to a 'Choices Package' of employment programmes and clear financial incentives to make work pay. Any IB customer will be able to access the support and help available on a voluntary basis. Pathways has already begun helping people in the Rotherham area, having rolled out there in April.

Our age positive campaign works with employers and others to promote the business benefits of an age diverse workforce and best practice on age in recruitment, training and promotion. In May 2005 we launched the 'Be Ready' national information campaign to raise employer awareness of, and ability to adopt, flexible employment and retirement opportunities to support the recruitment and retention of older workers in advance of age legislation due in October 2006.

Health and Safety

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many health and safety at work stability duties are defined in legislation as *(a)* absolute

and *(b)* qualified as duties reduced to what is (i) reasonably practicable, (ii) practicable, (iii) reasonable, (iv) appropriate, (v) suitable and (vi) adequate. [76598]

Mrs. McGuire: The key duties in the Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974, to protect people from harm, are qualified by the term "reasonably practicable". However in Regulations made under the Act there are a number of specific duties that are absolute and others that are qualified by terms including "reasonable" and "practicable". Guidance is used to explain what is needed in practice. In terms of the specific number of times each term is used to qualify a duty in the various statutory provisions, this information is not held and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Human Resource Functions

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the development of human resource functions within Departmental activities. [76521]

Mrs. McGuire: When the new Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was formed in 2002, the Human Resources (HR) function inherited different sets of legacy HR policies and terms and conditions; paper driven systems: HR Service Centres dominated by low value added data input; Business HR teams preoccupied with detailed transactional based advice; and Corporate HR focussed on developing and maintaining detailed and over-prescriptive HR guidance.

Working with colleagues from the DWP Businesses, the HR Senior Management Team designed a new HR Operating Model based on best practice in both the private and public sectors. The HR function now has in place a set of HR job roles common across the Department, delivering a uniform HR service.

This new HR Operating Model places the emphasis on self service for employees and line managers, with on-line access to HR processes through the new Resource Management IT system which will be fully implemented in 2007. This is supported by a telephone based advice and guidance service provided by integrated HR and Finance shared service centres, and accessed through a single telephone number.

The new Operating Model for HR in DWP has already allowed for a reduction in HR staff numbers from 5,500 to 3,000, and by March 2008 that number will be reduced by a further 500. This has freed up resources for front line work with our clients.

Business HR teams focus on working strategically with operational managers on the HR issues affecting business performance. Corporate HR has been restructured to form four new Centres of Expertise which have improved and simplified the Department's HR policies, making them easier for line managers to interpret and use.

Jobseeker Assistance

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements are in place to manage the transition of individuals from jobseeker to student status. [76317]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There are no special arrangements in place to help a person make the transition from a jobseeker to student status.

Mesothelioma

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funds are available to pay compensation to people who suffer from mesothelioma due to exposure to asbestos in the workplace when their employers or insurers cannot be traced; and if he will make a statement. [78573]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* People suffering from mesothelioma due to exposure in the workplace can make a claim for Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB), Constant Attendance Allowance (CAA) and Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance (ESDA). From July 2002 people suffering from mesothelioma were exempted from the need to be medically examined by the Department if clear evidence is already available to confirm their condition. Alongside that change regulations were introduced to automatically award IIDB at the 100 per cent. rate. Currently this is £127.10. In addition CAA may also be payable dependant upon the level of the person's care needs. There are four rates of payment ranging from £25.45 to £101.80 a week. Where the two higher rates of CAA are in payment Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance (ESDA) may also be payable at the current weekly rate of £50.90. Where the relevant employer is no longer in business the person may also make a claim under the Pneumoconiosis etc. (Worker's Compensation) 1979 Act scheme where the current average payment is £13,000.

Pensions

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive their pension *(a)* every week in advance, *(b)* every four weeks in arrears and *(c)* every 13 weeks in arrears. [76632]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect of implementation of the Pensions White Paper proposals on achieving the Government's target of raising from 40 to 60 per cent., by 2020, the proportion of a pensioner's income coming from investments rather than taxes. [79614]

James Purnell: The proposals in the White Paper, 'Security in Retirement—Towards a New Pensions System' (Cm 6841) provide the basis for an affordable and sustainable pensions system, which strikes a new balance of responsibility between employers, the State and individuals. As set out on p175 (para C.6) of the White Paper,

> "it is proposed to cease monitoring progress against this PSA target from the start of the 2007 CSR period, and to investigate a more appropriate target regime".

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many working days were lost to his Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated total cost to the Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [76891]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The information is contained in the following tables. The source of the figures is the Cabinet Office's annual reports on sickness absence in the Civil Service. Information for 2005 is not yet available.

Absenteeism has been taken to mean absences due to sickness absence.

The Department for Work and Pensions was created in July 2001, but it was not until 2003 that the systems for recording the relevant data were combined. The figures prior to 2003 therefore reflect the position in the Employment Service and Department for Social Security (and its agencies). The tables do not contain information about the Disability and Carers Agency because it did not exist as an executive agency prior to 2005.

Table 1: Average working days lost per staff year through sickness

Organisation	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Appeals Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Child Support Agency	11.9	11.1	12.1	11.1	11.0	11.6	13.8	11.6
Employment Service	—	—	11.5	11.8	12.8	13.5	—	—
Jobcentre Plus	[1]12.5	[1]11.1	[1]11.0	[1]11.1	[1]10.6	[1]10.8	12.0	9.8
The Pension Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.5	9.5
DWP Overall	[2]12.2	[2]10.8	[2]10.9	[2]11.0	[illegible]1	10.8	11.6	9.6
DWP Staffing Numbers	[2]91,499	[2]97,089	[2]90,170	[2]88,696	127,260	133,908	133,867	131,741

[1] Benefits Agency.
[2] DSS only.

Table 2: Estimated total cost of sickness absence in £ million

Organisation	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Appeals Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Child Support Agency	6.2	6.1	7.1	7.4	8.3	9.7	12.2	10.6
Employment Service	—	—	27.4	29.3	33.9	37.4	—	—
Jobcentre Plus	[1]58.8	[1]56.8	[1]57.1	[1]57.6	[1]53.1	[1]52.5	78.9	67.5
The Pension Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	15.4	13.6
DWP overall	[2]75.2	[2]72.1	[2]67.9	[2]68.7	102.9	109.1	122.6	106.2
DWP staffing numbers	[2]91,499	[2]97,089	[2]90,170	[2]88,696	127,260	133,908	133,867	131,741

[1] Benefits Agency.
[2] DSS only.

PRIME MINISTER

Muslim Community (Government Policy)

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister which Government Department is responsible for tackling *(a)* extremism and *(b)* racial hatred in communities. [78268]

Harry Cohen: To ask the Prime Minister which Government Ministers have responsibility for an aspect of policy on the Muslim community; what the aspect of policy is in each case; who has a co-ordinating role; and if he will make a statement. [79489]

The Prime Minister: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Ruth Kelly) has lead responsibility for these issues, working closely with my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary (John Reid) and a number of other Ministers.

Natural Gas Sales (Israel)

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on his recent discussions with the Israeli Prime Minister on the sale of natural gas to Israel. [79446]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with Prime Minister Olmert during his recent visit. The sale of natural gas to Israel was not raised during our discussions.

I also refer the hon. Member to the press conference I held with Prime Minister Olmert on 13 June. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in her Department's press office. [74365]

Bridget Prentice: 13 staff are employed in the DCA press office.

In accordance with civil service policy, information concerning the ethnic origin (or disability status) of individuals may not be disclosed where the number of staff in a particular category is less than five. This is to ensure that individuals cannot be identified.

Court Fines

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much was collected in fines in each magistrates court area in England and Wales in each year since 1997; how much and what percentage was not collected; and if she will make a statement. [78833]

Ms Harman: In response to how much was collected in fines in each magistrates court area in England and Wales, how much and what percentage was not collected, please see the following summary table. It is not possible to supply data before the financial year 1999-2000.

Enforcement of penalties—amount imposed, amount paid and payment rates in financial years 1999-2000 to 2001-02

	Financial year 1999-2000			*Financial year 2000-01*		
	Amount imposed (£)	*Amount paid (£)*	*Payment rate indicator (%)*	*Amount imposed (£)*	*Amount paid (£)*	*Payment rate indicator (%)*
Avon and Somerset	21,234,453	8,731,309	41	8,256,037	5,118,519	62
Bedfordshire	6,237,890	3,431,592	55	4,762,726	2,625,514	55
Cambridgeshire	5,500,017	3,473,988	63	6,118,702	3,155,888	52
Cheshire	5,981,812	4,388,875	73	6,420,224	4,313,584	67
Cleveland	3,197,606	2,665,031	83	3,380,616	2,319,844	69
Cumbria	3,967,216	3,156,013	80	4,185,093	3,188,304	76
Derbyshire	7,935,635	4,985,939	63	7,020,849	4,675,106	67
Devon and Cornwall	7,180,005	4,974,813	69	7,279,584	5,290,410	73
Dorset	3,558,750	2,530,147	71	3,592,052	2,675,217	74
Durham	4,474,739	3,036,341	68	5,310,342	3,542,709	67
Dyfed Powys	3,880,391	3,707,494	96	3,041,018	3,053,108	100
Essex	9,718,017	7,703,981	79	9,632,053	7,349,376	76
Gloucestershire	3,760,810	2,539,166	68	3,287,009	1,961,654	60
Greater Manchester	25,484,149	13,761,052	54	24,215,936	14,562,131	60
Gwent	5,064,062	3,486,064	69	4,269,866	2,865,115	67
Hampshire and IoW	11,707,087	9,267,215	79	10,245,223	6,858,802	67
Hertfordshire	6,561,714	4,964,653	76	6,103,980	4,558,579	75
Humberside	5,214,617	3,716,800	71	6,597,406	4,293,588	65
Kent	12,056,575	6,016,680	50	9,697,386	5,915,759	61
Lancashire	13,602,372	9,379,132	69	12,690,739	8,193,617	65
Leicestershire	6,110,729	4,473,995	73	7,492,423	4,723,608	63
Lincolnshire	4,235,761	2,790,950	66	3,056,365	2,972,011	97
London	94,967,927	46,421,680	49	76,577,889	39,432,244	51
Merseyside	11,840,748	6,103,342	52	11,833,950	5,538,307	47
Norfolk	4,805,503	3,356,849	70	4,264,754	2,942,701	69
North Wales	4,597,264	2,520,358	55	5,267,895	2,683,157	51
North Yorkshire	4,543,781	3,590,521	79	4,066,104	3,338,156	82
Northamptonshire	5,438,515	3,188,007	59	4,910,690	3,060,016	62
Northumbria	8,159,506	5,284,590	65	9,550,385	5,846,038	61
Nottinghamshire	6,262,892	4,984,975	80	6,770,234	4,726,266	70
South Wales	10,834,839	6,363,479	59	10,037,578	5,633,387	56
South Yorkshire	8,490,089	5,532,959	65	8,405,414	6,095,843	73
Staffordshire	6,960,328	5,938,204	85	6,590,544	5,961,893	90
Suffolk	3,998,615	2,888,133	72	3,894,154	3,009,437	77
Surrey	5,103,426	3,791,834	74	5,928,060	3,446,024	58
Sussex	6,004,383	5,611,954	93	7,323,641	4,648,440	63
Thames Valley	14,545,047	9,140,923	63	11,159,793	6,953,327	62
Warwickshire	3,222,646	2,357,257	73	3,334,594	2,379,783	71
West Mercia	7,770,822	6,944,215	89	6,914,544	4,296,436	62
West Midlands	24,265,354	14,149,512	58	20,861,358	13,248,381	64
West Yorkshire	18,619,468	12,672,455	68	17,135,576	12,129,269	71
Wiltshire	4,015,688	3,304,395	82	3,475,273	2,874,453	83
England and Wales	431,111,249	267,326,873	62	384,958,059	242,455,701	63

	Financial year 2001-02		
	Amount imposed (£)	*Amount paid (£)*	*Payment rate indicator (%)*
Avon and Somerset	11,561,805	6,246,094	54
Bedfordshire	3,703,885	2,161,944	58
Cambridgeshire	8,718,787	3,109,064	36
Cheshire	6,705,822	3,871,051	58

	Financial year 2001-02		
	Amount imposed (£)	Amount paid (£)	Payment rate indicator (%)
Cleveland	3,390,968	1,848,077	54
Cumbria	3,702,431	2,816,019	76
Derbyshire	7,729,698	4,455,819	58
Devon and Cornwall	7,327,435	5,108,433	70
Dorset	3,109,299	2,763,146	89
Durham	4,076,050	3,042,981	75
Dyfed Powys	2,268,413	1,654,410	73
Essex	10,596,342	7,899,540	75
Gloucestershire	4,252,548	1,836,517	43
Greater Manchester	22,462,326	13,788,906	61
Gwent	3,929,781	2,581,787	66
Hampshire and IoW	9,315,278	6,380,475	68
Hertfordshire	6,742,273	3,967,928	59
Humberside	5,811,334	4,136,913	71
Kent	9,521,137	6,064,552	64
Lancashire	10,671,510	7,210,821	68
Leicestershire	8,372,916	5,205,631	62
Lincolnshire	3,595,711	2,722,850	76
London	77,640,695	35,501,236	46
Merseyside	11,317,472	3,823,093	34
Norfolk	3,912,737	2,897,036	74
North Wales	3,684,078	2,532,550	69
North Yorkshire	3,393,075	2,530,846	75
Northamptonshire	6,624,981	3,417,222	52
Northumbria	8,846,159	5,501,723	62
Nottinghamshire	6,702,188	4,381,751	65
South Wales	10,347,223	4,179,596	40
South Yorkshire	8,276,573	5,453,475	66
Staffordshire	6,261,205	4,553,633	73
Suffolk	3,246,556	2,279,240	70
Surrey	6,097,432	4,814,701	79
Sussex	6,626,799	4,106,942	62
Thames Valley	12,844,660	9,613,757	75
Warwickshire	4,498,636	2,071,893	46
West Mercia	8,708,210	4,175,534	48
West Midlands	22,857,114	13,204,009	58
West Yorkshire	13,168,926	11,262,266	86
Wiltshire	4,400,417	2,948,816	67
England and Wales	387,020,885	228,122,287	59

Enforcement of penalties—amount imposed, amount paid and payment rates in financial years 2002-03 to 2003-04

	Financial year 2002-03			Financial year 2003-04		
	Amount imposed (£)	Amount paid (£)	Payment rate indicator (%)	Amount imposed (£)	Amount paid (£)	Payment rate indicator (%)
Avon and Somerset	8,181,788	5,259,280	64	6,581,541	5,453,950	83
Bedfordshire	3,480,794	2,025,001	58	3,217,745	2,564,347	80
Cambridgeshire	7,212,583	3,238,169	45	3,210,889	3,224,845	100
Cheshire	6,343,975	3,528,927	56	4,779,680	3,920,232	82
Cleveland	4,216,677	1,975,152	47	2,266,883	2,069,593	91
Cumbria	3,731,662	2,775,099	74	3,047,683	2,844,398	93
Derbyshire	8,019,991	4,686,960	58	4,749,175	3,739,272	79
Devon and Cornwall	8,789,409	5,532,765	63	9,873,585	6,704,025	68
Dorset	3,129,353	2,389,428	76	2,643,658	1,903,910	72
Durham	3,810,252	2,824,406	74	2,339,689	2,094,583	90
Dyfed Powys	2,998,274	1,960,800	65	3,365,912	2,724,655	81
Essex	11,051,684	8,218,465	74	7,563,279	7,086,532	94
Gloucestershire	2,810,188	2,354,218	84	1,588,191	1,507,791	95
Greater Manchester	23,784,474	15,219,139	64	17,344,135	11,042,983	64
Gwent	5,112,864	2,928,599	57	3,955,803	3,360,805	85
Hampshire and IoW	9,564,623	7,373,651	77	8,841,482	7,627,649	86

Enforcement of penalties—amount imposed, amount paid and payment rates in financial years 2002-03 to 2003-04

	Financial year 2002-03			Financial year 2003-04		
	Amount imposed (£)	*Amount paid (£)*	*Payment rate indicator (%)*	*Amount imposed (£)*	*Amount paid (£)*	*Payment rate indicator (%)*
Hertfordshire	6,601,848	4,435,570	67	5,727,925	3,863,481	67
Humberside	5,435,985	3,624,952	67	4,718,436	4,516,649	96
Kent	9,434,951	5,730,421	61	8,989,970	6,982,642	78
Lancashire	11,325,845	7,126,465	63	6,711,749	5,795,054	86
Leicestershire	6,860,746	4,714,845	69	5,709,902	3,952,913	69
Lincolnshire	5,112,202	3,022,844	59	3,415,970	2,547,049	75
London	111,347,014	44,495,021	40	47,952,038	31,645,334	66
Merseyside	13,398,088	4,377,442	33	9,329,759	4,779,577	51
Norfolk	3,788,526	2,844,567	75	3,715,257	2,919,610	79
North Wales	5,413,000	2,887,586	53	3,583,071	3,178,919	89
North Yorkshire	3,204,012	2,485,638	78	2,972,852	2,916,891	98
Northamptonshire	5,444,863	3,447,419	63	2,794,817	2,673,425	96
Northumbria	8,823,707	5,231,567	59	6,635,058	5,471,301	82
Nottinghamshire	6,901,699	4,503,754	65	4,967,965	3,587,759	72
South Wales	9,536,317	4,936,250	52	7,182,586	5,425,173	76
South Yorkshire	8,461,741	5,127,542	61	5,161,514	4,167,192	81
Staffordshire	7,974,944	4,533,341	57	5,449,145	4,254,355	78
Suffolk	3,405,285	2,366,200	69	2,971,928	2,367,787	80
Surrey	5,427,711	4,414,523	81	4,088,134	3,042,417	74
Sussex	6,402,558	3,958,078	62	5,457,739	5,450,003	100
Thames Valley	12,245,768	8,450,928	69	11,096,413	7,179,087	65
Warwickshire	3,015,942	2,612,689	87	2,155,676	2,032,448	94
West Mercia	6,807,395	4,845,635	71	5,272,176	4,164,120	79
West Midlands	23,774,188	11,759,135	49	20,876,471	11,163,481	53
West Yorkshire	18,252,877	8,550,736	47	13,134,576	7,571,589	58
Wiltshire	5,228,069	3,546,903	68	3,483,436	3,267,524	94
England and Wales	425,863,872	236,320,110	55	288,923,893	212,785,348	74

Enforcement of penalties—amount imposed, amount paid and payment rates in financial years 2004-05 to 2005-06

	Financial year 2004-05			Financial year 2005-06		
	Amount Imposed (£)	*Amount Paid (£)*	*Payment Rate Indicator (%)*	*Amount Imposed (£)*	*Amount Paid (£)*	*Payment Rate Indicator (%)*
Avon and Somerset	7,948,689	6,878,919	87	7,734,598	6,124,502	79
Bedfordshire	2,744,417	2,139,027	78	2,936,119	2,436,660	83
Cambridgeshire	3,296,208	2,822,289	86	4,153,398	3,687,519	89
Cheshire	5,180,828	4,085,346	79	4,840,719	4,791,401	99
Cleveland	2,516,072	2,171,889	86	2,492,218	2,354,145	94
Cumbria	2,765,714	2,681,329	97	2,858,788	2,840,769	99
Derbyshire	4,648,554	4,209,793	91	4,266,717	4,857,201	114
Devon and Cornwall	4,750,187	5,971,410	126	7,022,756	6,413,226	91
Dorset	3,663,306	2,269,789	62	2,819,801	2,784,217	99
Durham	2,265,054	2,070,258	91	2,341,258	2,379,607	102
Dyfed Powys	2,641,003	2,203,184	83	2,562,871	2,502,131	98
Essex	7,395,885	6,510,902	88	8,242,463	7,280,957	88
Gloucestershire	2,464,600	1,819,717	74	1,918,887	1,823,054	95
Greater Manchester	15,772,168	11,107,944	70	15,251,606	11,610,889	76
Gwent	3,229,927	3,352,438	104	3,474,639	3,286,462	93
Hampshire and IoW	8,431,525	6,700,807	79	7,181,544	6,590,935	92
Hertfordshire	5,420,429	4,175,507	77	9,780,985	8,436,280	86
Humberside	4,778,738	3,753,339	79	5,942,439	4,992,990	84
Kent	6,475,262	6,143,751	95	7,451,502	6,822,687	92
Lancashire	7,114,957	6,013,632	85	7,702,074	6,506,353	84
Leicestershire	3,894,297	3,687,706	95	3,503,719	3,570,300	102
Lincolnshire	3,349,590	2,626,271	78	3,637,855	2,777,762	76
London	51,714,520	35,382,797	68	50,143,637	29,299,253	58
Merseyside	7,128,720	4,696,852	66	5,237,199	4,831,009	92
Norfolk	3,986,969	3,155,673	79	4,403,023	3,942,615	90
North Wales	3,900,312	3,588,761	92	4,124,042	3,630,526	88
North Yorkshire	2,683,969	2,742,599	102	3,317,421	2,892,148	87

Enforcement of penalties—amount imposed, amount paid and payment rates in financial years 2004-05 to 2005-06

	Financial year 2004-05			Financial year 2005-06		
	Amount Imposed (£)	Amount Paid (£)	Payment Rate Indicator (%)	Amount Imposed (£)	Amount Paid (£)	Payment Rate Indicator (%)
Northamptonshire	2,236,940	2,583,595	115	3,040,342	2,267,025	75
Northumbria	6,815,232	5,683,778	83	8,267,441	6,906,915	84
Nottinghamshire	4,726,004	3,852,901	82	4,789,057	4,496,320	94
South Wales	5,951,434	6,504,962	109	5,825,380	6,379,040	110
South Yorkshire	5,618,134	4,848,906	86	6,156,262	5,279,753	86
Staffordshire	5,598,932	4,856,129	87	6,292,688	5,191,547	83
Suffolk	3,559,578	3,644,661	102	3,143,588	3,427,199	109
Surrey	3,778,199	3,317,686	88	4,225,944	3,775,311	89
Sussex	5,688,083	4,657,455	82	6,450,802	4,828,379	75
Thames Valley	11,512,798	7,459,054	65	9,233,047	8,403,329	91
Warwickshire	2,914,110	2,102,697	72	2,136,288	2,268,732	106
West Mercia	5,200,162	4,699,359	90	5,708,057	5,414,604	95
West Midlands	18,352,137	12,313,153	67	15,414,399	12,250,536	79
West Yorkshire	11,450,854	8,896,952	78	11,643,757	10,055,528	86
Wiltshire	3,152,976	3,122,339	99	3,561,699	2,962,505	83
England and Wales	276,717,475	221,505,558	80	281,231,031	233,332,326	83

Courts Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the operation of the Courts Act 2003; and what recent representations she has received about the operation of this Act. [78831]

Ms Harman: The Courts Act 2003 (CA 2003) has implemented the courts-related recommendations contained in Sir Robin Auld's review of the Criminal Courts in England and Wales (published in 2001). I have not received any recent representations concerning the operation of the CA 2003, which I continue to keep under review.

Data Protection

Mr. Steen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many organisations have *(a)* been found guilty of breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 and *(b)* been taken to court since it came into force. [78972]

Vera Baird: Failure to comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act is not in itself a criminal offence. Criminal offences can be committed under section 17 (processing personal data without notification) and section 55 (unlawful obtaining and selling of personal data).

Since the Act came into force the Information Commissioner, who is the independent supervisory authority, has successfully prosecuted individuals and organisations in the criminal courts on 46 different occasions for offences under sections 17 and 55 of the Act. These figures do not include all those who have breached the Act or been served with an enforcement notice for a breach which is not a criminal offence.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many staff in her Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [73006]

Vera Baird: The number of sickness absence days is recorded by the Department; however while it is possible to extract information on absence spells from the data collection system currently in place, to do so would be a lengthy process, the cost of which would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

The Department is committed to managing sickness absence effectively and has actively adopted the recommendations of the recently published "Managing Sickness Absence in the Public Sector". A number of initiatives, including a new managing attendance policy and supporting systems, have been implemented over the last six months. These include awareness sessions and training for individuals and managers, stress and managing attendance toolkits, and targeted support from HR and welfare teams.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many websites there are within her responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79071]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is listed in the following table.

The table includes details and costs of websites.

Numbers [1] and [2] indicate the hosting contract to which the website belongs. The costs of the two contracts are listed in the notes.

Where a site has a declared cost but also comes under the auspices of a wider maintenance contract, the declared

figure relates to costs incurred over and above the maintenance and hosting contract (such as domain name registration or software licence procurement).

Entries with declared cost only do not belong to either hosting contract.

Organisation	*Site address*	*Costs (£) (2005-06)*
Asylum and Immigration Tribunal	www.ait.gov.uk	[1]—
Civil Justice Council	www.civiljusticecouncil.gov.uk	[2]—
Commission for Judicial Appointments	www.cja.gov.uk	[2]—
Community Justice	www.communityjustice.gov.uk	[2]577
Community Legal Service	www.clsdirect.org.uk	505,228
Council on Tribunals	www.council-on-tribunals.gov.uk	[2]—
Criminal Courts Review	www.criminal-courts-review.org.uk	[2]—
Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel	www.cicap.gov.uk	[1]—
Department for Constitutional Affairs	www.dca.gov.uk	[2]—
Employment Appeals Tribunal	www.employmentappeals.gov.uk	[1]—
Employment Tribunal	www.employmenttribunals.gov.uk	[1]—
Family Justice Council	www.family-justice-council.org.uk	[2]—
Finance and Tax Tribunals	www.financeandtaxtribunals.gov.uk	[1]15,962
Gender Recognition Panel	www.grp.gov.uk	[1]4,930
General Commissioners of Income Tax	www.tribunalsservice.gov.uk/gcit	[1]13,930
Her Majesty's Courts Service	www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk	301,980
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Court Administration	www.hmica.gov.uk	[2]2,310
Hutton Inquiry	www.the-hutton-inquiry.org.uk	[2]—
Immigration Services Tribunal	www.immigrationservicestribunal.gov.uk	[1]15,962
Information Tribunal	www.informationtribunal.gov.uk	[1]—
Judicial Studies Board	www.jsboard.co.uk	[2]—
Land Registry	www.landreg.gov.uk	9,977
Lands Tribunal	www.landstribunal.gov.uk	[1]15,962
Law Commission	www.lawcom.gov.uk	[2]—
Legal Services Commission	www.legalservices.gov.uk	37,100
Legal Services Research Centre	www.lsrc.org.uk	118
Legal Services Review	www. legal-services-review.org.uk	[2]—
Mental Health Review Tribunal	www.mhrt.org.uk	[1]—
National Archives	www.nationalarchives.gov.uk	275,000
National Archives other sites: family records, learning curve, a2a, Moving Here, Census	Various	[3]—
Northern Ireland Court Service	www.courtsni.gov.uk	241,504
Office of Legal Services Ombudsman	www.olso.org	3,594
Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner	www.olscc.gov.uk	[2]—
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	www.officialsolicitor.gov.uk	[2]1,563
Pensions Appeal Tribunals	www.pensionsappealtribunals.gov.uk	[1]—
Public Guardianship Office	www.guardianship.gov.uk	[2]—
Social Security and Child Support Appeals	www.appeals-service.gov.uk	[1]—
Social Security and Child Support Commissioners	www.osscsc.gov.uk	[1]17,632
Special Education Needs and Disability Tribunal	www.sendist.gov.uk	[1]—
Transport Tribunal	www.transporttribunal.gov.uk	[1]15,962
Tribunals Review	www.tribunals-review.org.uk	[2]—
Tribunals Service	www.tribunalsservice.gov.uk	[1]—

[1] The sites hosted by Cable and Wireless under contract. The hosting and element of this is £109,764 per annum.
[2] The sites hosted by Cable and Wireless under contract. The hosting element of this is £715,344 per annum.
[3] Complex arrangements with various partners, National Archives contribution assessable only at disproportionate cost.
Note:
Staff costs are not included (unless otherwise stated), and could be provided only at disproportionate cost

DNA Bioscience

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what guidance her Department issues to laboratories which wish to become accredited to provide court-admissible DNA tests; [20036]

(2) what measures are in place to ensure that laboratories not accredited to conduct court-admissible DNA tests do not submit DNA tests in court hearings; [20110]

(3) how many laboratories with accreditation to undertake court-admissible DNA testing have closed down in the last five years; [20111]

(4) how many laboratories have had their applications for licences to undertake court-admissible DNA tests turned down in each of the last four years for which figures are available; and what reasons were

given for turning down their applications in each case; [20120]

(5) whether laboratories accredited to conduct court-admissible DNA testing are permitted to contract DNA tests out to other *(a)* accredited companies and *(b)* other unaccredited companies; [20121]

(6) what consultations were undertaken in the drawing up of the criteria applicable to laboratories applying for a licence to conduct DNA tests for paternity cases; [20122]

(7) what criteria her Department applies to laboratories applying for a licence to conduct court-admissible DNA tests; and when the criteria were most recently updated; [20123]

(8) how many laboratories licensed to undertake court-admissible DNA testing are operating in the UK; and how many laboratories have applications pending to undertake such testing; [20124]

(9) if she will list the laboratories licensed to conduct court-admissible DNA tests; and which *(a)* hold and *(b)* do not hold an International Standards Organisation 17025 Certificate; [20125]

(10) how many visits representatives of the Department made to the laboratories of DNA Diagnostics in Ohio, USA; and how many visits have been made by agencies based in the US on the Department's behalf; [21598]

(11) if she will list the companies accredited by the Department for conducting court-admissible DNA tests which have laboratories outside the UK; [21275]

(12) whether the Department has received representations concerning DNA Bioscience from the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett) during 2005; [21276]

(13) if she will place in the Library a copy of the application for accreditation to conduct court-admissible DNA tests submitted by DNA Bioscience; [21599]

(14) what systems are in place to monitor the financial accounts of companies that have been accredited to conduct court-admissible DNA tests; [21600]

(15) what action will be taken by the Department against companies that supply incorrect information during the accreditation process for conducting court-admissible DNA tests. [21601]

Bridget Prentice: My Department is currently investigating the matters raised in the hon. Member's question, and I will write when I am in a position to do so.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what measures are in place to ensure that laboratories licensed to perform court admissible DNA tests conform to the standards required by the ISO 17025 Certificate. [20883]

Bridget Prentice: My Department is currently investigating the matters raised in the hon. Member's question, and I will write when I am in a position to do so.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) if she will take steps to ascertain the nature and level of the ISO certification of *(a)* DNA Diagnostic and *(b)* DNA Bioscience as providers of services to her Department; [22730]

(2) what representations have been received by the Department on the performance of DNA Bioscience; and if she will make a statement; [22744]

(3) what investigations have been initiated by the Department into DNA Bioscience. [22745]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member for Monmouth to my reply on 24 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 8W. I am still investigating the matters raised in the hon. Member's questions, and I will write when I am in a position to do so.

Substantive answer from Ms Harman to David T.C. Davies:

Parliamentary Questions - Accredited list of paternity testers

You tabled a number of questions relating to the list maintained by the Department for Constitutional Affairs of bodies which may carry out court directed scientific tests for parentage (numbers 20036, 20110, 20111, 20120 to 20125, 20883, 21275, 21276, 21598 to 21601, 22730 22744, and 22745. The answers are contained in a paper that has been placed in the libraries of both Houses today. I enclose a copy.

Accreditation of Paternity Testing Bodies by the Department for Constitutional Affairs

Introduction

This paper covers the ground raised in Parliamentary Questions (numbers 20036, 20110, 20111, 20120 to 20125, 20883, 21275, 21276, 21598 to 21601, 22730, 22744, 22745 and 25226) tabled in the Commons toward the end of last year.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs maintains a list of bodies accredited by it to carry out scientific tests for parentage (nowadays usually DNA tests) under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969. This list is for use by the civil courts in England and Wales where the court makes a direction under section 20 of the 1969 Act.

"Section 20 directions" are not given in every civil case where parentage is an issue. Where parties submit DNA evidence by agreement and without any section 20 direction being given, it is not essential for the testing body to be chosen from the accredited list. As with other evidence, it is for the court to consider questions of admissibility and weight of the evidence.

Background to the accredited list

The Family Law Reform Act 1969 made provision for court-directed blood testing to determine paternity. The provisions were amended in the Child Support Pensions and Social Security Act 2000, to refer to "scientific tests" (reflecting the development of DNA technology which could be applied to bodily samples other than blood). References to "paternity" were replaced with "parentage" so as to be gender-neutral.

Section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969 provides that in any civil proceedings a court may give a direction for the use of scientific tests to ascertain whether such tests show that a party to the proceedings is or is not the father or mother of a person whose parentage falls to be determined. By virtue of subsection (1A), tests may only be carried out by a body which has been accredited for the purposes of section 20 by the Lord Chancellor, or a body appointed by him for the purpose. Section 20(2) of the 1969 Act provides that the individual carrying out court-directed scientific tests must report to the court stating the results, whether a person is excluded from parentage and (if not) the value of the results in determining parentage. The report is to be received as evidence of the matters stated. It must be in a prescribed form (subsection (3)). Any party may seek a written explanation or amplification, which is deemed to be part of the

report (subsection (4)). A party must serve notice of an intention to call the tester within 14 days of receiving the report. It is expresaly provided that where the tester is called as a witness the party is entitled to cross-examine him.(subsection (5)).

Section 22 provides that the Lord Chancellor may make regulations about "section 20 directions" and may prescribe conditions for eligibility for accreditation (subsection (1)(f)). The regulations are the Blood Tests (Evidence of Paternity) Regulations 1971, as amended (including to reflect the 2000 Act).

The Blood Tests (Evidence of Paternity) Regulations 1971, as amended

These Regulations set out the detailed changes that made it possible for bodily samples other than blood to be taken, and for scientific tests to be used to establish whether a person is a natural parent of the person whose parentage is to be determined. The Regulations also provided that the tests were to be carried out by an accredited body (rather than an individual, which was the case under the previous scheme).

Regulation 8A provides that a body shall not be eligible for accreditation for the purposes of section 20 of the 1969 Act unless it is accredited to ISO/IEC/17025 by an accreditation body which complies with the requirements of ISO Guide 58 (now replaced by ISO 17011).

The Regulations also deal with the procedures for taking bodily samples, despatch to a tester, testing and then reporting to the court. The Regulations require the completion of 2 statutory forms. Form 1 is called a "Direction Form" and is to be filled in by the court, the sampler and the tester. Form 2 is called "Report by Tester" and is to be filled in by the tester. All of this is designed to ensure that the right people actually provide samples, that the same samples reach the tester, and that the nominated tester does the testing and reports to the court.

Criteria for DCA accreditation prior to the recent review

The ISO accreditation is a statutory requirement for "section 20" accreditation by the Department, as set out above. Bodies wishing to be added to the Department's accredited list were expected to produce evidence (either an original or a certified copy) of a valid and current ISO/IEC/17025 accreditation certificate, given by an accreditation body that complies with ISO/IEC Guide 58 (now ISO 17011).

A further non-statutory requirement was added, as a matter of policy. This was a requirement to give an undertaking to comply with the Department of Health's *Code of Practice and Guidance on Genetic Paternity Testing Services*. This Code sets out best practice and clear standards for organisations delivering paternity testing services generally.

These criteria were put in place in 2001, when the Blood Tests (Evidence of Paternity) (Amendment) Regulations 2001 (SI 2001 No. 773) came into effect.

More recent practice has been to require that written applications be made to be added to the DCA accredited list.

The particular International Standards Organisation (ISO) standards were chosen because they were considered to be the most appropriate standards for this area of activity. ISO/IEC/ 17025 is an accreditation given to testing and calibration laboratories that meet certain competence requirements. There was no formal or public consultation on the criteria chosen for accreditation, but the 2001 Regulations, as a statutory instrument, had the approval of Parliament. The Department of Health's Code was put together by an ad-hoc advisory group on genetic paternity testing services, whose membership included service providers, clinicians, academics and scientists.

Ensuring compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 standards

The accreditation bodies ensure compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 by undertaking regular reviews and re-accreditations. Because accreditation bodies are the technical experts, it is not necessary or appropriate for representatives of the Department themselves to visit any of the DCA-accredited laboratories, and no-one from the Department has ever done so. For the purposes of DCA accreditation, if an up to date and valid ISO 17025 certificate is produced (an original or certified copy) and the accreditation body is ISO Guide 58 (now ISIO 17011) compliant, then this is proof enough of the laboratory's competence.

Bodies accredited by DCA are not permitted to contract out parentage tests directed by the court under s20 to any other organisation.

How the courts ensure accredited bodies carry out parentage tests where a section 20 direction is given

Where the court is considering an application for a paternity test in the course of civil proceedings, and the parties do not agree to the testing, then section 20 of the 1969 Act is available. The court may give a formal direction (on Form 1, a statutory form, part of the Blood Tests (Evidence of Paternity) Regulations 1971 (as amended)) which will include the name and address of the body that is to carry out the test. The body will be chosen from the list of accredited bodies. The tester (a person employed to carry out scientific tests by an accredited laboratory) will complete and sign Form 2, (the Report by the Tester) to certify the result of the test. As explained above, the Regulations, which include the two statutory forms, are designed to ensure the authenticity and integrity of the samples, and that the nominated tester carries out and reports on the test.

The list the Department maintains relates only to bodies which may carry out court-directed scientific tests for parentage in accordance with a direction made by a court pursuant to section 20 of the Family Law Act 1969. Where the court has not directed the test, parties to a case may submit DNA evidence by agreement and in accordance with case management directions of the court. It is not essential for the testing body to be chosen from the accredited list. As with other evidence, it is for the court to consider questions of admissibility and weight.

The investigation

Starting in October last year, a number of Questions were tabled in Parliament and the Department received a number of press enquires about DNA Bioscience and the accredited list generally. This prompted an investigation as to the eligibility of each of the bodies on the accredited list, and the work also extended to a review of the processes and procedures associated with adding bodies to the list and the maintenance of it.

The review did not extend to any examination of the financial accounts of the bodies on the DCA accredited list. DCA has no responsibility in this area. The bodies on the accredited list do not provide services to the Department. The accredited list simply exists to provide the civil courts with the names of bodies that reach a certain standard for use when the court directs a test under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969.

The courts dealing with civil proceedings (including family proceedings) were informed about the review, and of the details of the laboratories to which referrals for court-directed tests should be made until the accredited list was re-issued. The laboratories concerned had provided the Department with up to date evidence they had the requisite ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation and with up to date undertakings that they complied with the Department of Health's Code.

The Department undertook to remove ineligible bodies from the accredited list. There were six bodies that were found to be ineligible, including DNA Diagnostics Center and DNA Bioscience, three public sector laboratories (one of which no longer carries out paternity testing) and one body, not itself a testing body, which works in conjunction with another public sector laboratory. These bodies can no longer carry out section 20 tests and the civil courts have been informed. However, the Department has found no evidence that any individual or organisation has supplied misleading or incorrect information during the accreditation process and so further action taken against any individual or company would not be appropriate.

DNA Diagnostics Center and DNA Bioscience

DNA Bioscience was not, itself, accredited by the DCA to carry out court-directed tests under s20. It was not a testing facility, so had no ISO 17025 accreditation and therefore was not eligible. Following an application from DNA Bioscience, DCA agreed in October 2003 that DNA Diagnostics Center (the laboratory DNA Bioscience used to conduct DNA tests) could be added to the accredited list. DNA Diagnostics Center is a US

laboratory with ISO/IEC/17025 accreditation, accredited by Forensic Quality Services - a US accreditation body. DNA Diagnostics Center was shown on the accredited list with a Chelmsford address then belonging to DNA Bioscience. The Department was aware that DNA Bioscience was acting as an intermediary for DNA Diagnostics Center.

The Department agreed orally in December 2004 that DNA Bioscience's details could be added to the accredited list, but DNA Bioscience did not make an application to be added to the accredited list on its own account. The intention was to add those details as a referral route to the accredited body (DNA Diagnostics Center).

The Department is not aware of anything to suggest that reliable evidence was not produced for the courts in relation to court-directed tests.

No DCA Minister, current or past, has had any communication, conversation, or correspondence with David Runkett about DNA Bioscience.

Applications turned down and laboratories closed down

From the Departmental records available, it appears that one application was received in 2003 from a laboratory that had no ISO 17025 accreditation. The laboratory in question indicated that they intended to apply for ISO 17025 accreditation, but nothing further was heard from them.

Nothing has been found in the Department's records that are now available to indicate that any laboratory accredited by DCA to carry our court-directed parentage tests has closed down in the past five years.

Bodies currently accredited

The following laboratories, all based in the UK, have submitted evidence of valid and up to date accreditation to the relevant ISO standard. They have recently given signed undertakings to comply with revised criteria (see "New criteria"). They were all bodies on the previous list.

Cellmark Diagnostics (now Orchid Cellmark),

Crucial Genetics,

LGC Diagnostics, and

The Forensic Science Service

No laboratories outside the UK are currently accredited, but there is no statutory bar on the accreditation of overseas laboratories. The Department will continue to consider application from laboratories, wherever situated (see "New criteria" below).

New criteria and policy

As a result of the review, the Department will now require applications to be made on a form prescribed by it, signed and submitted in hard copy.

As before, bodies wishing to be added to the accredited list must have a current and valid ISO/IEC 17025 certificate that has been issued by an accreditation body which complies with ISO/IEC 17011 (formerly ISO Guide 58) An original certificate or a certified copy must be submitted with the application form. There is a new requirement that the accreditation body must also be a full member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). The Department considers that this is needed to demonstrate independent evidence of ISO/IES 17011 compliance. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is the UK body that complies with this new requirement.

Bodies wishing to be added to the accredited list must undertake to comply with the Code of Practice and Guidance on Genetic Paternity Testing Services, published by the Department of Health, or any revised version thereof.

With regard to the Code, although the undertaking applies to parentage tests directed by the court pursuant to s20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969, the Government strongly encourages providers of genetic paternity testing services to adhere to the Code for all tests. Applicants will be made aware of that view and will be informed that when section 45 of the Human Tissue Act comes into force later this year, it will be a criminal offence to take DNA, with the intention of having it tested, without consent.

Bodies wishing to be added to the accredited list must undertake to comply, or ensure compliance with, the procedures as set out in the Blood Test (Evidence of Paternity) Regulations 1971 (SI 1971/1861) (as amended).

Bodies wishing to be added to the accredited list must undertake to limit any statement regarding DCA accredited status on any promotional material, advertising, or web-site information to the following:

"[Name of Organisation] has been accredited by the Department for Constitutional Affairs as a body that may carry out parentage tests directed by the civil courts in England and Wales under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969".

Applicants will be advised that the Department regards phrases such as 'Government approved', 'Lord Chancellor approved' or 'DCA approved' as misleading and therefore not acceptable.

All organisations on the DCA accredited list will be expected to be subject to an annual review to confirm eligibility, including compliance with the accreditation criteria to remain on the list. This will include giving renewed undertakings as set out above and ensuring compliance with any revised criteria.

In future, the Department will not accept applications from intermediaries. The Department will continue to consider applications from laboratories outside the UK, but if any should meet the (revised) criteria and are added to the list, they will be shown with their overseas addresses and other contact details. If an overseas laboratory makes an application proposing to use an intermediary in the UK, the laboratory will be asked to explain how its proposed use of an intermediary would conform with the relevant legislation (The Blood Tests (Evidence of Paternity) Regulations 1971 (as amended)).

This information and guidance will be published on the Department's web-site.

Applications pending

The Department currently has seven applications or enquiries about how to apply which the Department will now pursue and consider against the revised list of criteria. A revised list will then be issued.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether DNA Bioscience is accredited for DNA-related work in the UK. [25226]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) on 24 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 8W. I am still investigating the matters raised by the hon. Member's question, and I will write when I am in a position to do so.

Substantive answer from Ms Harman to Mr. Laws:

Parliamentary Question - Accredited list of paternity testers

You tabled a question asking whether DNA Bioscience is accredited for DNA-related work in the UK (number 25226). The answer is contained in the paper, covering a number of issues on the accreditation of DNA paternity testers, which has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses today. I enclose a copy.

Accreditation of Paternity Testing Bodies by the Department for Constitutional Affairs

Introduction

This paper covers the ground raised in Parliamentary Questions (numbers 20036, 20110, 20111, 20120 to 20125, 20883, 21275, 21276, 21598 to 21601, 22730, 22744, 22745 and 25226) tabled in the Commons toward the end of last year.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs maintains a list of bodies accredited by it to carry out scientific tests for parentage (nowadays usually DNA tests) under section 20 of the Family

Law Reform Act 1969. This list is for use by the civil courts in England and Wales where the court makes a direction under section 20 of the 1969 Act.

"Section 20 directions" are not given in every civil case where parentage is an issue. Where parties submit DNA evidence by agreement and without any section 20 direction being given, it is not essential for the testing body to be chosen from the accredited list. As with other evidence, it is for the court to consider questions of admissibility and weight of the evidence.

Background to the accredited list

The Family Law Reform Act 1969 made provision for court-directed blood testing to determine paternity. The provisions were amended in the Child Support Pensions and Social Security Act 2000, to refer to "scientific tests" (reflecting the development of DNA technology which could be applied to bodily samples other than blood). References to "paternity" were replaced with "parentage" so as to be gender-neutral.

Section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969 provides that in any civil proceedings a court may give a direction for the use of scientific tests to ascertain whether such tests show that a party to the proceedings is or is not the father or mother of a person whose parentage falls to be determined. By virtue of subsection (1A), tests may only be carried out by a body which has been accredited for the purposes of section 20 by the Lord Chancellor, or a body appointed by him for the purpose. Section 20(2) of the 1969 Act provides that the individual carrying out court-directed scientific tests must report to the court stating the results, whether a person is excluded from parentage and (if not) the value of the results in determining parentage. The report is to be received as evidence of the matters stated. It must be in a prescribed form (subsection (3)). Any party may seek a written explanation or amplification, which is deemed to be part of the report (subsection (4)). A party must serve notice of an intention to call the tester within 14 days of receiving the report. It is expressly provided that where the tester is called as a witness the party is entitled to cross-examine him (subsection (5)).

Section 22 provides that the Lord Chancellor may make regulations about "section 20 directions" and may prescribe conditions for eligibility for accreditation (subsection (1)(f)). The regulations are the Blood Tests (Evidence of Paternity) Regulations 1971, as amended (including to reflect the 2000 Act).

The Blood Tests (Evidence of Paternity) Regulations 1971, as amended

These Regulations set out the detailed changes that made it possible for bodily samples other than blood to be taken, and for scientific tests to be used to establish whether a person is a natural parent of the person whose parentage is to be determined. The Regulations also provided that the tests were to be carried out by an accredited body (rather than an individual, which was the case under the previous scheme).

Regulation 8A provides that a body shall not be eligible for accreditation for the purposes of section 20 of the 1969 Act unless it is accredited to ISO/IEC/17025 by an accreditation body which complies with the requirements of ISO Guide 58 (now replaced by ISO 17011).

The Regulations also deal with the procedures for taking bodily samples, despatch to a tester, testing and then reporting to the court. The Regulations require the completion of 2 statutory forms. Form 1 is called a "Direction Form" and is to be filled in by the court, the sampler and the tester. Form 2 is called "Report by Tester" and is to be filled in by the tester. All of this is designed to ensure that the right people actually provide samples, that the same samples reach the tester, and that the nominated tester does the testing and reports to the court.

Criteria for DCA accreditation prior to the recent review

The ISO accreditation is a statutory requirement for "section 20" accreditation by the Department, as set out above. Bodies wishing to be added to the Department's accredited list were expected to produce evidence (either an original or a certified copy) of a valid and current ISO/IEC/17025 accreditation certificate, given by an accreditation body that complies with ISO/IEC Guide 58 (now ISO 17011).

A further non-statutory requirement was added, as a matter of policy. This was a requirement to give an undertaking to comply with the Department of Health's *Code of Practice and Guidance on Genetic Paternity Testing Services*. This Code sets out best practice and clear standards for organisations delivering paternity testing services generally.

These criteria were put in place in 2001, when the Blood Tests (Evidence of Paternity) (Amendment) Regulations 2001 (SI 2001 No. 773) came into effect.

More recent practice has been to require that written applications be made to be added to the DCA accredited list.

The particular International Standards Organisation (ISO) standards were chosen because they were considered to be the most appropriate standards for this area of activity. ISO/IEC/17025 is an accreditation given to testing and calibration laboratories that meet certain competence requirements. There was no formal or public consultation on the criteria chosen for accreditation, but the 2001 Regulations, as a statutory instrument, had the approval of Parliament. The Department of Health's Code was put together by an ad-hoc advisory group on genetic paternity testing services, whose membership included service providers, clinicians, academics and scientists.

Ensuring compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 standards

The accreditation bodies ensure compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 by undertaking regular reviews and re-accreditations. Because accreditation bodies are the technical experts, it is not necessary or appropriate for representatives of the Department themselves to visit any of the DCA-accredited laboratories, and no-one from the Department has ever done so. For the purposes of DCA accreditation, if an up to date and valid ISO 17025 certificate is produced (an original or certified copy) and the accreditation body is ISO Guide 58 (now ISIO 17011) compliant, then this is proof enough of the laboratory's competence.

Bodies accredited by DCA are not permitted to contract out parentage tests directed by the court under s20 to any other organisation.

How the courts ensure accredited bodies carry out parentage tests where a section 20 direction is given

Where the court is considering an application for a paternity test in the course of civil proceedings, and the parties do not agree to the testing, then section 20 of the 1969 Act is available. The court may give a formal direction (on Form 1, a statutory form, part of the Blood Tests (Evidence of Paternity) Regulations 1971 (as amended)) which will include the name and address of the body that is to carry out the test. The body will be chosen from the list of accredited bodies. The tester (a person employed to carry out scientific tests by an accredited laboratory) will complete and sign Form 2, (the Report by the Tester) to certify the result of the test. As explained above, the Regulations, which include the two statutory forms, are designed to ensure the authenticity and integrity of the samples, and that the nominated tester carries out and reports on the test.

The list the Department maintains relates only to bodies which may carry out court-directed scientific tests for parentage in accordance with a direction made by a court pursuant to section 20 of the Family Law Act 1969. Where the court has not directed the test, parties to a case may submit DNA evidence by agreement and in accordance with case management directions of the court. It is not essential for the testing body to be chosen from the accredited list. As with other evidence, it is for the court to consider questions of admissibility and weight.

The investigation

Starting in October last year, a number of Questions were tabled in Parliament and the Department received a number of press enquires about DNA Bioscience and the accredited list generally. This prompted an investigation as to the eligibility of each of the bodies on the accredited list, and the work also extended to a review of the processes and procedures associated with adding bodies to the list and the maintenance of it.

The review did not extend to any examination of the financial accounts of the bodies on the DCA accredited list. DCA has no responsibility in this area. The bodies on the accredited list do

not provide services to the Department. The accredited list simply exists to provide the civil courts with the names of bodies that reach a certain standard for use when the court directs a test under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969.

The courts dealing with civil proceedings (including family proceedings) were informed about the review, and of the details of the laboratories to which referrals for court-directed tests should be made until the accredited list was re-issued. The laboratories concerned had provided the Department with up to date evidence they had the requisite ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation and with up to date undertakings that they complied with the Department of Health's Code.

The Department undertook to remove ineligible bodies from the accredited list. There were six bodies that were found to be ineligible, including DNA Diagnostics Center and DNA Bioscience, three public sector laboratories (one of which no longer carries out paternity testing) and one body, not itself a testing body, which works in conjunction with another public sector laboratory. These bodies can no longer carry out section 20 tests and the civil courts have been informed. However, the Department has found no evidence that any individual or organisation has supplied misleading or incorrect information during the accreditation process and so further action taken against any individual or company would not be appropriate.

DNA Diagnostics Center and DNA Bioscience

DNA Bioscience was not, itself, accredited by the DCA to carry out court-directed tests under s20. It was not a testing facility, so had no ISO 17025 accreditation and therefore was not eligible. Following an application from DNA Bioscience, DCA agreed in October 2003 that DNA Diagnostics Center (the laboratory DNA Bioscience used to conduct DNA tests) could be added to the accredited list. DNA Diagnostics Center is a US laboratory with ISO/IEC/17025 accreditation, accredited by Forensic Quality Services - a US accreditation body. DNA Diagnostics Center was shown on the accredited list with a Chelmsford address then belonging to DNA Bioscience. The Department was aware that DNA Bioscience was acting as an intermediary for DNA Diagnostics Center.

The Department agreed orally in December 2004 that DNA Bioscience's details could be added to the accredited list, but DNA Bioscience did not make an application to be added to the accredited list on its own account. The intention was to add those details as a referral route to the accredited body (DNA Diagnostics Center).

The Department is not aware of anything to suggest that reliable evidence was not produced for the courts in relation to court-directed tests.

No DCA Minister, current or past, has had any communication, conversation, or correspondence with David Blunkett about DNA Bioscience.

Applications turned down and laboratories closed down

From the Departmental records available, it appears that one application was received in 2003 from a laboratory that had no ISO 17025 accreditation. The laboratory in question indicated that they intended to apply for ISO 17025 accreditation, but nothing further was heard from them.

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Bodies currently accredited

The following laboratories, all based in the UK, have submitted evidence of valid and up to date accreditation to the relevant ISO standard. They have recently given signed undertakings to comply with revised criteria (see "New criteria"). They were all bodies on the previous list.

Cellmark Diagnostics (now Orchid Cellmark),

Crucial Genetics,

LGC Diagnostics, and

The Forensic Science Service

No laboratories outside the UK are currently accredited, but there is no statutory bar on the accreditation of overseas laboratories. The Department will continue to consider application from laboratories, wherever situated (see "New criteria" below).

New criteria and policy

As a result of the review, the Department will now require applications to be made on a form prescribed by it, signed and submitted in hard copy.

As before, bodies wishing to be added to the accredited list must have a current and valid ISO/IEC 17025 certificate that has been issued by an accreditation body which complies with ISO/IEC 17011 (formerly ISO Guide 58) An original certificate or a certified copy must be submitted with the application form. There is a new requirement that the accreditation body must also be a full member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). The Department considers that this is needed to demonstrate independent evidence of ISO/IES 17011 compliance. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is the UK body that complies with this new requirement.

Bodies wishing to be added to the accredited list must undertake to comply with the Code of Practice and Guidance on Genetic Paternity Testing Services, published by the Department of Health, or any revised version thereof.

With regard to the Code, although the undertaking applies to parentage tests directed by the court pursuant to s20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969, the Government strongly encourages providers of genetic paternity testing services to adhere to the Code for all tests. Applicants will be made aware of that view and will be informed that when section 45 of the Human Tissue Act comes into force later this year, it will be a criminal offence to take DNA, with the intention of having it tested, without consent.

Bodies wishing to be added to the accredited list must undertake to comply, or ensure compliance with, the procedures as set out in the Blood Test (Evidence of Paternity) Regulations 1971 (SI 1971/1861) (as amended).

Bodies wishing to be added to the accredited list must undertake to limit any statement regarding DCA accredited status on any promotional material, advertising, or web-site information to the following:

"[Name of Organisation] has been accredited by the Department for Constitutional Affairs as a body that may carry out parentage tests directed by the civil courts in England and Wales under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969".

Applicants will be advised that the Department regards phrases such as 'Government approved', 'Lord Chancellor approved' or 'DCA approved' as misleading and therefore not acceptable.

All organisations on the DCA accredited list will be expected to be subject to an annual review to confirm eligibility, including compliance with the accreditation criteria to remain on the list. This will include giving renewed undertakings as set out above and ensuring compliance with any revised criteria.

In future, the Department will not accept applications from intermediaries. The Department will continue to consider applications from laboratories outside the UK, but if any should meet the (revised) criteria and are added to the list, they will be shown with their overseas addresses and other contact details. If an overseas laboratory makes an application proposing to use an intermediary in the UK, the laboratory will be asked to explain how its proposed use of an intermediary would conform with the relevant legislation (The Blood Tests (Evidence of Paternity) Regulations 1971 (as amended)).

This information and guidance will be published on the Department's web-site.

Applications pending

The Department currently has seven applications or enquiries about how to apply which the Department will now pursue and consider against the revised list of criteria. A revised list will then be issued.

Electoral Registration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which local authorities use telephone registration to register electors. [79078]

Bridget Prentice: A number of local authorities use telephone registration to register electors. As electoral services are delivered at local level the information sought would be held by individual local authorities and is not collected by central Government.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what rules govern registration to vote by telephone; and whether she plans to change these rules. [79079]

Bridget Prentice: Section 10 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires electoral registration officers (EROs) to use a form when carrying out an annual canvass for the purpose of compiling the electoral register. When doing this there is no bar in current electoral legislation to EROs using telephone systems to enable households to report no change to the information given during the previous annual canvass. There are no plans to change these rules.

Repossessions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in *(a)* Bury St. Edmunds constituency and *(b)* the Suffolk county council area in each year since 1997. [79389]

Ms Harman: The following table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made at each of the Suffolk county courts (Bury St. Edmonds, Ipswich and Lowestoft) since 1997.

The civil procedure rules provide that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, these county courts cover areas that are not necessarily consistent with other administrative boundaries, and therefore there may be possession actions entered in these courts that relate to homes located outside Suffolk.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made at Bury St. Edmunds county court and other Suffolk county courts, 1997 to 2005

	Possession orders made[2]			
	Bury St. Edmunds	*Ipswich*	*Lowestoft*	*Suffolk*
1997	56	113	50	219
1998	68	117	58	243
1999	72	136	37	245
2000	37	66	75	178
2001	35	51	58	144
2002	18	60	54	132
2003	48	46	64	158
2004	47	79	82	208
2005	99	123	125	347

[1] Local Authority and Private.

[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department was consulted by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists prior to the publication of its guidance The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion; and if she will make a statement. [77596]

Caroline Flint: The Department had the opportunity to comment on the draft of the evidence-based guideline prior to its publication in 2000 and its revision in 2004.

Adult Mental Health Services (Milton Keynes)

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what action she is taking to ensure delivery of Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust's proposals to redesign adult mental health services; [79444]

(2) if she will take steps to ensure that reductions are not made in adult and older people's mental health services in Milton Keynes. [79445]

Caroline Flint: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services.

Alcohol Dependency

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding is available in 2006-07 for the treatment of alcohol dependency when that dependency is not secondary to class A drug misuse. [77934]

Caroline Flint: National health service primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning alcohol misuse treatment according to local need. The estimated annual spend on specialist alcohol treatment is £217 million.

Autism

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Stroud constituency are diagnosed with autism; and how many of these are children. [77808]

Caroline Flint: Information on the number of people including children in the Stroud constituency who are diagnosed with autism is not available.

Avastin

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what Government policy is on the availability of Avastin for the treatment of bowel cancer. [75848]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Bevacizumab (Avastin) in combination with irinotecan, is currently licensed for the first-line treatment of patients with metastatic bowel cancer. The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently assessing the use of Avastin in the treatment of bowel cancer and final guidance from NICE is expected in November 2006.

In the interim period, the Department has made clear to the national health service, in guidance issued in 1999, that primary care trusts should not refuse to fund specific drugs or treatments simply because they have not yet been appraised by NICE. In these circumstances health bodies are expected to reach their own decisions on whether to use the drug based on their assessment of the available evidence.

Bebington and West Wirral Primary Care Trust

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has held with Bebington and West Wirral Primary Care Trust on *(a)* the siting of new practice clinics and *(b)* the provision of funding to patient groups lobbying for development in the green belt. [77258]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No discussions have been held with Bebington and West Wirral primary care trust regarding the siting of new practice clinics and the provision of funding to patient groups lobbying for development in the green belt. The provision of local healthcare facilities is the responsibility of primary care trusts with the support of their strategic health authorities.

Botox Syringes

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have assessed the merits of the over-the-counter sale of pre-filled Botox syringes. [79577]

Andy Burnham: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is responsible for reviewing the reclassification of the legal status of a medicinal product from prescription only to over-the-counter supply. An assessment of the suitability of a medicinal product for pharmacy or general sale list sale or supply usually follows an application from a marketing authorisation holder. Any application to change the legal status of a particular medicine will be considered carefully against the criteria in European and United Kingdom legislation. Patient safety remains the prime consideration and any application would be required to demonstrate its safety in use and that relevant patient and professional education issues had been addressed adequately.

The MHRA has not considered the reclassification of products containing botulinum type A neurotoxin, such as Botox.

Cancer

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of patients referred by their general practitioner with suspected breast cancer were assessed by a specialist within two weeks in each of the last three years; [77237]

(2) what percentage of patients have been treated for breast cancer within six weeks of *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* referral by general practitioner over the last 12 months. [77238]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the last three years 99.3 per cent. of patients with breast cancer were seen by a specialist within two weeks of urgent referral by their general practitioner, in England.

Data on waiting times for cancer treatment is not recorded in the format requested. In England, the NHS Cancer Plan introduced cancer waiting times standards of a maximum one month wait from diagnosis with breast cancer to first treatment and a maximum two months from urgent general practitioner referral to first treatment for breast cancer to be achieved from December 2001 and December 2002 respectively. In the last twelve months 98.9 per cent. of patients received treatment for breast cancer within one month of diagnosis and 98.1 per cent. received treatment within two months of urgent referral by their general practitioner.

Data on national health service performance on all cancer waiting times targets is published quarterly on the Departments' website at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/cancerwaits/.

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the press release issued by her Department on 2 June 2006, on fastest treatment ever for cancer patients, on what date the decision was taken that *(a)* 98 per cent. compliance would constitute success in meeting the 31-day waiting time target and *(b)* 95 per cent. compliance would constitute success in meeting the 62-day waiting time target. [77472]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Following discussions with the Healthcare Commission an agreement was reached on 24 June 2005 on the 5 per cent. and 2 per cent. tolerances for clinical exceptions for the 62 and 31-day cancer waiting times targets.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the accuracy and effectiveness of cervical cancer screening. [77235]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In May 2004, the international agency for research on cancer, part of the World Health Organisation, concluded that organised and quality controlled cervical screening can achieve an 80 per cent. reduction in the mortality of cervical cancer. Women aged 25 to 49 should be screened no more than every three years, and women aged 50 to 64 no more than every five years. This is in line with national policy on cervical screening in England.

In July 2004, Professor Julian Peto and colleagues published a paper in *The Lancet*, 'The cervical cancer epidemic that screening has prevented in the UK'. The paper concluded that cervical screening has prevented an epidemic that would have killed about one in 65 of all British women born since 1950 and culminated in about 6,000 deaths per year in this the United Kingdom. 80 per cent. or more of these deaths, up to 5,000 deaths per year, are likely to be prevented by screening, which means that about 100,000 women will have been saved from premature death by the cervical screening programme by 2030[1].

The advisory committee on cervical screening meets twice a year to advise the Government on the development of cervical screening and to monitor its effectiveness and efficiency.

In 2004-05 in England, 80.3 per cent. of eligible women had a test result in the last five years[2]. 3.6 million women were screened and laboratories reported four million tests.

[1] Peto et al, Lancet 2004; 364: 249-56.

[2] National Statistics and The Information Centre for health and social care statistical bulletin, cervical screening programme, England: 2004-05.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how widespread is provision of human papilloma virus testing for screening against cervical cancer via the NHS. [77236]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Human papilloma virus (HPV) testing is currently only available in the national health service as part of research trials.

The Government are funding two such trials.

First is the trial of management of borderline and other low grade abnormal smears which is funded by the Medical Research Council. This study was set up to determine the most appropriate way to deal with HPV positive results and associated psychological issues. The study is due to report in 2007.

Second is a randomised trial of HPV testing in primary cervical screening, which is funded by the Department's health technology assessment programme (HTA). This trial is investigating the use of HPV testing as a primary screening tool. The study is due to report in mid-2008.

In addition, as part of the Government-funded pilot study of liquid based cytology, the Department also piloted the use of HPV testing as triage for women with mild or borderline test results. There is currently insufficient evidence to support the use of HPV testing as a primary screening tool. However, we do not underestimate the importance of HPV in the development of cervical cancer.

Following the receipt of the independent evaluation report of the HPV arm of the pilot, the advisory committee on cervical screening has now set up a dedicated working group to advise on how best to introduce HPV testing into the NHS Cervical Screening Programme.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme; what funding has been allocated for the revision of the programme; and when this funding will be made available. [79497]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme (PCRMP) is being reviewed based on the evidence of the evaluation of the programme, which has been carried out by the Cancer Research UK primary care education research group.

The evaluation was extensive. Two literature reviews have already appeared in academic journals:

Patient information, informed decision-making and the psycho-social impact of Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) testing (Hewitson et al, British Journal of Urology International 2005;95(S3): 16-32)

Reduction in uptake of PSA tests following decision aids: systematic review of current aids and their evaluations (Evans et al, Patient Education and Counselling 2005;58:13-26)

The results of an on-line questionnaire survey with 400 general practitioners (GPs) examining current reported PSA testing practice in primary care as well as GP attitudes towards informed decision-making and PSA testing were published in the journal British Medical Council Family Practice (Brett et al, 2005;6:24).

The results of a randomised trial of men's knowledge, attitudes and intention to have a PSA test will be published in the journal Patient Education and Counselling later this year (Watson et al).

The results of an evaluation of the patient information sheet for men in the PCRMP information pack PSA testing for prostate cancer are due to be submitted to a journal shortly.

The report of a study to develop an understanding of what occurs in GP consultations which result in a request for a PSA test, from the perspective of the GP and the patient, is being written up prior to submitting for publication.

The PCRMP primary care packs will be rewritten based on the results of this extensive evaluation, and a consideration of any new evidence. This work will be overseen by the PCRMP scientific reference group, with close links to the prostate cancer advisory group and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence prostate cancer guideline development group. The timing of the rewrite will depend on the extent of the changes to be made to the packs based on the evidence. A full consultation of the revised packs will take place. Funding will be made available to the national health service for this programme.

Care UK

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation process her Department undertook prior to awarding Care UK a contract for the running of a general practitioner practice and walk-in centre in Barking and Dagenham. [75315]

Caroline Flint: Strategic health authorities were asked by the Department to communicate with primary care trusts (PCTs) and gauge any interest in being involved in the innovation in primary care contracting programme, which was announced on 29 March 2005. Barking and Dagenham PCT expressed an interest in discussing the programme further and was identified as being suitable for the programme.

Responsibility for carrying out stakeholder involvement in relation to the services the PCTs wanted to procure lay with the PCTs and confirmation that this had taken place has been secured from the PCTs.

Health Care(Gloucestershire)

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* the Dilke memorial hospital and *(b)* the Lydney and district hospital are included on the choose and book system in Gloucestershire. [79622]

Caroline Flint: Both the Dilke memorial hospital and the Lydney and district hospital are listed on choose and book with services loaded.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* consultants' clinics have been held and *(b)* patients have attended such clinics in each month since January 2005 at (i) the Dilke memorial hospital and (ii) the Lydney and district hospital, broken down by consultant specialism. [79618]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not available.

Dentistry

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of dental practices in Norwich, North have decided to opt out of the NHS in the last 12 months; and how many dentists this figure represents. [65529]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at 31 March 2006, there were 12 dental practices and 58 dentists within the Norwich, North parliamentary constituency working in the national health service general dental services (GDS) or personal dental services (PDS).

During the period 31 March 2005 to 31 March 2006, no dental practices left the GDS or PDS. During the same period, three dentists left the GDS or PDS, while 11 dentists joined the GDS or PDS, providing a net increase of eight dentists within the Norwich, North parliamentary constituency.

Norfolk's primary care trusts (PCTs) are reinvesting with local dental practices to enable them to treat more patients. They have also made other improvements to dental services with approximately 20 extra dentists being recruited to the county, in the last two years, using the Department's international recruitment scheme.

Information on the number of dentists who have signed the new contract by 1 April 2006 is not available centrally. We do however have some provisional information that covers contracts. A contract may be for more than one dentist so cannot be broken down further to individual dentist level. The following tables show the number of new dental services contracts that were signed and rejected at strategic health authority (SHA) level and by PCTs in the Norwich, North constituency area and the percentage of dental services these rejections represent.

SHA	*Contracts signed*	*Contracts rejected*	*Units of dental activity (UDA) percentage (contracts rejected)*
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	358	52	4

PCT	*Contracts signed*	*Contracts rejected*	*UDA percentage (contracts rejected)*
Norwich	30	7	6.4
Broadland	14	4	8.8
Southern Norfolk	33	5	5.8

Notes

1. Data have been provided by the Information Centre for health and social care and the data source is the Business Services Authority.
2. A dentist with a GDS or PDS contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with their PCT. Information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual GDS or PDS dentists is not centrally available.
3. Dentists consist of principals, assistants and trainees. Prison contracts have been excluded.
4. The postcode of the dental practice was used to allocate dentists to specific geographic areas. Constituency areas have been defined using the Office for National Statistics all fields postcode directory.
5. The data for dentists who have left the NHS include those who have retired.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to monitor the impact of the new dental contract on access to dental care. [73300]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the new arrangements, the NHS Business Services Authority will monitor the numbers of patients who receive care or treatment from national health service primary care dentists on one or more occasions within a given period of time, as had previously been the system for most personal dental services pilots.

I have asked the implementation review group, which has been set up to review the impact of the NHS dental reforms and identify any issues that need to be addressed, for views on what time period should be used as the main basis for this monitoring.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has received representations from patients who have been removed from a general dental practitioner's list because of a failure to attend an appointment; what estimate she has made of the number of patients who have been removed from a

general dental practitioner's list because of a failure to attend an appointment since the introduction of the new general dental services contract and personal dental services agreement; and whether the threat of removing a patient from a dentist's list if they fail to attend an appointment is a method *(a)* sanctioned, *(b)* approved and *(c)* recommended by her Department for the reduction of the number of failures to attend appointments. [76969]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are not aware of any representations from patients whose dentist has declined to provide further treatment because of failure to attend agreed appointments. No estimate has been made of the number of patients whose dentist has terminated treatment on these grounds.

Paragraph 5 of Schedule 3 to both the national health service (general dental services contracts) Regulations 2005 (S.I. No 2005/3361) and the national health service (personal dental services agreements) Regulations 2005 (S.I. No 2005/3373) provide that where, in the reasonable opinion of the contractor, there has been an irrevocable breakdown in the relationship between the patient and that contractor, and notice of such a breakdown has been given to the patient by the contractor, the contractor may notify the primary care trust (PCT) that it will no longer provide services to that patient under the contract.

Persistent failure by a patient to keep appointments without good cause constitutes an irrevocable breakdown in the relationship.

Terminating treatment is not a step that any dentist takes lightly. PCTs are encouraged to work with national health service contractors to help them to manage their appointment systems in ways that minimise missed appointments and therefore the need for this sanction. This is in the interest of patients and dentists.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what safeguards are in place to prevent patients from mistakenly receiving private dental treatment in the belief that it is being provided on the NHS; and what recourse is available to patients who incur charges in this way; [77291]

(2) what consent is required from patients for private dental treatment by NHS dentists. [77292]

Ms Rosie Winterton: An Office of Fair Trading Report, 'The Private Dentistry Market in the United Kingdom', published in 2003, identified the need for improvements in the regulation of private dentistry. The Department has worked with the General Dental Council (GDC) to implement the report's recommendations. The GDC has revised its maintaining standards guidance to require dentists to provide the information that patients need to choose whether they wish to be treated under the national health service or privately. The guidance specifies,

"non-compliance with these standards will put a dentist's registration at risk".

Through amendments to the Dentists Act 1984, approved by Parliament last July, the GDC has introduced a service for the investigation and resolution of complaints about private dentistry. The service can be accessed through the website www.dentalcomplaints.org.uk or by telephone on 08456 120 540.

Diamorphine

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much diamorphine was used by the NHS in each of the last five years; and how much she expects to be used in 2006-07; [79462]

(2) what the sources are of the supply of diamorphine used by the NHS; [79463]

(3) what criteria her Department uses to decide how much diamorphine the health service requires; [79464]

(4) whether she has been informed of a shortage of supply of diamorphine in any NHS hospital; and if she will make a statement. [79466]

Andy Burnham: The usage of diamorphine in the national health service in the community in England for each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

	British national formulary chemical name	*Number of prescription items (Thousand)*	*Net ingredient cost (£000)*
2001	Diamorphine hydrochloride	95.9	3,287.1
2002	Diamorphine hydrochloride	96.0	3,312.0
2003	Diamorphine hydrochloride	98.6	3,686.4
2004	Diamorphine hydrochloride	102.9	3,974.2
2005	Diamorphine hydrochloride	60.8	1,802.9

This information is taken from the prescription cost analysis (PCA) system, supplied by the prescription pricing division of the Business Services Authority (formerly known as the Prescription Pricing Authority (PPA)), and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community in England.

A comparable volume figure on the use of diamorphine hydrochloride in hospitals is not available, however estimates of the cost of diamorphine issued in hospitals in England is in the following table.

Estimated list price cost of diamorphine hydrochloride issued in hospitals in England

	Estimated list price cost (£000)
2001	3,945.9
2002	3,898.4
2003	4,052.2
2004	3,808.8
2005	1,772.6

This information is taken from the hospital pharmacy audit database supplied to the Department by IMS health.

Overall costs of diamorphine hydrochloride dispensed in the community and in hospitals are at a similar level. The cost figures may have fallen in recent years due to a reduction in price as well as a decrease in use.

The Department is aware that there is an ongoing shortage of diamorphine injection. This began in December 2004, when Chiron (now Novartis), one of the two suppliers of this product to the NHS, experienced problems at its manufacturing plant. The other supplier, Wockhardt

UK, immediately increased its production but was unable to fill the gap. Chiron came back into production in July 2005, and both companies are now manufacturing to their full available capacity. However, supplies are limited and are likely to remain so for the coming months.

It is not possible to predict how much will be used in 2006-07, or how much diamorphine the NHS requires. There is a continuing shortfall of production against historic demand, and use will depend, to some extent, on availability of the product. It will also depend on whether doctors and other healthcare professionals maintain the prescribing and purchasing strategies established to cope with the shortage, following Departmental guidance issued in December 2004.

The Department is in close contact with both suppliers of diamorphine and is continuing to monitor the supply situation carefully.

Ear Piercing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what legislation ear piercing is regulated in England and Wales; what plans she has to review this legislation; and if she will make a statement. [75531]

Caroline Flint: Ear piercing businesses are regulated in England and Wales under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. This provides local authorities with powers to regulate ear piercing by requiring businesses to register and observe byelaws relating to the cleanliness and hygiene of premises, practitioners and equipment. It is an offence for a business to trade without being registered or to breach byelaws and such offences may lead to the suspension or cancellation of registration.

This legislation is kept under ongoing review, and there are no current plans to amend the provisions relating to ear piercing.

Ear piercing businesses in London are regulated by local authorities under private legislation which requires licensing and observance of licence conditions. It is an offence for a business to trade without a licence or fail to observe licence conditions. Local authorities also have enforcement powers in relation to ear piercing businesses under Health and Safety at work legislation.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will bring forward legislation to require those who practise ear piercing on persons under 16 years of age to display in a prominent position a notice stating the requirements for parental consent; and if she will make a statement. [75532]

Caroline Flint: There is no statutory minimum age of consent for ear piercing. Minors, that is, those who are under the age of 18, are able to give valid consent if they are capable of understanding the nature of the act to be done. Furthermore, the courts have held that a parent's right to decide on behalf of his/her child yields to the child's competence to make a decision.

There are no current plans to introduce a statutory minimum age of consent for ear piercing nor to require parental consent for those under 16 years of age. We believe that introducing a minimum age of consent might result in children piercing themselves or each other in an unhygienic or unsafe manner or going to disreputable businesses. However, we keep the position under review.

The Health and Safety Executive has produced guidelines on the enforcement of skin piercing activities for local authorities including advising businesses on adopting a reasonable approach to age of consent issues. The guidelines are available at www.hse.gov.uk/lau/lacs/76.2.htm.

Food Broker Businesses

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the Food Standards Agency in establishing a timetable for the comprehensive inspection and licensing of food broker businesses. [79495]

Caroline Flint: Food brokers do not have to be licensed under the new European Union hygiene regulations, but they are required to register their establishments with the appropriate local authority. Local authorities' food hygiene inspection programmes are planned on a risk-based approach laid down in the statutory Food Law Code of Practice, to which enforcers must have regard. This code also covers circumstances at a food establishment that may warrant an inspection outside the planned inspection programme.

Health Service Circular 1999/176

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will review and re-issue Health Service Circular 1999/176 to clarify her instructions to trusts. [78312]

Andy Burnham: The Department is planning to update and issue guidance to the national health service on the managed introduction of new health technologies later this year.

Healthcare Commission

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to paragraph 25 of the Department's interim guidance of March 2006 (Gateway Ref 6212), on the role of the Healthcare Commission, under what statutory provision the Commission will be responsible for the regulation of controlled drugs. [79575]

Andy Burnham: Responsibility for the regulation of controlled drugs will be given to the Healthcare Commission by regulations stemming from the current Health Bill. Subject to Parliamentary procedure and approval, we expect the regulations to be laid in the autumn.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions representatives of the Healthcare Commission have *(a)* examined and *(b)* taken copies of patients' private and confidential notes held by (i) private clinics and (ii) general practitioners offering a private health service in each of the last five years. [79576]

Andy Burnham: I understand from the Chairman of the Healthcare Commission that the information is not available in the form requested. I also understand from the chairman that since March 2006 the Commission

has been recording the details of occasions when confidential personal information has been obtained from independent healthcare providers without the data subject's consent: however, the data are not broken down by type of establishment.

Hepatitis C

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has to reassess its Hepatitis C action plan following the report of the all-party parliamentary hepatology group; and if she will make a statement. [78590]

Caroline Flint: The results of the all-party parliamentary hepatology group report indicate that progress is being made in implementing the Hepatitis C action plan for England. Around two thirds of the primary care trusts who responded are taking steps to implement the action plan and the majority of national health service hospital trusts did not report significant delays for patients awaiting treatment.

However, the results of the surveys may serve as a useful focus for discussion by local NHS organisations. They are responsible for implementation of the action plan at the local level and are best placed to assess what is needed in their areas, taking account of other priorities.

Hospital Procedures (Costs)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost was of *(a)* an elective in-patient hospital procedure, *(b)* a hospital day case procedure and *(c)* an NHS hospital procedure in 2005-06. [74704]

Andy Burnham: Cost data relating to the financial year 2005-06 are not yet available.

Influenza

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 4 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 123W, on influenza, what she expects the expanded production capacity will be in the UK. [67038]

Caroline Flint: The expansion of manufacturing capacity is an ongoing process. Much depends on research and development results. One promising approach is the incorporation of adjuvants (agents to enhance the immune response), thereby allowing smaller quantities of the vaccine itself to be used, expanding the numbers of available doses. The Department is in close touch with both industry development plans and the international initiatives to increase vaccine manufacturing capacity.

Insulin

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to improve education for diabetes patients on the self-administration of insulin. [75839]

Ms Rosie Winterton: From January 2006, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), guidance on patient education required all primary care trusts to implement NICE recommendations by providing all people with diabetes with high quality, structured education which should include information on insulin.

Medical Treatment (Under-16s)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on whether health professionals request the involvement of parents or guardians of persons under 16 years of age before any medical treatment is given; and if she will make a statement. [75529]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not commissioned research into the involvement of parents or guardians in decisions about medical treatment for young people.

Mental Health

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to promote the safety of mental health staff providing care and support in services outside the statutory sector. [76225]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The independent Healthcare Commission registers and inspects the private and voluntary health sector. The Commission inspects the sector against a range of national minimum standards set by the Government particularly focused on mental health establishments, including requirements covering staff training, risk assessment and management, managing disturbed behaviour, managing serious/untoward incidents, and patient restraint and physical interventions. Further details are available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/07/83/67/04078367.pdf.

Best practice around the management of adults presenting disturbed/violent behaviour in in-patient psychiatric settings is set out in the clinical guidelines published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in 2004.

The National Institute for Mental Health in England will publish revised guidance on positive practice to support the safe and therapeutic management of aggression and violence in mental health in-patient settings in 2006.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foreign mentally-disordered individuals are held in special hospitals under mental health legislation. [77404]

Ms Rosie Winterton: None of the high security psychiatric, formerly special, hospitals collect specific information about the nationality of their patients. They all record place of birth as reported by the patient but this in itself is not an accurate method of determining nationality.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost was of drugs prescribed on the NHS for psychiatric and mental health purposes in the last year for which figures are available; and which five categories of psycho-active prescriptions *(a)* were prescribed in the greatest volume and *(b)* cost the most in that year. [75671]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the requested format. Prescription cost analysis (PCA) provides details of the number of items and the net ingredient cost of all prescriptions dispensed in the community in England according to British National Formulary (BNF) therapeutic classes. Drugs that appear in BNF chapter four (central nervous system) are usually, but not exclusively, prescribed for psychiatric and mental health purposes. The most recent PCA is at www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/prescostanalysis2005.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will list the mental health hospitals which operate mixed sex wards; [69386]

(2) how many mixed sex wards operate in acute mental hospitals; and if she will make a statement. [69438]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the format requested.

The Department does not collect information on the number of single-sex or mixed-sex wards in use in national health service hospitals.

Between 1998 and 2005 the provision of single-sex accommodation was measured as compliance at NHS trust level with three objectives set by the Department.

The results of the most recent compliance survey (December 2004) show that:

99 per cent., of NHS trusts provided single-sex sleeping accommodation for planned admissions and had robust operational policies in place to protect patients' privacy and dignity;

99 per cent., of NHS trusts met the additional criteria set to ensure the safety of patients who are mentally ill; and

97 per cent., of NHS trusts provided properly segregated bathroom and toilet facilities for men and women.

The small number of hospitals who did not achieve these objectives are building new hospitals.

The 2004 position of each NHS trust was published on 26 May 2005 and is available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk and in the Library.

These objectives have been superseded by the core national standards presented in standards for better health.

The core standards require that:

"Staff treat patients, their relatives and carers with dignity and respect" (C1S); and

"Health care services are provided in environments which promote effective care and optimize health outcomes by being ...Supportive of patient privacy and confidentiality" (C20b)

The Healthcare Commission will assess compliance with these standards.

Merton and Sutton Better Healthcare Closer to Home Programme

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1016W, on the Merton and Sutton Better Healthcare Closer to Home Programme, on what date she expects to publish her response to the local national health service. [78803]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* As stated previously, the Department has received the response from the local national health service and is currently considering the situation. This is a complex issue and it is therefore difficult to predict when the Department will be in a position to publish a response.

NHS Employment

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidence was for her statement in the foreword to her Department's 2006 Departmental Report, published on 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 6814, that the NHS is the third largest employer in the world. [74536]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There have been various estimates by a number of media and international organisations of the world's largest employers and there is some debate as to the exact ranking of the national health service. In 2004, the Department estimated that the NHS is the third largest public employer in the world, behind the Indian Railways and the United States Department of Defence. Although there may be some debate as to the exact ranking of the NHS in terms of its comparative size as an employer, what is not in any doubt is that the NHS is one of the largest employing organisations in the world today.

NHS IT Programme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the recently expressed views of the Chief Executive of Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust on the centralised and standardised approach of the NHS IT programme. [65985]

Caroline Flint: Sir Jonathan expressed views on a one size fits all, centralised information technology (IT) solution for the national health service. However, it has been demonstrated by independent analysis that the aggregated procurement has saved over £3.8 billion for the taxpayer over procurements by individual trusts. Moreover, the provision of a national information system architecture that makes patient information available at point of need will improve patient safety. In addition, it provides a common computer system interface which makes training easier and more economic across different trusts which should also improve accuracy and consistency in treatment. History suggests that the NHS does not have a good track record of procuring, developing or using IT at a local level. An accreditation programme has already enabled 46 local and previously incompatible systems to exchange data with and via national systems. A degree of local flexibility is important but good interoperability across the NHS is critical to patient care and this is what the national programme for IT will achieve.

NHS Trust Savings

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* efficiency savings and *(b)* savings resulting from technical adjustments were required by each NHS Trust in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06; what these figures represent as a percentage of each budget; and what such savings will be required in 2006-07. [73299]

Andy Burnham: The annual uplift to the national tariff includes an offset for efficiency savings realisable from front line national health service services. An uplift is applied every year to incentivise a continuous improvement approach to efficiency. The respective efficiency savings equate to 1 per cent. in 2004-05, 1.7 per cent. in 2005-06 and 2.5 per cent. for 2006-07. The efficiency offset is applicable to all national health service trusts.

There is no recognised classification of savings resulting from technical adjustments and it is therefore not possible to provide any information on this request.

Nutrient Profiling

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has accepted the nutrient-profiling model recommended by the Food Standards Agency. [77574]

Caroline Flint: The Government's manifesto includes a commitment to help parents by restricting further the advertising and promotion to children of those foods and drinks that are high in fat, salt and sugar.

The Department believes that the nutrient profiling model, developed by the Food Standards Agency for use by Ofcom, provides a scientific and objective base for underpinning regulatory intervention in relation to television advertising to children.

Obesity

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults are (i) obese and (ii) overweight when measured by body mass index according to the Government's most recent health survey figures in (A) Peterborough constituency, (B) Peterborough city council area, (C) the east of England and (D) England. [77917]

Caroline Flint: The main source of data on the prevalence of obesity and overweight among children and adults is the Health Survey for England (HSE). Data is not available in the format requested. Table one to four sets out the most recent data on the prevalence of obesity and overweight in children and adults.

Table one presents the data on overweight and obesity among adults in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire (the strategic health authority (SHA) which contains Peterborough) as a three-year average over the period 2000 to 2002. The sample size of the HSE does not allow figures to be produced below SHA level, nor does it allow an SHA breakdown for children.

Table 1. Prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults aged 16 and over in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA (3 year average), 2000 to 2002

	Percentages
Overweight	42.1
Obese	22.6
Base	1,285

Source:
Health Survey for England: Health and Lifestyle indicators for Strategic Health Authorities 1994 to 2002, Department of Health.

Table two shows the proportion of adults who were overweight and obese in east of England Government office region (GOR) in 2003.

Table 2. Prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults aged 16 and over in east of England Government office region by gender, 2003

	Percentages
Men	
Overweight including obese	67.6
Obese	24.0
Women	
Overweight including obese	56.6
Obese	24.0
Bases (unweighted)	
Men	728
Women	825
Bases (weighted)	
Men	755
Women	735

Source:
Health Survey for England 2003, Department of Health.

Tables three and four set out the most recent available data on the prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults and children in England in 2004.

Table 3. Prevalence of obesity and overweight among adults aged 16 and over by gender, England 2004

	Percentages
Men	
Overweight	44
Overweight including obese	67
Obese	23
Women	
Overweight	34
Overweight including obese	57
Obese	23
Bases (weighted)	
Men	39,244
Women	39,803

Source:
Health Survey for England 2004. The Information Centre for health and social care.

Table 4 Prevalence of obesity and overweight among children aged two to 15 by gender, England 2004

England	Percentages
Boys	
Overweight	13.9
Overweight including obese	33.0
Obese	19.2
Girls	
Overweight	16.6
Overweight including obese	35.1
Obese	18.5
Bases (weighted)	
Boys	8,833
Girls	8,228

Source:
Health Survey for England 2004—updating of trend tables to include 2004 data. The Information Centre for health and social care.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the relationship between body mass index and malnutrition in children. [74152]

Caroline Flint: Malnutrition occurs when a deficiency, excess or imbalance of energy, protein, and other nutrients causes measurable adverse effects on tissue, function and clinical outcome.

The relationship between body mass index (BMI) and malnutrition in children is not straightforward as it is affected by age, gender, growth patterns and ethnicity. A BMI below the second centile of the UK 1990 BMI Percentile Charts for children, indicates that a child is at risk of malnutrition whilst a BMI above the 95th centile indicates that a child is at risk of being obese.

Palliative Care Beds (Worcestershire)

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the availability of palliative care beds in Worcestershire; and if she will make a statement. [79617]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Funds are allocated direct to primary care trusts (PCTs) who are responsible for commissioning appropriate services to meet the needs of their local communities. It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities (SHAs) to work with PCTs and national health service trusts to ensure that those services commissioned do meet the needs of local communities and reflect national priorities. In this instance, this is a matter for West Midlands SHA.

The Department collects data relating to individual ward types. The information relating to the number of adult terminally ill/palliative care beds within the South Worcestershire PCT area is shown in the table.

Average daily number of available terminally ill/palliative care: wholly or mainly adult beds, NHS organisations in England, 2001-02 to 2004-05

South Worcestershire PCT	Number
2001-02	0
2002-03	0
2003-04	5
2004-05	6

Source:
Department of Health form KH03

Palliative Care for the Terminally Ill

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to support the Palliative Care for the Terminally Ill Bill; and if she will make a statement. [73278]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are still considering the Bill, and will make their position known in due course.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cancer centres have *(a)* permanent Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) offices located on the same site and *(b)* access to outreach PALS offices; [78418]

(2) how many cancer patients were assisted by the Patient Advice and Liaison Service in the last year for which figures are available. [78427]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Because of the local nature of the patient advice and liaison service (PALS), the Department does not keep central data relating to PALS operational activities.

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training is available to patient advice and liaison service (PALS) workers to enable them to offer or refer clients to information and advice on welfare benefits; what proportion of PALS workers have *(a)* requested and *(b)* received such training. [78426]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is working with the Department for Work and Pensions to make available advice on benefits to all patients including those with a terminal illness.

"Our Health, Our Care, Our Say; a new direction for community services" proposes that an information prescription will be developed for people with long-term health and social care needs. The information prescription will signpost people, including patients with cancer, to further information and advice about services, including where to get advice and information on benefits. We expect to include any support, like training, that professionals might need to give information prescriptions to people, in pilots that will be taking place before the prescription is introduced in 2008.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on which occasions in the last five years

local authority scrutiny panels have referred complaints against NHS trusts to her Department; and which authorities made the referrals in each case; [75544]

(2) on how many occasions in the last five years local authority scrutiny panels, having considered complaints against NHS trusts, have referred matters to her Department. [75545]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Within the last five years, there have been 13 referrals from overview and scrutiny committees (OSCs) to the Secretary of State for Health. These are shown in the table.

OSC	*Date of referral*
South East Kent and Thanet Community Health Councils[1]	April 2002
Wiltshire OSC	October 2004
Hampshire OSC	January 2005
Merton OSC	March 2005
South Gloucestershire OSC	July 2005
Wirral OSC	July 2005
Lincolnshire OSC	July 2005
Surrey OSC	October 2005
Cambridgeshire OSC	February 2006
Suffolk OSC	March 2006
Gloucestershire OSC	March 2006
Calderdale and Kirklees Joint OSC	April 2006
Hertfordshire OSC	May 2006

[1] Referral originally made under Community Health Council Regulations 1996.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what powers overview and scrutiny committees have *(a)* to delay the introduction of health service changes, *(b)* to oppose such changes and *(c)* to present her with a clear proposal for further investigations. [78937]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The overview and scrutiny committee (OSC) has the power to refer decisions on substantial changes to the Secretary of State. This referral can be on the grounds of the following:

if consultation with the OSC has been inadequate; and

if the OSC does not believe the proposals for change are in the interests of the health service or local community.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what powers overview and scrutiny committees have to co-opt outside expertise. [76036]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Overview and scrutiny committees (OSCs) have powers set out in the Local Government Act 2000 to co-opt non-voting members onto OSCs. These co-opted members can be

a member of a committee of the county council or another local authority, for the purposes of relevant function of the committee in relation to the county council; or

a member of a committee of the county council, for the purposes of relevant functions of the committee in relation to another local authority.

This power enables county councils to co-opt members of OSCs from district councils to participate as full members of the OSC considering health services.

In addition to formal co-option, OSCs can ask people, such as members of patient forums, to participate in other ways, for example, by providing information to the committee, attending as an expert witness, or acting as an adviser to the committee.

Unregistered Laser Machines

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information she has received from the Healthcare Commission on the number of unregistered laser machines in medical use in England; and what steps she has taken to reduce this number. [79578]

Andy Burnham: I have received no such information and understand from the Chairman of the Healthcare Commission that it is not available. The Chairman has said, however, that he would consider that there are very few unregistered laser machines being used for medical purposes, that is for laser eye surgery. The Commission has held discussions with the sector and its representatives about registration issues.

Intense pulsed light and laser machines are also used for beauty treatment purposes. Providers of this type of service are required to register with the Commission. The Commission is currently reviewing its policy for targeting unregistered providers and has been working to raise public awareness of the requirement on such providers to register with it.

Waiting Times

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of performance against the Government's commitment that no-one should wait more than six months for an NHS in-patient operation. [78517]

Andy Burnham: The number of patients waiting over six months at the end of April 2006 was 144 as published on 2 June 2006. The figures relating to the end of May will be published on 30 June. Breaches of waiting time standards are unacceptable and the Department will continue to work closely with the small number of national health service organisations with patients waiting over six months. Patients can continue to expect inpatient treatment within six months of a decision to treat in line with the standard established in December 2005.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Conference on Public Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total cost was of the conference on public services held on 6 June 2006 by the National School of Government. [78269]

Mr. McFadden: The National School of Government's estimate for the total cost of the conference "21st Century Public Services—Putting People First" on public service reform held on 6 June 2006 at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre is £281,000 (including VAT).

This figure includes all contract costs and expenses paid out for the event by the National School of Government, and by other delivery partners in Cabinet Office.

The figures given are taken from actual invoices and financial estimates maintained for the project. Most invoices have now been received and are in the process of payment. For any outstanding invoices, detailed estimates of costs have been obtained from suppliers. Figures given have been rounded.

External speakers, including the three international speakers, made their contributions on an expenses-only basis and no fees were paid for the preparation or delivery of any of the 11 speaker presentations at the conference.

Office Refurbishment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost was of refurbishing the offices at 26 Whitehall in each year since 1997. [78299]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Office acquired 26 Whitehall in December 1998. The cost of refurbishing 26 Whitehall from then until December 2002 cannot be separately identified as the refurbishment was undertaken as part of an integrated project which included the refurbishment of the inter-connected 22 Whitehall and Admiralty Arch.

Since the major refurbishment works were completed, there have been no refurbishments undertaken at 26 Whitehall.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Abdullah Baybasin

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will consider deportation proceedings against Abdullah Baybasin. [75841]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's long-standing policy is not to comment on individual cases.

Alcohol Budget

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by his Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77434]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office records expenditure on hospitality but has no plans to maintain separate records of expenditure on alcohol.

Antisocial Behaviour

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on action taken by groups of residents in response to antisocial behaviour in their locality; and if he will make a statement. [78165]

Mr. McNulty: The Respect programme places the emphasis on local agencies to use the tools and powers they have been given to swiftly and effectively tackle antisocial behaviour and its causes. The implementation of neighbourhood policing teams and the increase in the number of police community support officers means that there are more resources than ever before on the streets to respond appropriately to antisocial behaviour and there will be no excuse for inaction.

The current programme of Respect academies outlines how important communications, accountability and visibility are for public services tackling antisocial behaviour. To successfully tackle antisocial behaviour we need people to work in partnership with the police and local authorities. We want to encourage people to come forward, complain and take a stand, collect evidence and play an active part in residents' and community groups. The Respect "Taking A Stand" scheme continues to recognise members of the public for their courage in tackling disrespect and antisocial behaviour in their communities.

This Government are determined to empower the public to hold their leaders to account and have their say about the issues that matter most to them. We will ensure that senior representatives of all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships hold regular 'face the people' sessions to promote greater accountability and visibility in local services. And we are committed to introducing a 'community call for action', a power that will give local communities a formal way to request and ensure that action is taken by the police, local authorities and others in response to persistent antisocial behaviour or community safety problems, where action is not already being taken.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place in his Department to ensure that local agency reports of antisocial behaviour are standardised; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of those measures. [78528]

Mr. McNulty: In 2004 the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS) published "Defining and Measuring Antisocial behaviour" which contained a typology of antisocial behaviour intended to provide a practical guide to the main categories of behaviour that are widely accepted to be antisocial by both practitioners and the public. This has been used to develop a standard focus for work aimed at tackling antisocial behaviour problems locally. The introduction of the antisocial behaviour hotline "It's your call" in 49 areas since January 2005 has encouraged the public to report incidents of antisocial behaviour and has helped to further standardise local agencies' reporting of antisocial behaviour. Building on "It's your call", the single non-emergency number, 101, is currently being rolled out by local authorities and police partnerships across England and Wales and will provide the public with easy access to community safety and antisocial behaviour services, advice and information. The recording and categorisation of incidents of antisocial behaviour reported to 101 will be standardised based on the Home Office RDS typology

of antisocial behaviour as well as the Police National Standard for Incident Recording. This will facilitate the greater standardisation of reporting by local agencies as well as supporting a more effective operational approach to reducing incidents and patterns of antisocial behaviour and improving the quality of services to the public. The 101 service will be operational across England and Wales by 2008.

Anti-terrorism Funding

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to paragraph 6.68 of the 2006 Budget, what projects will be funded by the increased anti-terrorism funding. [63440]

Mr. McNulty: The Government have dedicated £63 million extra this year and £100 million extra the year after to expand the police specialist CT capacity outside London, as well as an extra £30 million this year and an extra £45 million next year for the metropolitan police. The £42.5 million referred to in paragraph 6.68 of the 2006 budget report is included in these figures.

For obvious reasons I do not want to identify particular projects, but this additional funding will strengthen the police service's intelligence and investigative capability both in the capital and across the rest of the service and will complement the additional funding provided for the Security and Intelligence Agencies already announced. In total, over the two years, the police service will receive £446 million specifically for countering the international terrorist threat and domestic extremism.

Asylum/Immigration

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been housed in *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* the London borough of Hillingdon and *(c)* Uxbridge constituency in each of the last seven years. [46604]

Mr. Byrne: The number of asylum seekers supported by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) is published on a quarterly and annual basis, broken down by Government office region and local authority; this is available from December 2002. The latest publication covering the first quarter of 2006 and historic publications are available on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html. Data on asylum seekers supported by NASS broken down by parliamentary constituency are also available from the Library of the House.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been given indefinite leave to remain having served a prison sentence for a non-political crime outside the UK in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the last five years. [75364]

Mr. Byrne: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate does not currently record the information requested.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have been returned to Iran in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [75885]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the destination of asylum removals has only been recorded since the start of 2004. The latest published information on removal of asylum seekers covers the first quarter of 2006. The number of principal asylum applicants, excluding dependants, removed to Iran, was 220 in 2004, 350 in 2005, and 95 in the first quarter of 2006.

These figures include people departing voluntarily after enforcement action has been initiated against them and people leaving under Assisted Voluntary Returns programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration. Since 2005 removal figures will include those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five. Information on removals of asylum seekers for the second quarter of 2006 will be published later this year on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers that have yet to be deported reside in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* Peterborough city council area. [77922]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not readily available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers there are in *(a)* Peterborough constituency, *(b)* Peterborough city council area and *(c)* the East of England. [77926]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are linked to the available information on the support that the asylum seeker receives. The number of asylum seekers supported by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) is published on a quarterly and annual basis, broken down by Government Office region and local authority. The most recent publication covering the first quarter of 2006, and further historical publications are available on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Data on asylum seekers supported by NASS broken down by parliamentary constituency are also available from the Library of the House.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time was after the 18th birthday of a person who arrived as an unaccompanied asylum seeking child for them to

receive an interview for discretionary leave to remain in the last period for which figures are available. [78421]

Mr. Byrne: There are no published statistics for the length of time to interview unaccompanied asylum seeking children after their 18th birthday.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons granted bail by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal have committed offences while on bail in each of the last five years. [76198]

Mr. Byrne: The information is not collected centrally and therefore would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been granted indefinite leave to remain in each of the last 10 years. [76349]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on persons granted settlement in the United Kingdom since 1994 were published in Table 5.3 of the annual Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2004". Copies are available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

The 2005 edition is due to be published on 22 August 2006.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information he has received concerning the whereabouts of asylum detainees who escaped from the Yarl's Wood detention centre on 14 February 2002; and if he will make a statement. [73925]

Mr. Byrne: Many records were burnt or destroyed on the night of the fire and, to the best of our knowledge, the following figures are correct. Of the 23 escapees 16 have been relocated. Of these, nine have been removed, four re-detained (three of whom were subsequently released), one reported to Croydon Enforcement Unit voluntarily and was released and two were granted temporary release. The whereabouts of seven remain unknown. Decisions on the 16 were made in line with the casework criteria as it applies to their individual circumstances.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees who escaped from the Yarl's Wood detention centre on 14 February 2002 have been deported. [73927]

Mr. Byrne: Of the 23 detainees who escaped from Yarl's Wood on 14 February 2002, nine have been removed from the United Kingdom.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter of 26 April from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, Ref: M10324/6. [78042]

Mr. Byrne: The correspondence was received in the Home Office on 28 April, but was subsequently transferred to the Department for Trade and Industry on 3 May. The subject matter then became the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government, who should be replying shortly.

Court Orders

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* exclusion orders, *(b)* curfews and *(c)* parenting orders have been issued by Luton police in the last 12 months. [78443]

Mr. McNulty: 75 curfew orders were issued in the Luton and South Bedfordshire petty sessional area during 2004 (including any heard at the Crown court, having been committed by the said petty sessional area), the latest period for which figures are available. Parenting orders are issued by courts. The Youth Justice Board collects the number of parenting orders related to youth offending or antisocial behaviour broken down by youth offending team area. It is currently reviewing these figures for the period 2004-05 and 2005-06.

I will write to the hon. Member when the reviewed figures are available Three notifications of exclusion orders made under section 40A of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act issued in the Luton and South Bedfordshire petty sessional area were received by the Home Office during 2004. There is no requirement to notify exclusion orders (made under the Licensed Premises (Exclusion of Certain Persons) Act 1980) to the Home Office.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* curfews, *(b)* exclusion orders and *(c)* parenting orders have been issued in the Essex police area in the last 12 months. [78185]

Mr. McNulty: 187 curfew orders were issued at all courts in the Essex police force area during 2004, the latest period for which figures are available. The Youth Justice Board collects the number of Parenting Orders related to youth offending or anti-social behaviour broken down by youth offending team area. It is currently reviewing these figures for the period 2004-05 and 2005-06. I will write to the hon. Member when the reviewed figures are available. No notifications of exclusion orders made under section 40A of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act issued in Essex were received by the Home Office during 2004. There is no requirement to notify exclusion orders made under the Licensed Premises (Exclusion of Certain Persons) Act 1980 to the Home Office.

Crime (Merseyside)

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which areas in Merseyside are considered high crime areas; and if he will make a statement on measures taken to reduce crime in these places. [78524]

Mr. McNulty: There are five Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in Merseyside, of which only Liverpool is defined as a high crime area for the purposes of the Home Office Public Service Agreement 1. A range of measures have been put in place to reduce crime in Liverpool. It participates in targeted initiatives such as the Drugs Intervention Programme, the Tackling Violent Crime Programme and the Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign, as well as the Prolific and Priority Offenders Strategy, which has been rolled out to all local areas to enable them to deal with their most problematic offenders. Merseyside is also a Specialist Domestic Violence Court Programme roll out area with specialist courts, supported through funding by the Home Office, developing across the Criminal Justice Area. Further measures tackle burglary, robbery, vehicle crime, antisocial behaviour and hate crime.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to increase the powers of crime and disorder reduction partnerships. [78328]

Mr. McNulty: Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships have duties, rather than powers, under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Home Office has recently conducted a review of the relevant provisions of this Act in order further to strengthen the visibility, responsiveness, membership and role of CDRPs. Our aim is to make-them the most effective possible vehicle for tackling crime and disorder, substance misuse, antisocial behaviour, and environmental crime at a local level. The review findings were published on 25 January 2006. A copy is available in the Library of the House. The legislative changes required to implement the recommendations of the review are included in the Police and Justice Bill, currently before Parliament..

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority expects to publish an annual report for 2003-04. [79020]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The annual report and accounts of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority were laid before Parliament on 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 71WS, and will be published by 30 June 2006.

Departmental Contractors

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any contractors have been dismissed from contracts with his Department because of illegal working practices since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [73876]

Mr. Byrne: A 100 per cent. manual search through all contract records would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many websites there are within his responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79058]

Mr. Byrne: As of 19 June 2006, the Home Office operates 41 websites. This does not include approximately 20 non-departmental public body (NDPB) sites, which are affiliated with, but independent of the Home Office. The core Home Office website also has a number of sub-domains, such as police.homeoffice.gov.uk, which act as portal sites for practitioners around policy issues. The Home Office does not keep a central record of costs for all departmental websites, and would not be able to collect this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many domestic violence cases prosecuted in the last five years perpetrators were charged with other crimes. [76727]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to respond to this question.

The records held by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) identify the number of defendants proceeded against for offences of domestic violence, but provide no information on other offences committed by the same defendants. This information could only be obtained by locating and examining every relevant file in each CPS office, which would involve disproportionate costs (Code of Practice on access to Government information, part 2, clause 9).

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which other crimes domestic violence perpetrators have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* charged and *(c)* sentenced in the last five years. [76732]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not routinely keep this type of data centrally. However, a study conducted in 2005-06, using data from by the Offender Management system (OASys), found that there was a correlation between offenders who were physically violent towards their partner and a wide range of other offences. The table lists the types of co-related offences that were identified by the study.

Offence category by domestic violence indicators

	Offender sub-groups					
	Offence involved physical violence towards partner		*Other evidence of domestic violence*		*All other offenders*	
Current offence category	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Violence against the person	18,743	86.1	8,091	31.8	37,128	18.9
Sexual offences	336	1.5	1,054	4.1	6,835	3.5
Burglary	151	0.7	1,637	6.4	15,069	7.7
Robbery	56	0.3	565	2.2	6,068	3.1
Theft and handling	152	0.7	2,820	11.1	34,768	17.7
Fraud and forgery	26	0.1	448	1.8	9,024	4.6
Criminal damage	567	2.6	1,558	6.1	5,440	2.8
Drugs offences	79	0.4	1,254	4.9	17,103	8.7
Other offences	1,650	7.6	8,056	31.6	64,894	33.1
All offences	21,760	100	25,483	100	196,329	100

Drunk and Disorderly Fines

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on publicity to inform people that they can be fined £80 for being drunk and disorderly. [79169]

Mr. Byrne: Since 2005 the Home Office has spent £323,345 on outdoor posters explaining the consequences of being drunk and disorderly and the fixed penalty notice.

Fingerprints

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what Government policy is on the collection of minors' fingerprints. [79567]

Joan Ryan: Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, as amended, the police may take, without consent, fingerprints from all persons, including juveniles, who have been arrested for, informed they will be reported for or charged with a recordable offence and detained in a police station. The police may also take fingerprints from persons convicted of a recordable offence. Fingerprints which have been lawfully taken may be retained whether or not the person is charged with an offence or subsequently acquitted.

Foreign Prisoners

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether Tawanda Machingura, a Zimbabwean foreign national imprisoned for sexual assault of a vulnerable patient, has been deported; [69926]

(2) when he will reply to question 69926, on Tawanda Machingura, tabled by the hon. Member for Billericay on 8 May for named day answer on 11 May. [72163]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1047.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many letters of complaint were received by his Department relating to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate where the individual writing normally resides in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* Peterborough city council area in each year since 1997. [77924]

Mr. Byrne: Details of complaints received from June 2005 to May 2006 where the complainant (either an organisation or individual) has given a Peterborough postcode in the reply address are presented in the table.

	Organisations	*Individuals*	*Total*
Postcode PE1 to PE7			
Number received	24	22	46
Postcode PE9 to PE30			
Number received	8	18	26

Note:
PE8 is not included as no complaints have been recorded from addresses with that postcode.

This information relates to all Peterborough postcodes as central data is not broken down by city council area or constituency.

Prior to June 2005 this information was not recorded centrally therefore to provide the information requested as specified would incur disproportionate costs.

IT Projects

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the IT projects costing over £1 million in use in his Department and introduced since 1997 have been scrutinised by the Public Accounts Committee; and if he will list them. [26610]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that the IT projects costing over £1 million in use in the Home Department that were introduced since 1997 and have been scrutinised by the Public Accounts Committee are in the following table:

Date	*PAC hearing title*
5 January 2000	Improving the Delivery of Government IT Projects Includes: (i) The United Kingdom Passport Agency (now The Identity and Passport Service). This IT system was introduced in 1997 (ii) The Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) Casework Programme. This project was at its inception phase in 2000 and by that stage had cost less than £1 million
26 January 2000	Home Office: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate's Casework Programme
28 June 2000	The Passport Delays of Summer 1999
12 July 2000	Criminal Justice: Working Together. This became the Criminal Justice System IT Programme which was a joint Home Office, Department for Constitutional Affairs and Crown Prosecution Service programme
2001-02	
28 November 2002	Public Private Partnerships: Airwave
2003-04	
28 October 2004	Criminal Records Bureau: delivering safer recruitment. IT contract awarded in 2000
2004-05	
5 July 2005	The impact of the Office of Government Commerce's initiative on the delivery of major IT-enabled projects (Home Office, including the IND Case Information Database Enhancement Programme as a subset case study, and HMPS were witnesses). The Case Information Database was successfully rolled out between January 2001 and March 2003. The Case Information Database Enhancement Programme (April 2002-July 2003) improved it

MI5 (Northern Ireland)

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on the possibility of establishing MI5's handling of threat information on the Omagh bombing prior to 15 August 1998. [66529]

Mr. McNulty: There have been no discussions for the reasons set out by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Woodward) in his answer of 2 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1490W, with reference to the chief constable's statement of 1 March 2006.

Operation Reproof

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what lessons have been learned by his Department from Operation Reproof in Devon and Cornwall; and if he will make a statement. [74677]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The investigation into Operation Reproof was undertaken under the supervision of the former Police Complaints Authority and the recommendations were passed to the chief officer for consideration. The chief officer is responsible for the day to day management of the force and use of its resources. I will ensure that the chief constable receives a copy of the question and replies to the hon. Member directly. Copies of the letter containing the response from Devon and Cornwall police will be placed in the House Libraries.

Parliamentary Questions

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will provide a substantive reply to Question 69968, tabled by the hon. Member for Leominster for named day answer on 11 May; and what the reason was for the time taken to reply. [78395]

Mr. McNulty: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in answering his question, which was the result of the change in ministerial responsibilities at the Home Office at the beginning of May.

Police

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the potential change in the number of civilian posts resulting from *(a)* a Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire combined police force, *(b)* a Hampshire and Thames Valley combined police force and *(c)* a Hampshire, Sussex and Surrey combined police force; [51553]

(2) what estimate he has made of the potential start-up costs of *(a)* a Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire combined police force, *(b)* a Hampshire and Thames Valley combined police force, *(c)* a Hampshire, Sussex and Surrey combined police force and *(d)* one stand-alone Hampshire force; [51568]

(3) what representations he has received from the Hampshire police force on the proposed merger of police forces in the area; [51623]

(4) whether additional funding will be available from his Department to the Hampshire constabulary in the event of its merger with other forces; [51643]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the likely change in the Hampshire police precept to the council tax which would arise from a merger of the Hampshire constabulary; [51750]

(6) what assessment he has made of the likely impact of a merger of the Hampshire constabulary with other forces on *(a)* police officer and *(b)* civilian sta.T numbers; [51810]

(7) how many representations he has received to date supporting the abolition of the Hampshire police constabulary as a stand-alone force. [51840]

Mr. McNulty: The proposed merger of police forces into new strategic forces is intended to strengthen forces' ability to protect the public better from serious crimes and terrorism and to embed neighbourhood policing. For any merger, decisions about future posts will be for the new strategic forces' management teams to determine No proposal for a Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire combined police force, or a Hampshire and Thames Valley police force was submitted by forces and authorities in December 2005 and therefore no estimate has been made of any change in civilian posts under either of these options.

The estimate of the potential change in the number of civilian posts resulting from a Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex merger, based on assumptions submitted by Surrey, was a reduction of some 250 police staff posts under this merger, achieved through economies of scale and process re-engineering. The exact number of redundancies would be dependent on a variety of factors including natural wastage, effective use of workforce planning and utilising alternative employment.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the likely costs of implementing new IT systems arising from the options under consideration for the merger of police forces in the South East. [51567]

Mr. McNulty: Police forces and authorities in the South East submitted a cost benefit analysis of the best options for police structures in that region, including estimated Information Communication and Technology (ICT) costs, to the then Home Secretary in December 2005. This analysis was reviewed by the Home Office and informed the then Home Secretary's statement of 20 March 2006 in which he stated that the merger of Surrey and Sussex police, along with the reconfiguration of Hampshire constabulary, Kent police and Thames Valley police as strategic forces, would be of the greatest benefit for the South East region. A joint Home Office, Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Association of Police Authorities (APA) and Police Information and Technology Organisation (PITO) working group has been established to work in conjunction with police force project teams to ensure that all ICT requirements, and associated costs, are identified.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) racism, (ii) bullying and (iii) sexual harassment in each of the last five years. [77430]

Mr. McNulty: Police complaints and discipline statistics are not collected in the categories requested. The available information is drawn from the Home Office Police Complaints and Discipline Statistics produced for the years 1999 to 2003 and from the Police Complaints: Statistics for England and Wales 2004-05 produced by the IPCC.

Note:

The statistics collected by the Home Office, and from April 2004 the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), record decisions on the misconduct charges faced by all police officers in England and Wales as well as substantiated complaints by reason of complaint.

The presentation of information by the IPCC varies slightly from that previously used by the Home Office. We have provided the statistics from the categories that most closely relate to the categories contained in the question.

Disciplinary punishments or misconduct sanctions awarded

Most serious outcome	*1* *2000-01*	*2* *2001-02*	*3* *2002-03*	*4* *2003-04*	*5* *2004-05*
Dismissed	41	24	44	33	34
Required to resign	84	73	71	62	57
Reduction in rank	15	19	18	14	13
Reduction in pay[1] (disciplinary punishment)	7	3	—	—	—
Fine	154	191	169	138	115
Reprimand	86	88	58	42	45
Caution	51	50	42	21	18
No action (misconduct sanction)	4	8	7	14	42
Written warnings[2]	—	—	—	—	880

Substantiated complaints by reason for complaint

Reason for complaint	*1* *2000-01*	*2* *2001-02*	*3* *2002-03*	*4* *2003-04*	*5* *2004-05*
Oppressive Conduct/Harassment	54	56	59	46	57
Racially discriminatory behaviour	18	9	9	8	—
Discriminatory behaviour	—	—	—	—	13

[1] Information not recorded from 2002 onwards.
[2] Information not recorded for the period 2000-04

Source:
Columns 1 to 4 Home Office Statistics
Column 5 IPCC Statistics

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 742W, on the police, what steps he plans to take to fulfil the strategic goals outlined by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in relation to West Mercia police. [77648]

Mr. McNulty: As my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary indicated on 19 June and I re-iterated when I met the hon. Member, among others, the following day, we remain of the view that the creation of strategic police forces is the best way to improve protective services while safeguarding dedicated neighbourhood policing. However, we want to engage in a further round of dialogue and discussion with the policing community to discuss the best way to achieve that outcome.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 742W, on the police, on what evidence he based his statement that the present strategic structure of West Mercia police was not fit for purpose. [77649]

Mr. McNulty: As was made clear in the answer to which the hon. Gentleman refers, our assessment was based on the advice of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* resignations and *(b)* retirements of police officers from Cumbria police force there have been in each year since 1995. [78940]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is provided in the table. Figures are available only from March 1996.

Full-time equivalent[1] police officer resignations and retirements in Cumbria, 1996-2005

As at 31 March	Voluntary resignations[2]	Retirements[3]
1996	4	39
1997	11	46
1998	7	45
1999	19	36
2000	9	50
2001	8	53
2002	11	30
2003	9	30
2004	11	32
2005	15	24

[1] Prior to 2003, FTE figures excluded those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] Voluntary resignations does not include those who are dismissed and required to resign.
[3] Retirements includes normal retirements and medical retirements.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many retirements there have been on grounds of ill-health from each police force in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [78974]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 June 2006]*: The information requested is provided in the table. Figures are collected on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary and are published in their annual report.

Number of police officer medical retirements by force, by year (2001-05)

	As at 31 March each year				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Avon and Somerset	42	42	34	10	16
Bedfordshire	18	8	7	1	3
Cambridgeshire	11	10	8	4	1
Cheshire	22	22	25	15	11
Cleveland	9	21	11	11	11
Cumbria	24	7	7	4	3
Derbyshire	12	9	12	2	9
Devon and Cornwall	15	19	9	6	9
Dorset	12	10	3	9	4
Durham	8	15	11	6	7
Dyfed-Powys	14	13	11	7	9
Essex	34	32	21	16	13
Gloucestershire	7	10	13	5	2
Greater Manchester	110	57	33	10	14
Gwent	16	24	22	8	13
Hampshire	17	19	11	11	8
Hertfordshire	13	8	7	3	1
Humberside	20	11	10	2	10
Kent	29	38	21	9	6
Lancashire	30	39	22	13	11
Leicestershire	28	7	9	6	8
Lincolnshire	4	3	10	3	7
London, City of	9	8	4	8	4
Merseyside	47	58	51	25	25
Metropolitan Police	225	219	150	60	64
Norfolk	10	16	13	6	10
Northamptonshire	8	6	3	3	3
Northumbria	28	33	21	9	4
North Wales	31	20	14	6	7
North Yorkshire	37	16	9	8	8
Nottinghamshire	16	14	16	12	15
South Wales	76	50	33	14	8
South Yorkshire	30	30	17	12	3
Staffordshire	9	24	22	14	13
Suffolk	14	13	12	8	3
Surrey	18	24	12	10	6
Sussex	16	16	9	4	12
Thames Valley	20	17	29	17	8
Warwickshire	15	7	8	4	3
West Mercia	28	28	20	11	10
West Midlands	29	30	21	13	12
West Yorkshire	44	61	23	11	5
Wiltshire	5	3	15	2	6
Total	1,209	1,114	819	418	405

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* internal and *(b)* external meetings he has held on police force restructuring in the last 12 months; and how much time has been spent in each category of meeting. [68710]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 May 2006]:* The Home Secretary has had numerous meetings on this subject.

Police Complaints

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what criteria are used by police professional standards departments when conducting complaints into police conduct and behaviour; and if he will make a statement; [78279]

(2) what criteria are used by the Independent Police Complaints Commission when conducting complaints into police conduct and behaviour; and if he will make a statement. [78280]

Mr. McNulty: The Independent Police Complaints Commission is responsible for the management of the police complaints system. I will ensure that the Chairman receives a copy of the questions and replies to the hon. Member directly. Copies of the letters containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the House Library.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what measures the Government have put in place to ensure that investigations into complaints of police behaviour and misconduct by *(a)* police professional standards departments and *(b)* the Independent Police Complaints Commission (i) follow due process and (ii) are conducted to high professional standards; and if he will make a statement; [78282]

(2) what guidance is issued to serving police officers who are subject to investigations following a complaint as to their conduct during that investigation; what guidance is issued to local police force managers on these matters; and if he will make a statement. [78285]

Mr. McNulty: The Independent Police Complaints Commission is responsible for the management of the police complaints system. I will ensure that the chairman receives a copy of the question and replies to the hon. Member directly. Copies of the letter containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the House Libraries.

Portland PR

Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings officials in his Department have had with representatives of the public relations company Portland PR; what contracts Portland PR has with his Department and agencies for which he has responsibility; and what the nature of the contract is in each case. [70136]

Mr. Byrne: The Department does not maintain a central list of such meetings.

Prisoner Deportation

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether foreign prisoners subject to a recommendation for deportation will be excluded from the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. [68887]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* The Government will shortly be setting out proposals on how the system for deporting foreign national prisoners can be improved. If we conclude that legislative changes are needed to secure those improvements we will consider them.

Proscribed Organisations

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to review the inclusion of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam on the list of Proscribed Organisations in Schedule 2 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in March 2001. [63113]

Mr. McNulty: The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam was proscribed in March 2001 because the then Home Secretary, my right hon. Friend for Norwich, South (Mr. Clarke), decided that it met the criteria for proscription laid down in Section 3 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT) This decision was endorsed by Parliament. The list of proscribed organisations is kept under constant review. It is established policy not to comment further on any information or intelligence we hold in relation to a specific group on the list of proscribed organisations. The LTTE, or anyone affected by the proscription, may apply at any time to the Home Office be removed from the proscribed list. If such an application is unsuccessful an appeal can then be taken to the independent Proscribed Organisation Appeal Commission.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what incentives are available to encourage members of his staff to use public transport for travelling to and from work. [75114]

Mr. Byrne: We encourage staff to use public transport for travelling to work by:

Providing no-interest loans for public transport season ticket and cycle purchases. Promoting national initiatives such as cycle to work days.

Ensuring that green transport plans already developed for most sites are kept up to date and are acted upon.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what incentives his Department offers to encourage staff to share vehicles when travelling to work. [73021]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Department has no policy on this.

Safer Neighbourhood Programmes

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of *(a)* the potential of nationwide implementation of safer neighbourhood programmes such as that introduced by Birmingham council and *(b)* the effectiveness of the National Community Safety Plan; and if he will make a statement. [78525]

Mr. McNulty: There has been no formal national evaluation of safer neighbourhoods work. However, Local Strategic Partnerships are encouraged to evaluate such projects in their area to identify "what works", and to mainstream successful initiatives into their core programmes. National developments such as neighbourhood policing, Respect and the National Community Safety Plan all encourage neighbourhood level working to make communities safer places. It is too early to evaluate the impact of the National Community Safety Plan, given that it is a three year plan which has only been "live" for less than six months.

Small Firms

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition the Department uses of a small firm. [59272]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not use one single definition of a small firm. Terms such as "small firm" and "SME" (small and medium sized enterprise) are used interchangeably. Two of the most common definitions are those provided by the European Union, and the Companies Act 1985.

The European Commission definition specifies a maximum headcount, turnover, balance sheet and independence criteria to qualify as a small firm. The Companies Act 1985 states that a company is "small" if it meets at least two of the following criteria: a turnover of not more than £5.6 million; a balance sheet total of not more than £2.8 million; and not more than 50 employees. These definitions can be found at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/index_en.htm and http://www.dti.gov.uk/cld/audit.htm.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy to achieve compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 22 for the UK. [76825]

Mr. Byrne: The United Kingdom ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child on 16 December 1991, subject to a number of reservations. Only two of these remain; one about children in adult offender institutions and one referring to Immigration and Nationality.

The latter reservation is as follows:

> "The United Kingdom reserves the right to apply 'such legislation, in so far as it relates to the entry into, stay in and departure from the United Kingdom of those who do not have the right under the law of the United Kingdom to enter and remain in the United Kingdom, and to the acquisition and possession of citizenship, as it may deem necessary from time to time."

We comply with the spirit of Article 22 of the Convention and believe that our reservation in respect of immigration and nationality matters does not lead to any neglect of children's care or welfare. The Government have no intention of withdrawing the reservation.

Visas

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people entered the UK with valid visas as visitors during the last 12 months; how many failed to return to their country of origin before the expiry of their permitted stay; and if he will make a statement. [78047]

Mr. Byrne: From the latest published Control of Immigration statistics for 2004, there were around 1.65 million visitors to the United Kingdom whose nationality requires them to obtain a visa before travelling the UK. This figure relates to passenger journeys; a person who makes more than one journey in a given year is counted on each occasion. Following the removal of embarkation controls in 1996, it is not possible to comment on the number of persons who return to their country of origin before their leave to enter or remain as a visitor in the UK expires.

Witness Protection

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers are available to minimise recrimination against victims of *(a)* criminal and *(b)* antisocial behaviour who give evidence to the police. [78332]

Mr. McNulty: Witness intimidation is an offence by virtue of S.51 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (in relation to criminal proceedings) and S.39 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (in relation to civil proceedings). The provisions cover intimidation of anyone who

> "is assisting in the investigation of an offence or is a witness or potential witness or juror or potential juror in proceedings for an offence".

The police and courts clearly take this issue seriously and we have seen convictions for witness intimidation increase by over 30 per cent. between 2000 and 2005.

The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 provides a range of special measures for witnesses whose evidence is likely to be affected by fear or distress in connection with testifying in criminal proceedings. These measures include the use of screens and live links, and a greater degree of "privacy" in what remains a public hearing, to be applied in sexual cases, or where there is a fear that the witness may be intimidated. Intimidated witnesses may also be permitted to give their evidence in private.

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 introduced similar measures for witnesses in proceedings for antisocial behaviour orders. The use of hearsay evidence in civil proceedings involving antisocial behaviour

allows witnesses to remain anonymous. In exceptional cases, in criminal proceedings, at the discretion of the court, witnesses in criminal cases, who are unwilling to give evidence through fear for their safety, may also be permitted anonymity.

The Court must consider the potential disadvantages to the defendant and ensure that it is necessary and that the witness is in genuine and justified fear of serious consequences if his true identity became known. It must also ensure that necessary and appropriate precautions are taken to ensure that the trial itself will be fair. When exercising this discretion the court should be mindful of four factors; there must be real grounds for being fearful of the consequences of revealing the identity of the witness, the evidence must be sufficiently important to make it unfair to the prosecution to compel them to proceed without it, the prosecution must satisfy the court as to the creditworthiness of the witness and finally the court must be satisfied that no undue prejudice is caused to the defendant. Provided that appropriate safeguards are applied, and the judge is satisfied that a fair trial can take place, it may permit anonymity. In criminal cases, law enforcement agencies are responsible for providing support for intimidated witnesses and we are doing everything we can to ensure that they are assisted in doing so. We are working with them and other criminal justice agencies to ensure that intimidated witnesses are identified at an early stage and properly supported throughout the criminal justice process.

We fund the National Witness Mobility Service which gives police forces access to support from housing experts to assist in the relocation of intimidated witnesses. The Service has assisted in some serious antisocial behaviour cases. We are planning to extend this support by facilitating access to a wider range of services through the establishment of a central services unit. We have also introduced new legislation which helps forces to secure the assistance they need from others to set up protection arrangements and provides additional safeguards for witnesses. In antisocial behaviour cases, agencies are also encouraged to give witnesses support after the court hearing—for example by keeping them informed about the outcome.

A range of detailed guidance is set out on the TOGETHER website at http://www.together.gov.uk/category.asp?c=339.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituency Visits

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the constituencies he visited between 5 May 2005 and 5 May 2006. [75695]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The information requested is not collected in this form.

Dorneywood

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1665W on Dorneywood, if he will make it his policy to collect information on the number of times hospitality is offered at Dorneywood to members of foreign and Commonwealth Governments. [74409]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My hon. Friend may be aware of my announcement on 31 May of my personal decision that I no longer wish be the official resident of Dorneywood.

Pension Policy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his role is in developing pension policy; and if he will make a statement. [79483]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1086W.

Private Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the role is in his private office of Sheree Dodd; what the cost to public funds has been to date for the employment of Ms Dodd; and if he will make a statement. [78227]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The person named does not have any role in my private office.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is continuing to provide my media support until the recent machinery of Government changes are complete. Specific staff issues are the responsibility of the civil service; I am not involved in any such appointments. Staff costs will be accounted for in the Department's annual report and accounts in the usual way.

Sovereign Strategy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 833-34W, on Sovereign Strategy, if he will list the occasions in the last 12 months when his official diary shows that he had meetings with a representative of Sovereign Strategy. [79227]

The Deputy Prime Minister: No such occasions are listed; and I did not meet this company.

Timber

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his wooden office furniture is made from sustainable timber. [78223]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Yes. All office furniture procured by my office comes from sustainable sources. However, there are a small number of older pieces—predating the creation of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in May 2002—for which sources cannot be verified.

Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many websites there are within his responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in 2005-06. [79146]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My new website is currently under development. Website information relating to my former departmental responsibilities has now transferred to the Department for Communities and Local Government, and I refer the hon. Member to that Department.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Printers

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Leader of the House what assessment the Commission has made of the reliability of the new Dell printers issued to hon. Members. [78609]

Mr. Straw: As of 31 May 2006 1,069 Dell printers have been supplied to Members of the House. Between 1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006, 48 warranty calls have been made to Dell. This is equal to one call for every 22 printers.

By comparison during the period 1 August 2004 to 31 July 2005, 287 warranty calls were made relating to the 1,363 HP printers being used by Members. This is equal to one call for every 4.7 printers.

The majority of calls in both cases relate to the multifunction printers which are more complex and therefore more likely to develop a fault. Direct comparison of the warranty call ratios is not straightforward since the HP equipment in the sample is older than the Dell equipment and therefore would be expected to generate a higher number of warranty calls.

When equipment is first installed the overall number of calls received to the service desk does increase as issues with initial set-up and queries about the operation of the new equipment are handled. Accurate records as to the number of calls relating to this area are not available.

There is an issue associated with the new Dell printers relating to the operation of the second printer tray when working it in conjunction with certain applications. This is being investigated by both the supplier of the application and by Dell.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Better Regulation Task Force

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 19 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2403W, on the Better Regulation Task Force, what progress he has made in considering whether and to what extent the Task Force's other specific proposals can contribute to the key outcomes outlined in 'Every Child Matters'. [78570]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The Task Force's recommendation, that guidance should be given to local authorities that Directors of Children's Services should have functions relating to child employment as part of their remit, is a helpful contribution to the 'Every Child Matters' agenda. I have not yet been persuaded that the Task Force's legislative recommendations would make a significant contribution towards the five key outcomes for all our children described in 'Every Child Matters'. The Government will continue to consider the recommendations, but will not take any measures that could compromise children's entitlement to education, sufficient rest, or appropriate leisure time.

Fostered Teenagers (Support)

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support is provided for teenagers who leave long-term foster care placements; what extra support is provided for those with special needs; and if he will make a statement. [78965]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* Local authorities are placed under a duty, by section 22 of the Children Act 1989, to safeguard and promote the welfare of looked after children. The review of children's cases procedure, derived from section 26 of the 1989 Act, places a duty on local authorities to have in place a plan for the future care of looked after children and to appoint an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) to conduct the periodic statutory reviews of their cases.

The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 is based on this care planning framework. As looked after children approach their 16th birthday, when they will become entitled to services as 'care leavers', their needs are required to be reassessed in order to inform the construction of their 'pathway plan' (which should be based on their existing care plan). This plan sets out the services that are necessary to respond to the young person's needs, to prepare them for leaving care and then to support them after they have left care up until the age of 21, or longer, if they remain in an approved programme of education or training.

For young people with statements of special educational needs (SEN), including those who are looked after, there is a statutory transition planning process, which commences during Year 9 of their compulsory education. The purpose of this multi-professional process is to plan for young people's transition to adult life.

Where a child who is the subject of a SEN statement is also a looked after child, then their responsible local authority should co-ordinate the respective planning processes, in order to integrate their transition plan with their pathway plan, so that young people are provided with the necessary support in an integrated way before, during and after leaving care.

School Inspectors

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of school inspectors in the Office of Standards in Education (Ofsted) worked in a school prior to joining Ofsted. [78275]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Maurice Smith, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Maurice Smith, dated 21 June 2006:

Your recent parliamentary question has been referred to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of schools, for reply.

You asked what proportion of school inspectors in the Office of Standards in Education (Ofsted) worked in a school prior to their joining Ofsted.

In response, the information requested is not held centrally. However, an analysis of the career history of the HMI appointed since September 2003 shows that 85 per cent had worked in a school prior to joining Ofsted.

Our analysis demonstrated that since September 2003:

113 HMI had worked in a school prior to joining Ofsted;

17 HMI had worked in a college; and

3 HMI had worked for local authorities and did not have teaching posts in schools/colleges listed in their CVs.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Specialist Schools

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1764W, on specialist schools, how many specialist schools are in areas within the worst 20 per cent. of wards in England according to the index of deprivation; and what specialism has been chosen by each such school. [79493]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

St. Mark's Pre-school (Salisbury)

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when Ofsted will publish the July 2005 inspection report on St. Mark's Pre-School in Salisbury (Ofsted reference 146011) on its website; and if he will make a statement. [78125]

Beverley Hughes: This is a matter for the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). Maurice Smith, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Maurice Smith, dated 15 June 2006:

Your recent parliamentary question has been referred to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of schools, for reply.

You asked when Ofsted will publish the July 2005 inspection report on St. Mark's Pre-School in Salisbury (Ofsted reference 146011) on their website.

In response, the report will be published on Tuesday 20 June 2006. The delay in publication occurred due to administrative and computer system errors which resulted in the failure to publish the report on the website at the correct time. Despite this, a copy of the report was sent to the nursery.

Now that the matter has been brought to our attention, we are working to fix these system errors and will remedy the situation. Ofsted would like to apologise most profusely for the delay.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Statemented Children

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what powers *(a)* academies and *(b)* other schools have to limit admittance of children with statements. [78075]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* Neither academies nor maintained schools have direct powers to limit admittance of children with statements of SEN. Academies admit more pupils with SEN (both with and without statements) than other secondary schools in England. The large majority of academies must have regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2001) and any guidance issued by the Secretary of State relating to sections 316 and 316A of the Education Act 1996. Academy procedures for admitting children with statements of SEN track those for maintained schools. For example the large majority of academies must consent to being named in a statement of SEN unless to do so would be

"incompatible with the provision of efficient education for other children; and where no reasonable steps may be made to secure compatibility".

This position tracks the requirement on maintained schools set out in sections 316/316A of the 1996 Education Act.

Where parents of children with a statement express a preference for a particular maintained school the local authority must consult the school concerned, and in the case of a school maintained by another authority that local authority as well. As part of the consultation process the authority should write to the school and other authority to ask them whether, in their opinion:

the school is unsuitable to the child's age, ability or aptitude or to his special educational needs;

the child's attendance would be incompatible with the efficient education of the children with whom he would be educated, or

the child's attendance would be incompatible with the efficient use of resources.

If the school or local authority opposes the naming of the parent's preferred school on any of the grounds specified above, the "home" authority should consider very carefully their reasons for doing so, before deciding whether or not to name the school. The decision rests with the local authority and once a local authority names a particular maintained school in a child's statement, that school must admit the child.

Sure Start

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many available places there are in Sure Start schemes in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough; [79165]

(2) what percentage of children are on Sure Start schemes in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough. [79166]

Beverley Hughes: Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) were set up between 1999 and 2003 offering a range of services to children under four years of age and their families living in defined areas. All SSLPs are

becoming Sure Start Children's Centres and will offer services to children under five years of age and their families. Information about the percentage of children reached by SSLP services is now collected once a year. Data on how many children have accessed services through children's centres are not available yet.

2,325 children under four live in areas covered by three SSLPs in the Lewisham Deptford constituency. In all 3,427 children under four live in areas covered by five SSLPs in the borough of Lewisham. The latest information available (at March 2005) shows on average 37 per cent.[1] of children in the Lewisham Deptford SSLPs and on average 36 per cent.[1] of children overall in SSLP areas in the borough of Lewisham had significant contact (that is, a home visit or attendance at a centre-based activity) with Sure Start.

There is one Sure Start Children's Centre up and running in the constituency of Lewisham Deptford, building on an existing SSLP and offering services to 1,545 children under five and their families, and three overall in the borough of Lewisham offering services to 4,650[2] children under five and their families.

[1] Source—Sure Start Local Programme data returns March 2005.

[2] 4,650 children includes 1,483 children previously served by the two SSLPs across Lewisham that have become children's centres.

Tuition Fees (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students from *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* Peterborough city council area are exempt from tuition fees. [77914]

Bill Rammell: The number of students from Peterborough local authority making no contribution to their tuition fees in 2003/04 was 790[1]. Data for 2004/05 onwards are not available as student applications from Peterborough were processed by another local authority (Cambridgeshire), and can not be disaggregated.

Students on full-time undergraduate courses and their families are expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their tuition based on household income. Students from lower income backgrounds are wholly or partially exempt from paying tuition fees.

From 2006/07 upfront fees are abolished and full-time students will be eligible for tuition fee loans of up to £3,000. In addition, we expect around 30 per cent. of students to receive the full maintenance grant of £2,700 and an HE institution bursary of at least £300. Overall, we expect around half of all eligible students to receive at least some maintenance grant.

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10 students.

Vocational Training

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans the Government have to improve vocational training for young people in Swindon. [79184]

Phil Hope: The new Specialised Diplomas will provide an exciting, aspirational and stretching programme of learning for young people of all abilities and backgrounds, including the most able, who enjoy learning in a practical environment. A new statutory entitlement will be in place for all 14 to 19-year-olds from September 2013. Apprenticeships are the main programme for young employed people seeking vocational qualifications at Level 2 and Level 3. Other opportunities are also being developed, including a pilot programme that started in April this year aimed at encouraging 16 to 18-year-olds in jobs without training to gain a Level 2 qualification, whether academic or vocational. For those over 19 and without either basic skills or a first Level 2 qualification we have put in place the Train to Gain service to deliver high quality flexible qualifications in the workplace.

The local Learning Skills Council can provide details of any local initiatives that are available in the Swindon area.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will estimate the pension liability of his Department over the next 30 years. [75233]

Paul Goggins: HM Treasury placed a technical note in the Library of the House on 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-90, following an oral statement in Parliament by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual Departments, they are estimated for individual pension schemes, as shown in the breakdown of liabilities per pension scheme given in table 1 of the technical note.

Disability Leaflet

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many copies of the leaflet 'Has disability altered your home?' have been produced by the Rate Collection Agency in Northern Ireland. [79458]

Mr. Hanson: The Rate Collection Agency has produced 10,000 of these leaflets since 2003.

Driving Safety

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to inform motorists in Northern Ireland of the dangers of driving while using a mobile phone. [78878]

David Cairns: Prior to the introduction of the offence of using a hand held mobile phone while driving, the Department of the Environment (DOE) and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) raised awareness through press releases and media interviews. A reminder exercise was carried out one year after its introduction.

The DOE produced a radio advertisement, 'Grave Mistake', which airs regularly and a leaflet providing advice on appropriate use and penalties for misuse of

mobile phones. The DOE and PSNI include information on the use of mobile phones on their websites. Electronic message systems on motorways in Northern Ireland carry road safety messages including "Kill the call before it kills you" at intervals throughout the year.

Rule 127 in the Highway Code for Northern Ireland advises drivers never to use a hand held mobile phone when driving. A draft revised Highway Code, which will shortly go out for consultation, will reinforce the legal requirement on drivers.

New primary road traffic legislation, on which the DOE has consulted, will be introduced late 2006/early 2007 and will include penalty points and greater fines for using a hand held mobile phone while driving. The DOE will consider the most appropriate way of raising awareness in advance of the proposed changes.

Drugs

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many deaths from drug related poisoning involving illegal substances were recorded in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [78786]

Mr. Hanson: It is not possible to answer this question directly as a number of people who have died from a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act may have obtained the drug legally for example methadone overdose.

However the following table gives the number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland for each year between 2001 and 2005 for which the underlying cause was drug poisoning[1] and where any drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act were mentioned on the death certificate.

[1] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes:

F11-F16, F18-F19?Mental and behavioural disorders related to drug use.

X60-X64?Intentional self-poisoning by drugs.

X40-X44?Accidental poisoning by drugs.

X85?Assault by drugs.

Y10-Y14?Undetermined and other poisoning by drugs.

Number of deaths due to drug-related poisoning involving illegal substances

	Number
2001	23
2002	37
2003	36
2004	19
2005 (provisional)	47

Early Retirement (Medical Staff)

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* general practitioners, *(b)* consultants and *(c)* nurses have retired early in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by health board area. [78774]

Paul Goggins: Details of numbers of early retirements by *(a)* general practitioners, *(b)* consultants and *(c)* nurses in each of the last five years broken down by health board are set out in the following table. These figures include early retirements on grounds of ill health, redundancy or in the interests of the efficiency of the service and voluntary early retirement.

The information has been extracted from Health and Personal Social Services (HPSS) Superannuation records of HPSS staff who have been awarded early retirement benefits under the provisions of the Health and Personal Social Services (Superannuation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995.

Table of numbers of early retirements by area board for (a) practitioners, (b) consultants and (c) nurses in each of the last five years

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
(a) General practitioners					
Eastern	3	10	8	5	7
Northern	2	7	3	2	1
Southern	2	0	3	1	0
Western	1	3	0	3	1
Total	8	20	14	11	9
(b) Consultants					
Eastern	5	2	1	2	4
Northern	1	0	1	1	1
Southern	1	0	0	0	1
Western	0	0	2	0	0
Total	7	2	4	3	6
(c) Nurses					
Eastern	59	64	58	50	43
Northern	21	31	27	20	15
Southern	28	22	19	23	19
Western	30	26	19	23	25
Total	138	143	123	116	102

Employment (East Londonderry)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the change in *(a)* male and *(b)* female unemployment in East Londonderry constituency has been in each of the last five years. [51326]

Maria Eagle: Unemployment levels from the claimant count for males and females in the East Londonderry parliamentary constituency in January 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, together with their yearly change, are provided in the following table.

East Londonderry

January each year	Male claimant count	Change from previous January	Female claimant count	Change from previous January
2002	1,701	-178	585	-41
2003	1,572	-129	493	-92
2004	1,522	-50	504	11
2005	1,474	-48	573	69
2006	1,245	-229	462	-111

Energy Policy

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the Government's policy on the use of nuclear power to generate electricity for Northern Ireland. [76500]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer dated 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 447W.

Job Centres

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many jobs are presently advertised through job centres in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [52984]

Maria Eagle: As of 15 February 2006, there were 5,355 vacancies advertised in the Jobs and Benefits Offices and Jobcentres throughout Northern Ireland.

It is anticipated that approximately 40,000 vacancies will be notified during the 2005-06 financial year.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which private Members' Bills were drafted by his Department in each session since 1997; and which subsequently received Royal Assent. [78848]

Mr. Hain: My Department has not drafted any such Bills.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) if he will list those Government Bills sponsored by his Department that are still to be introduced during the 2005-06 session; [78849]

(2) if he will list the Government Bills sponsored by his Department that he has bid for in the next session of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [78850]

Mr. Hain: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons (Mr. Straw) on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1432W.

Ministerial Travel

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on police security provision for Ministers' car travel in each year since 1998, broken down by Northern Ireland Department. [74697]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not available and to attempt to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Police Officers (Medical Retirement)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many former police officers retired on medical grounds had their *(a)* degree of disability and *(b)* disability band reduced following reassessment in the last 12 months; and how many former police officers there are in each band of disability. [75471]

Paul Goggins: During the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 the Selected Medical Practitioner (SMP) completed 184 Injury on Duty percentage award reviews. Of the 184 reviews, 80 awards were reduced, 89 were increased and 15 remained unchanged. In respect of the 80 reduced awards, 24 resulted in the ex-officers Injury on Duty Disablement pension band being lowered. Information relating to the number of former police officers in each band of disability is not readily available and would require a manual trawl of records and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Security Forces (Republic of Ireland)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1605W, on security forces (Republic of Ireland), if he has been informed of any occasions on which security forces from the Republic of Ireland have crossed into Northern Ireland without the consent of UK authorities in each of the last 10 years. [77210]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer dated 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1605W, and wish to advise him that the PSNI's position regarding this issue remains the same.

Terrorist Activity (Costs)

Rev. Ian Paisley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimated total cost is to the Northern Ireland economy of terrorist activity in the last 30 years. [78970]

Mr. Hain: It is not possible to determine the direct total costs associated with terrorist activity in Northern Ireland but it is recognised that the impact is considerable in terms of business confidence and investment. Furthermore, the economy has significantly improved since the initial Provisional IRA ceasefire of 1994. Employment is currently close to its highest recorded level at 754,000 in 2006 (from 607,000 in 1994) and unemployment has fallen by 7 percentage points between 1994 and 2006 (from 11.9 per cent. in 1994 to 4.9 per cent. in 2006).

Vehicle Registration

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* motorcycles and *(b)* cars were newly registered in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998. [78879]

David Cairns: The number of motorcycles newly registered in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998 is as follows:

	Number
1998	4,423
1999	5,411
2000	6,099
2001	5,678
2002	5,699
2003	6,888
2004	4,706
2005	4,728

The number of cars newly registered in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998 is as follows:

	Number
1998	100,947
1999	99,490
2000	95,018
2001	98,789
2002	93,866
2003	97,374
2004	96,058
2005	98,471

Victims

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times in each of the last five years he has met *(a)* each victims group, *(b)* individual families of victims and *(c)* victims of major shooting and bombing incidents which led to large numbers of deaths; and if he will make a statement. [78557]

Mr. Hain: The information you seek is not held in the format in which it was requested and to attempt to gather such information could be done only at a disproportionate cost. I would however advise the hon. Member that since my appointment as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in May 2005 I have had several meetings with victims groups and their families. Indeed the hon. Member was present at a recent meeting I had with one such group.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many police officers have been trained in Afghanistan in each year since 2002; and if she will make a statement. [75066]

Margaret Beckett: The latest confirmed figure available for the total number of police trained in Afghanistan is 56,900, dated 31 December 2005. Since this time, however, the figures reported have been baselined to reflect the number of Afghan police both trained and equipped. On 24 April 2006 this figure stood at 30,263.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in setting up a Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board for the implementation of the political commitments in the Afghanistan Compact. [77171]

Margaret Beckett: The Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) sat for the first time, in Kabul, on 30 April 2006 and will reconvene on a quarterly basis until 2011. The board consists of 28 members.

Eight consultative groups and five cross-cutting thematic groups have also been established to help deliver recommendations on sectoral issues to the JCMB.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* Afghan national police and *(b)* Afghan border police officers have been trained in each year since 2003; and how many deserted after training in each year. [77180]

Margaret Beckett: The latest confirmed figures available for the number of Afghan police trained are dated 31 December 2005. At that time, the total number of trained officers stood at 56,900. Since then, however, the figures compiled have been re-baselined to reflect the number of Afghan police trained and equipped. On 24 April 2006, this figure stood at 30,263: 23,000 uniformed police (Afghan national police); 1,700 highway police; 5,200 border police; and 300 counter-narcotics police.

Figures showing the number of officers trained and deserted after training are not held centrally by either the German Police Programme Office or the Ministry of Interior, and are not therefore available.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK representatives sit on the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board for the implementation of the political commitments made in the Afghanistan Compact. [77182]

Margaret Beckett: The Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board consists of a total of 28 members, seven representatives of the Afghan Government and 21 representatives of the international community. The UK occupies one of the 21 seats on the board allocated to the international community.

Amazon Deforestation

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much soya bean crop for export has been certified under the Amazon Deforestation Soya Certification Project in Santarem, within the Amazon state of Para. [78897]

Mr. McCartney: The independent Amazon soya certification scheme, being funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Global Opportunities Fund, is currently under development. No soya bean crop has yet been exported under the certification scheme.

Ascension Island

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what services will be offered for travel directly between Ascension Island and St. Helena after the airport on St. Helena opens. [75460]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend the then Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister of State, Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, on 17 November 2003, *Official Report*, column WA245. It will be for commercial operators to decide whether to take the opportunity to operate a service between the islands. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office keeps access needs in the South Atlantic under review.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions have taken place between the Ascension Island Administrator and her Department regarding relations with the Ascension Island council. [75462]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Overseas Territories Department is in regular communication with the Ascension Island Administrator. During the Administrator's recent leave in the UK, and in accordance with normal practice, he met FCO officials on 21 March. Relations with the Island council were among the wide range of issues discussed.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the reply of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 308W, on Ascension Island, what notice the Crown would need to give *(a)* residents of domestic dwellings on Ascension Island if it wished to take possession of those dwellings as the freeholder and *(b)* the Users of Ascension Island if it wished to take possession of their sites as the freeholder. [77478]

Mr. Hoon: There is no statutory requirement for the Crown to provide any notice to take possession of a domestic dwelling or a User site. However, should the Crown need to take possession of land currently used for a domestic dwelling or a User site, it would aim to take individual circumstances into account and provide appropriate warning.

Belarus

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Belarus Government following the statement of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe that the presidential elections there were seriously flawed; what action the Government propose to take with EU partners on this matter; and if she will make a statement. [61239]

Margaret Beckett: My right hon. Friend the then Minister for Europe (Mr. Alexander) made a statement on 20 March following the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights International Election Observation Mission preliminary conclusions on the Belarusian election. He expressed our deep regret that the Belarusian authorities chose to conduct the elections in this way and the clear breach of its OSCE commitments. This statement has been brought to the attention of the Belarusian authorities.

The Government supported EU declarations on 20 and 22 March agreeing with the OSCE's assessment of a fundamentally flawed election, deploring the arbitrary use of state power, the absence of a level playing field and the pattern of intimidation and harassment of the opposition. The EU urged the Belarusian authorities to allow the people of Belarus to exercise their right of assembly and freedom of expression in line with their OSCE commitments and called upon the Belarusian authorities to immediately release those currently detained for exercising their political rights. This declaration was brought to the attention of the Belarusian authorities during the OSCE Permanent Council meeting 23 March.

Under the UK presidency, the EU made it clear that it would be ready to take further restrictive measures against those responsible for the violations of international electoral standards. On 10 April, EU Foreign Ministers agreed a travel ban against 31 individuals deemed responsible for the fraudulent election and the subsequent crackdown on the opposition. On 18 May, EU Foreign Ministers agreed to impose further restrictive measures in the form of asset freezes on 36 individuals (including five people subject to earlier travel bans as a result of their involvement in the disappearances of opponents of the regime in 1999-2000 and the fraudulent parliamentary elections). Both the travel ban and asset freeze lists include Lukashenko.

Together with EU partners, we will continue to put pressure on the regime to improve its performance on democracy and human rights while maintaining contact with the Belarusian people by securing better-focussed EU assistance for civil society in Belarus.

The full texts of all three statements are available on the following websites:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1142703888055

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/88956.pdf

http://www.eu2006.at/en/News/CFSP_Statements/March/2203Belarus.html

Burma

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has held with the governments of *(a)* Russia, *(b)* China and *(c)* Japan on (i) the political situation in Burma and (ii) a binding resolution about Burma at the UN Security Council. [78101]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions about Burma with these governments.

I discussed Burma separately with the vice Foreign Ministers of China and Japan on 20 June. I asked the Chinese Minister that China use its influence to encourage

the Burmese Government to meet its human rights responsibilities, and that China supports a Security Council debate and resolution on Burma. I encouraged the Japanese Minister to use any influence that Japan may have to put pressure on the Burmese Government, and asked that Japan support a Security Council debate and Resolution on Burma.

Officials regularly discuss Burma with Russia, China and Japan both in capitals and in New York.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps her Department is taking to secure the release of Aung San Suu Kyi by the Burmese Government; and if she will make a statement; [78587]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to secure a binding resolution at the UN Security Council calling for *(a)* the restoration of democracy and *(b)* the release of all political prisoners by the Burmese Government; and if she will make a statement. [78588]

Mr. McCartney: We support all action by the UN which will help initiate a genuine process of democratic reform in Burma. We therefore support the current proposals by the United States for a substantive discussion of Burma at the UN Security Council which we hope will lead to a Resolution.

We condemn the Burmese regime's recent decision to extend Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest for another year. We have repeatedly called for her release and that of all other prisoners of conscience, most recently when I met the Burmese ambassador on 15 June.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister issued a statement on 19 June expressing the Government's concern about the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi. It can be found on the following website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/output/Page9691.asp.

Climate Change

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to strengthen the Department's institutional capacity in the area of climate change policy; and if she will make a statement. [77164]

Margaret Beckett: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has for years been instrumental in driving forward international work on climate change. It has worked with Europe, the G8 and through the UN to raise the political profile of climate change issues, and to generate practical actions to counter it. To boost the FCO's input into the Government's climate change agenda, I announced on 8 June 2006 that

> "achieving climate security by promoting a faster transition to a sustainable, low carbon global economy"

will be an additional strategic priority for the Department. John Ashton started work for the FCO in the week of 19 June 2006. He will be supported in the first instance by a team of four people.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries she identified as priority countries in the context of the appointment of the special representative for climate change. [77165]

Margaret Beckett: John Ashton, the special representative for climate change, will support Ministers in delivering a step-change in the international response to climate change. His initial view is to engage with major developed and developing countries, including the G8 plus five: China, India, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa. He will also look to build close relationships with the rest of the 20 major energy consumers of the future which are involved in the Gleneagles dialogue on climate change, including Australia, Indonesia, Nigeria and South Korea. EU partners will continue to be very important.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what practical steps will be taken by the special representative for climate change to achieve the aims of building a stronger political foundation for international action on climate change, and working to build consensus among key governmental and non-governmental actors in priority countries. [77166]

Margaret Beckett: The special representative will work closely with cross-Whitehall colleagues and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas network. He will engage with major developed and developing countries, including China, India, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa, to help drive forward the Gleneagles dialogue on climate change, clean energy and sustainable development, agreed at last year's G8 summit. He will work closely with dialogue partners to encourage them to deploy clean technologies, create incentives for large scale private sector investment, explore a new model for co-operation between developed and developing countries and for action on adapting to the impacts of climate change. He will also engage with many international non-governmental actors, particularly the business community, to listen, probe and explore common ground to build the political foundation needed to support forums like the EU, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, G8 and Gleneagles dialogue and our bilateral relationships.

Colombia

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether British officials monitored the recent elections in Colombia. [77931]

Mr. Hoon: Our embassy in Bogota consulted with a wide range of civil society and other groups, including EU partners, in observing the lead up to and the conduct of the Colombian presidential elections on 28 May. British officials were not involved in direct election monitoring, nor was there an official EU observation mission. The Organisation of American States followed the election process closely, as did the Centre for Electoral Advice and Promotion (CAPEL), a branch of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. The assessment of CAPEL was that the elections had been conducted in a fair manner. We fully support the EU declaration

issued on 31 May 2006, which welcomed the holding of free elections and committed the EU to continue its full support for the democratic, economic and social development and the return to peace in Colombia. The full text of the 31 May EU declaration can be found on the following website: http://www.diplomacymonitor.com /stu/dm.nsf/dn/dn6F81A8FDE57805BB85257180003 EAA52.

Departmental Finance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answers of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1000W, on departmental finance, what information she relied on for her statement that the account payable module closed promptly in April and May; why this information was not used to answer question 75958; and if she will make a statement. [78193]

Mr. Hoon: The information contained in the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Howells) to my hon. Friend on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1000W, concerning the prompt closure of the accounts payable module, was provided by officials in the resource accounting department. They confirmed that the accounts payable module was closed promptly at the end of April and May and was available to users the day after the April closure, and on the same day following the May closure.

I also replied to my hon. Friend on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1000W, that information about delays in the input and processing or invoices, and late payment of invoices was not held for invoices processed at overseas missions. The information could only be obtained centrally by contacting each mission and this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into her Department in each of the last three years. [77102]

Mr. Hoon: The number of staff aged 55 and over recruited into the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in each of the last three years is as follows:

Financial year	*Number*
2003-04	17
2004-05	13
2005-06	14

EU Entrant Countries

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her assessment is of the readiness of each potential new entrant into the EU; and what the expected timetable for entry is for each. [77787]

Mr. Hoon: Romania and Bulgaria are scheduled to join the EU on 1 January 2007 provided that they address the outstanding issues outlined in the European Commission's report of 16 May. The Commission will report on both countries' progress no later than early October. Accession can be postponed until 2008 on the basis of a decision by Council following a recommendation from the Commission.

Turkey and Croatia have opened membership negotiations with the EU. The European Commission is currently screening Turkey and Croatia's legislation to assess their alignment with the acquis communautaire. The Science and Research chapter for both countries was provisionally closed at the Accession Conference on 12 June. Before joining the EU, both countries must close the remaining 34 chapters of the acquis and meet the political and economic criteria for membership outlined in the conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council in 1993.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a candidate country. However, it has not opened negotiations for membership. The European Commission will report on further progress this year. The EU has offered all the other countries of the Western Balkans, none of which is yet a candidate country, the perspective of ultimate EU membership through the Stabilisation and Association process.

Neither the EU nor the UK has set a timetable for any country's entry to the EU beyond Romania and Bulgaria. The progress of each candidate or potential candidate towards membership depends on their success in meeting EU standards.

EU Foreign Policy

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response her Department has made to the concept paper on EU foreign policy published by the President of the EU Commission. [77670]

Mr. Hoon: Although the Government do not agree with all of the proposals in the Commission communication ('Europe in the World—Some Practical Proposals for Greater Coherence, Effectiveness and Visibility'), it welcomes the paper as a helpful contribution to an important workstream. It is right that the EU should be considering ways of making its external policies more co-ordinated and effective, within the framework of existing treaties. And we agree that better strategic planning, and better co-operation between the EU institutions and the member states can help this.

We therefore look forward to further discussions on the Commission communication and the external coherence workstream more generally during the Finnish presidency.

Fissile Materials Cut-off Treaty

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of US proposals for a fissile materials cut-off treaty; and if she will make a statement. [77163]

Margaret Beckett: The UK welcomes the US initiative made in Geneva in May to table a draft treaty text and draft mandate for negotiations. We hope that

all Conference on Disarmament (CD) member states are able to accept the very broad mandate proposed and agree to open negotiations towards a treaty without delay. UK officials and experts are assessing the implications for the UK of the draft US text for a fissile material cut-off treaty.

The UK's, and the wider EU's, support for such a Treaty is well known. In the Common Position negotiated in advance of last year's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the EU appealed to the CD for the immediate commencement and early conclusion of a non-discriminatory, universally applicable Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on co-ordination and engagement with source and transit countries to investigate and dismantle human trafficking. [77177]

Margaret Beckett: My right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) most recently discussed human trafficking at the European Council meeting in December 2005 at which the draft European Action Plan on Trafficking was approved. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth affairs, Dr. Howells, also visited Romania and Bulgaria (accession states) to discuss human trafficking.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by her Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature of the charges brought against them were. [73961]

Mr. Hoon: None.

International Atomic Energy Agency

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's financial contribution to the International Atomic Energy Agency will be in 2006-07; and if she will make a statement. [77162]

Margaret Beckett: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) financial year runs with the calendar year. Figures for 2006 for the UK's three main block payments to the IAEA are as follows:

Two payments were made to the Regular Budget. At IAEA's request these payments were made in different currencies. One of €13,095,000 (£8,974,000) and a second payment of US$3,483,000 (£2,020,000). Together these payments amount to £10,994,000.

The UK made a single payment of US$4,581,000 (£2,657,000) to the Technical Co-operation Fund.

The UK's Regular Budget and Technical Co-operation Fund payments are fixed by reference to slightly reduced standardised UN contribution rates. The slight reduction is because one member of the IAEA is not a member of the UN. The UK's IAEA base rate is 5.911 per cent. However, under a long standing agreement developing countries are currently shielded from paying the full costs of the safeguards component of the Regular Budget. The UK accordingly pays 6.137 per cent. of the total Regular Budget.

In addition in 2006, the UK made voluntary contributions to support the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund (US$704,000 or £485,000), and to support IAEA work to improve internal management processes (€85,000 or £58,000).

Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her US counterparts about measures designed to limit the access of the Iranian Government to international financial markets; and if she will make a statement. [75074]

Margaret Beckett: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and I are in regular contact with our counterparts in the US and other countries about policy towards Iran. We have discussed possible benefits available to Iran in a long-term agreement on the nuclear issue if Iran complies with its obligations, and the likely costs to Iran of greater isolation if it chooses to pursue a course of confrontation.

Ministers and officials have discussed with their counterparts in general terms the measures that the international community might have available, including in the economic and financial sphere, in the event that Iranian behaviour makes sanctions necessary. But the international community is united in wanting Iran to take the steps required by the International Atomic Energy Agency Board and return to a diplomatic process on the basis of the ideas presently being proposed by the UK, France, Germany, Russia, China and the US. All our efforts are being directed to that end.

Latin America

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the activities of the US National Endowment for Democracy in Latin America. [78059]

Mr. Hoon: We have not made a specific assessment of the impact of the activities of the US National Endowment for Democracy. We work with a number of partners in the EU and across the region to promote democracy and good governance in Latin America.

Overseas Territories

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the British Overseas Territories which have governors; how long the period of office is of each; what powers each has; and to whom each is accountable. [77662]

Mr. Hoon: Governors are appointed to the Overseas Territories of Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena and its dependencies and Turks and Caicos Islands. With the exception of our high commissioner in Wellington, the non-resident governor of Pitcairn, who serves a four year tour, all governors are appointed for a Foreign and Commonwealth Office standard tour of three years, which may in some cases be extended. The constitutional powers and responsibilities of the governor are set out in the constitution of each territory. The governor of each territory is appointed by Her Majesty the Queen. As Her Majesty's representative the governor is accountable to her through my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary.

Private Military Companies

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of British citizens employed by private military companies. [75397]

Margaret Beckett: We are unable to provide a figure for the number of British citizens employed by private military companies. We estimate that there are around 40 private military and security companies registered in or operating from the UK who are engaged in activities overseas. Many companies operate with a core staff and employ others to fulfil contracts as and when required. They do not necessarily employ only British citizens. These factors make it difficult to give an accurate estimate of the numbers employed.

Royal Visit (USA)

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2246-47W, on the royal visit (USA), what the total costs were of *(a)* gifts made by HRH the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall and reimbursed to the royal household by her Department and *(b)* other reimbursements made by her Department to the Prince of Wales's household in connection with his visit to the United States in 2005. [76389]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The total cost of gifts reimbursed to the Prince of Wales's household was £3,438.38. Other reimbursements to the household totalled £8,497.45.

Somalia

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the progress of the Union of Islamic Courts in Somalia; and if she will make a statement on UK policy towards Somalia. [77943]

Mr. McCartney: The victory of the Islamic Courts Union over the warlords in Mogadishu and other towns in Central Somalia is an important development. The UK continues to support the Transitional Federal Institutions in pursuing dialogue, reconciliation and stable governance in Somalia in accordance with the Transitional Federal Charter. We will continue to provide assistance to Somalia within this framework. We urge all states in the region to respect the UN arms embargo on Somalia and refrain from supplying armaments, which exacerbate conflict there. We encourage the Transitional Federal government to engage with the Islamic Courts Union and welcome the fact that both sides have made conciliatory statements.

Sudan

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her policy is on the United Nations' aim to deploy UN troops in the Sudan. [77905]

Mr. McCartney: I fully support the deployment of a UN force for Darfur. The UK has been taking a lead in seeking international support for one. A UN force for Darfur would be in addition to the UN force already deployed in southern Sudan.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with Dr. Ibrahim Mudawi of the Sudan Social Development Organisation on his appraisal of the situation in Darfur. [78137]

Mr. McCartney: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials meet regularly with Dr. Mudawi in Sudan. Like us, he remains concerned about the ongoing security problems in Darfur. We also share his concern about the need for a greater understanding of the Darfur Peace Agreement in order to develop more support among Darfuris themselves. He is also keen to press on with arrangements for a Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation to act as a rallying point for the different interest groups in the region.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements she is negotiating with the *(a)* African Union and *(b)* United Nations to try to improve the security situation in Darfur. [78138]

Mr. McCartney: We welcome the African Union's (AU) decision on 15 May to proceed with the transition of the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) to the UN. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed this with the chairperson of the AU when they met in London last month. We continue to support AMIS through funding and technical assistance to enhance its effectiveness.

We also welcome the Government of Sudan's acceptance of the UN planning mission and are pressing for them to agree to the deployment of a UN force in Darfur. Joint planning for transition between the AU and the UN is already under way. We are providing military and police planning experts to the UN and pressing for the handover to take place as quickly as possible.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of whether the Government of National Unity in Sudan will accept the introduction of UN troops in Darfur. [78139]

Mr. McCartney: After extensive international lobbying, the Government of Sudan have agreed to allow a UN Technical Assistance Mission to visit Sudan to begin planning for the deployment of a UN force for Darfur. However, they have not yet endorsed the deployment of a UN force for Darfur. We and other international partners will continue to lobby them to do so.

Trinidad and Tobago

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the relevant Trinidad and Tobago authorities on avoiding unnecessary delays to the appearance of witnesses travelling from the UK to appear in court cases in Trinidad and Tobago; and if she will make a statement. [78436]

Mr. Hoon: Foreign and Commonwealth officials in London and our High Commission in Port of Spain have made representations to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago about delays encountered by British nationals appearing in court cases in Trinidad and Tobago. To address this problem, the Tobagonian authorities are introducing a 24 hour court for crimes against tourists. Tele-conferencing is also to be introduced so that foreign victims of crime can give evidence from their home countries. We welcome the announcement of these positive measures, and will monitor their practical implementation carefully.

Uganda

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of recent discussions between representatives of the South Sudanese Government and representatives of the Lord's Resistance Army including Joseph Koug. [78931]

Mr. McCartney: The UK has long been committed to seeking a peaceful solution to the long running conflict in northern Uganda, which continues to undermine security in neighbouring southern Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Any discussions or mediation efforts need to be aimed at encouraging those Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) members not facing International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants to stop fighting and seek amnesty and reintegration into their communities.

We continue to call on Sudan to meet its international obligations and ensure the five senior LRA commanders indicted by the ICC are brought to face justice in the Hague. Our Ambassador in Khartoum pressed Salva Kiir, President of the Government of Southern Sudan, on the Government's ICC obligations on 10 May. The UK-led UN Security Council delegation, which visited Juba on 8 June as part of a wider trip to Sudan, also raised the issue with President Kiir.